

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

This report presents data on engagement, services, and support that DIEEC has provided to early childhood programs and professionals in the state of Delaware during the current quarter.

Home-Based Supports

- 29% of all licensed home-based programs in Delaware were engaged in DIEEC professional learning experiences (excluding DEPDNow) and/or technical assistance supports during the quarter.
- The home-based team conducted 27 professional learning experiences (PLEs) for a total of 80 hours offered (ranging from 2 to 10 hours each) this quarter.
 - ❑ *Shining the Light on You* (STLOY), our wellness-focused PLE for home-based professionals, began its 5th and 6th cohorts during the quarter, and is implementing a Spanish-speaking cohort for the first time.
- 171 unique individuals participated in home-based PLEs (20 in-person; 62 virtual; 89 self-paced).
 - ❑ 22 individuals were part of PLE cohorts. This allowed for the same individuals to engage in professional learning experiences together as a group.
 - ❑ Individuals who participated in home-based PLEs were from 103 programs, of which 45 are home-based and 58 are center-based.
- Professionals from 32 home-based programs, or roughly 6.6% of licensed home-based programs in Delaware, were engaged in DEPDNow.
- 37 home-based programs were engaged in Continuous Quality Improvement technical assistance (CQI TA) and 108 were engaged in other ongoing TA. CQI TA is centered on the development of goals and strategies and support with implementation for lasting change. Other ongoing TA includes more general, universal TA such as basic information sharing, provision of resources, and quick check-ins.
- 10 home-based programs were engaged in Communities of Practice during the quarter.
- The home-based team continues to use innovative strategies to engage with home-based professionals in their work with children. All these strategies fit into the other ongoing TA defined above. Examples are:
 - ❑ *Make Time for Me*, a designated time for family child care professionals to come together in-person to focus on their wellness, had 18 participants during the current quarter.
 - ❑ *Community & Conversations* is an open conversation forum for home-based educators that centers on different topics each month. This initiative had 9 participants in 2 sessions during the quarter.
 - ❑ *What's Up Wednesday*, an initiative that provides information and updates weekly via email, phone call, and text was continued with all licensed home-based professionals in Delaware.
- Through these initiatives, we found that engagement was consistently lower in Kent County, as compared to Sussex and New Castle. As a result, we had two Kent-specific engagement sessions with 10 participants. One of these sessions was a focus group that collected information on awareness and participation in various DIEEC initiatives. The other session included information sharing and wellness activities.

