



Need help paying for child care?

Your child may qualify for the First Steps Scholarship Program

City of Burlington Early Learning Initiative CDNR March 2021 Update

ELI Community Success

1. Capacity Grant Program

38% increase in number of high-quality child care slots for children 0-3

2. First Steps Scholarship Program

57 scholarships awarded to eligible families: **81% enrollment rate**

23 children placed in the pilot year, 2019-2020

34 children placed in 2020-2021

ELI Capacity Grant Program Results

Three years, **\$681,624** capacity grant funds spent to create up to **92** new high quality spots, stabilize **166** spots, and 4 grant funded projects create **8** new full-time positions:

Center	Total spots	Funding totals
YMCA	38 newly created, opened early 2020	\$130,000
Sara Holbrook Community Center	8 newly created, opened 2020	\$150,000
Burlington Children’s Space	51 stabilized through building ownership	\$150,000 (2-installments)
Champlain Valley Head Start	23 newly created, opened 2020	\$90,849
Pine Forest	69 stabilized and future expansion planning	\$50,000 (2 grants)
Full Circle Preschool	4 newly created and already enrolled	\$19,000 (2 grants)
Robin’s Nest	46 improved by teacher/director certification	\$10,275
The Family Room	Community center stabilized; CCFAP start	\$45,000
Fletcher Free Library	50 students reached at home-based centers	\$17,300
Next Generation – Burlington	18 newly created, opened 2020	\$19,200

First Steps Scholarship Program



Eligibility requirements

- Be Burlington residents
- Meet income requirements
 - 65% AMI - \$59,540 for family of 4
 - 80% AMI - \$73,350 for family of 4
- Child must be under 3 by September 1, 2021
- Must be enrolling in full time care – at least 26 hours a week

First Steps is designed to layer local dollars on top of state subsidy funding (CCFAP)

Adjustments ensured success despite pandemic

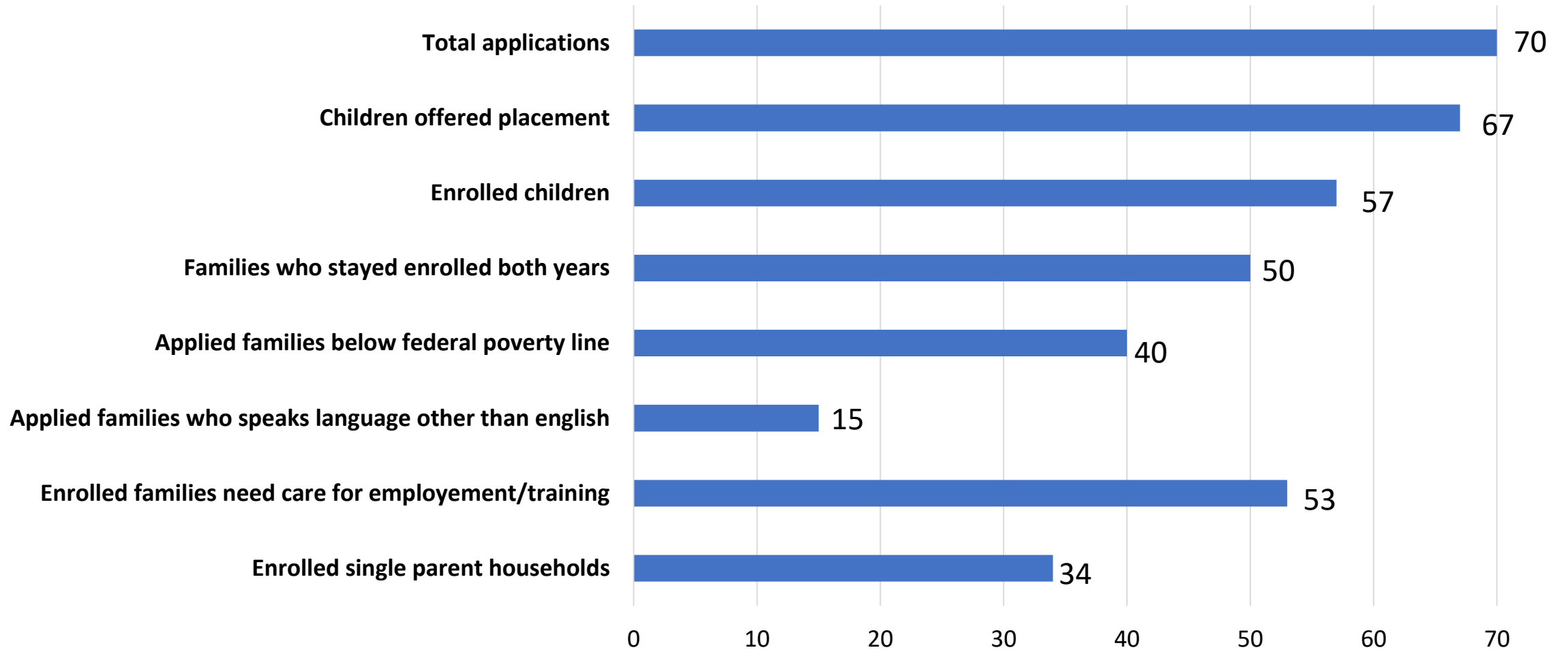
Initial adjustments for 2020-2021 school year

- Limiting copayments to 5% of family income
- Creating a scholarship tuition minimum paid to partner programs

Further adjustments directly related to COVID-19 pandemic

- Allowing children already enrolled in care, but experiencing a financial hardship to apply
- Rolling applications and enrollments
- Increasing qualifying household income to 80% AMI - \$73,350 for family of 4
- Increasing scholarship totals to support families and remove copays through June 2021

ELI First Steps Scholarship Program Families



Number of student enrollments, organized by partner program

Program Name	Town	2019-2020 Enrolled	2020-2021 Enrolled
Little Lakers Academy	Colchester	4*^	1
Ascension Childcare, Inc.	Shelburne	2	1
Robin's Nest Child Center	Burlington	3	4
Burlington Children's Space	Burlington	3^	5
Pine Forest Children's Center	Burlington	5	7*
King Street Center	Burlington	1	1
Twin Oaks Kids & Fitness	South Burlington	1	3
Greater Burlington YMCA	Burlington	3*	3*
Stonewood North School	Shelburne	1*	
Frog and Toad Child Care and Learning Center	Burlington		1
Next Generation Burlington Campus	Burlington		6
Heartworks Preschool	Burlington	1	1
Carolyn's Red Balloon Enrichment Center	Colchester		1*

*one of these children no longer participates in First Steps

^one of these children changed to a different program

13 partner programs, 11 with active enrollments

Scholarship costs and increased tuition dollars

Scholarship totals

- Total for 2019-2020 \$92,777.49
\$4,034/ family average
- Estimated total for 2020-2021 \$168,485.11
*with increased scholarships Jan to June 2021 \$ 5,106/ family average

CCFAP totals, **nearly a 2:1 ratio of state vs local dollars**

- Total for 2019-2020 \$222,957
- Estimated total for 2020-2021 \$293,245

Community Testimonials

The additional and reliable ELI First Steps Scholarship funding has allowed -

- 4 partner programs to increase teacher compensation.
- 6 partner programs the ability to accept more CCFAP students.
- 1 partner program to keep tuition rates stable for the first time in years.

Families are equally impacted --

- An enrolled family was able to stay in high-quality care because the sibling was allowed to enroll in the scholarship.
- A family had their work-hours cut and the scholarship allowed them to afford childcare and keep their job.

2021-2022, coming school year

- Up to 20 new spots already committed
- Marketing outreach starting April/May for June and September enrollments
- Outreach partnership with BSD and Head Start
- Addressing findings from the New American Childcare Needs Survey
- Working closely with City economic recovery team

Questions or Comments?