Administrative & Leadership Supports

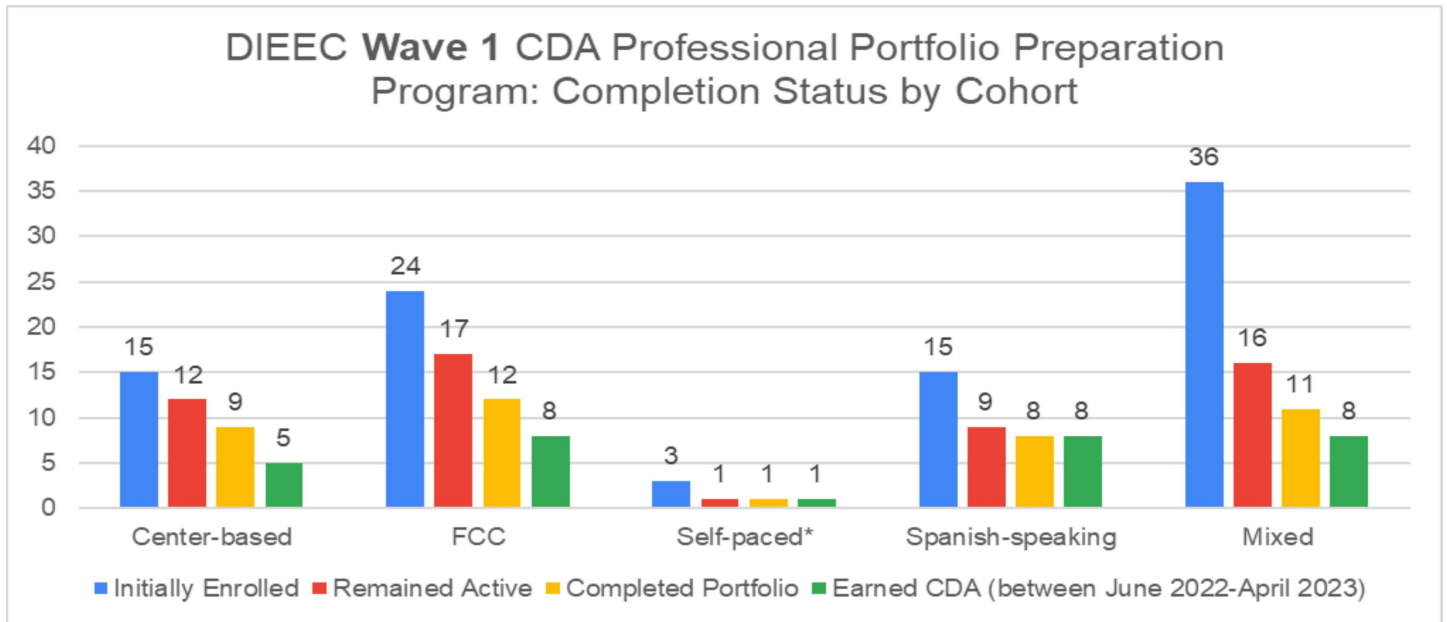
- 54% of licensed center-based programs in Delaware were engaged in DIEEC PLEs (excluding DEPDNow) and/or technical assistance supports during the quarter. Additionally, 17 license-exempt programs participated in these DIEEC services.
- The Leadership and Administration team conducted 16 PLEs during the quarter, for a total of 96 PLE hours offered.
 - ❑ The leadership cohort that was launched previously continued to progress in the current quarter. As part of *The Business of Early Childhood: Your Influence as a Leader in Creating a Great Place to Work*, leaders participated in four individual coaching visits and one group reflective experience (GRE), and as part of *Strengthening Business Practices: Staff Recruitment and Retention for Center-Based Administrators and Large Family Child Care Providers*, participants also had four individual coaching visits and one GRE.
- 85 unique individuals from 40 programs (8 home-based; 32 center-based) were engaged in administrative and leadership PLEs (36 in-person; 29 virtual; 20 self-paced).
- Individuals from 269 center-based programs were engaged in DEPDNow.
- During the current quarter, 101 center-based programs were engaged in CQI TA and 224 were engaged in other ongoing TA. It is worth noting that some programs engaged in both types of TA.
- 25 center-based programs were engaged in Communities of Practice facilitated by the Administrative and Leadership team.
- We continued work on our analyses of effectiveness of DIEEC communication strategies through focus group planning during the current quarter. Knowledge and use of various communication strategies will be discussed with administrators, family child care educators and center-based educators, and results from these focus groups will be shared in the next quarterly data report.

Learning Environments

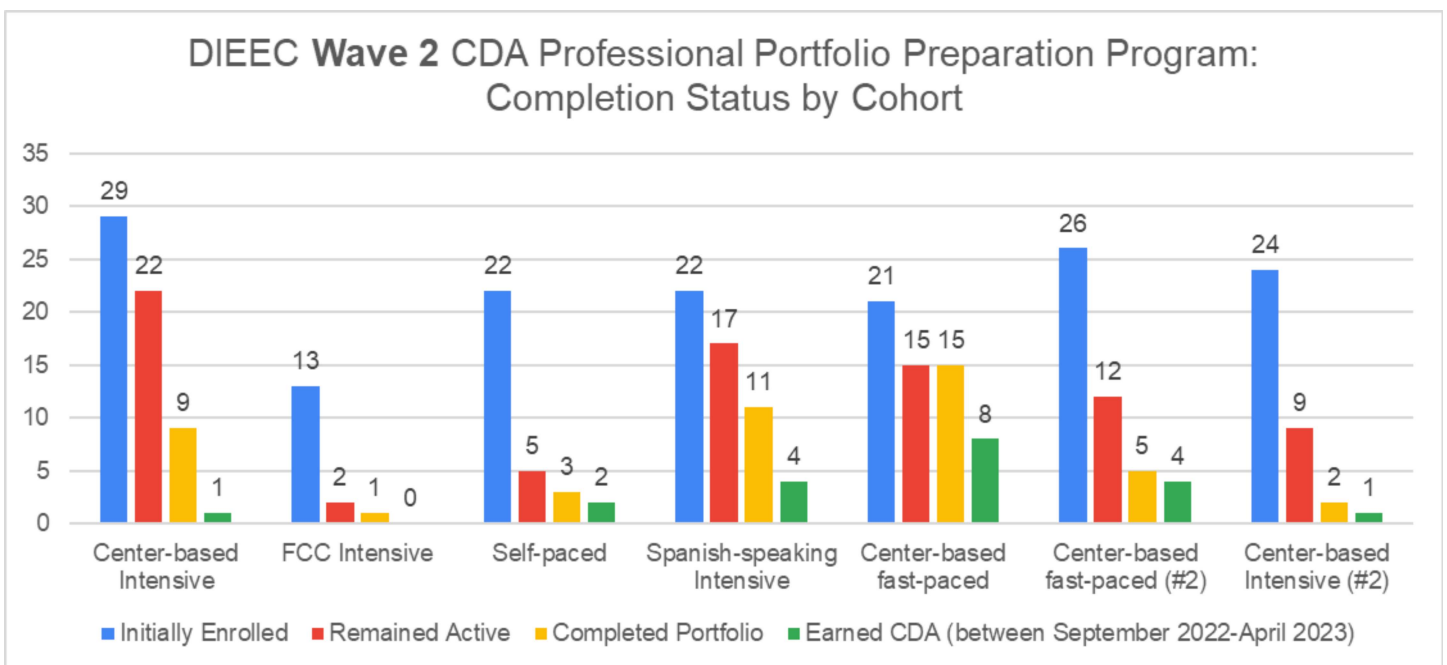
- The Learning Environments team conducted 13 PLEs targeted to classroom educators during the quarter. Their mix of virtual, in-person, hybrid, and self-paced options spanned 66 hours.
- 204 unique individuals participated in Learning Environments PLEs (52 in-person; 79 virtual; 73 self-paced). These individuals were from 93 programs; 27 of the programs are home-based and 66 are center-based.
- DIEEC assessors assisted in developing plans for using classroom observations as a framework to discuss positive classroom experiences. Observations will be followed by individualized coaching sessions as part of professional learning experiences. One program has been recruited to participate in classroom observations, beginning in May.
- A third round of applications to participate in *Let's Go Outside* opened in early February 2023. A total of 15 programs were randomly selected from 92 applicants to participate in the next round, to begin in mid-April. Participants were selected to include a mixture of home-based and center-based programs in each county in Delaware. This round of participants will also receive, for the first time, expert consultation with Rusty Keeler, author and natural playscape designer. LGO continues to be one of our most popular initiatives with a high level of interest, as demand greatly exceeds the number of programs we can serve.
- Surveys are administered at the conclusion of each PLE and data is analyzed quarterly for internal improvement efforts. Results from PLE surveys from the current quarter showed that professionals would like to see additional PLE content related to positive behavior support, social and emotional development, and special needs/inclusion. Additionally, results showed that 84% of respondents set goals as a result of their participation in the experience and roughly 50% shared that they have a clear plan to implement their goals. These findings will be considered as we plan for PLEs in subsequent quarters.

Career Pathways

The wave 2 DIEEC cohorts for the CDA Professional Portfolio Preparation Program are complete. Until outreach is transitioned to ECIC, the DIEEC team will continue to conduct monthly follow-up with participants, checking status and providing support as requested. The breakdown of completion status for each cohort in waves 1 and 2 is provided in the charts below. To date, for wave 1, 41 participants have completed portfolios and 30 have earned their CDA credential. For wave 2, 46 participants have completed portfolios and 20 have earned their CDA credential. It's worth noting that these numbers are based on completions that occurred into April, slightly past the conclusion of the quarter.



*Note: There were 3 individuals that began in wave 1 but left and re-engaged in the program in wave 2. These individuals are accounted for in the wave 1 and wave 2 enrollment and active totals, but only in portfolio/CDA completion totals in wave 2.



Several lessons were learned through our work with individuals in 12 cohorts over the course of two waves, and adjustments were made after wave 1 that helped to make wave 2 more responsive to the needs of the field. Examples include new options with supplementary content or at a faster pace. Additional details on outcomes and lessons learned from both waves will be available in a forthcoming summary brief.