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CONNECTICUT LAUNCHES NEW TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES AIMED AT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Rocky Hill, CT (March 24, 2017) – United Way of Connecticut, working with the Office of Early Childhood, announced today the launch of a statewide training and technical assistance system, named Thrive!, aimed at helping Connecticut’s early childhood providers gain access to numerous supports. This will help to increase the quality of care support the healthy development of young children.

These training and technical assistance opportunities are the beginning steps of what will eventually be a comprehensive Quality Recognition and Improvement System for Early Care in Connecticut known as Thrive! “It is critical to provide professional development and technical support to our early care and education providers. The quality of interaction builds a strong foundation for a child’s growth and development,” said Linda Goodman, Acting Commissioner at the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood.

The five key pillars of Thrive! will concentrate in the areas of health and safety; family engagement and support; early childhood learning environment; workforce qualifications and professional development; and leadership and management.

Early care and education providers will be eligible for training, technical assistance and professional development opportunities that include college credit-level courses, health and safety training, assistance in obtaining national quality accreditations, coaching, evidenced-based curriculum and assessments, interagency partnerships and more. “Through quality early learning experiences child outcomes improve in all domains of child development and family relationships are encouraged, leading to better attendance rates and increased school readiness,” said Jennifer Johnson, the Director of Quality Initiatives at the Office of Early Childhood who will oversee the development of the comprehensive new system.

“Assisting early care and education providers to access training, supports and professional development opportunities is a core component of Thrive!. So far, we have trained more than 500 home- based child care providers in First Aid/CPR Administration and Medication Administration Certification. This significantly benefits the children and families enrolled in these programs. Just knowing that their caregivers are formally trained to respond to emergency health situations provides parents with peace of mind while they are away from their children,” said Sherri Sutera, Senior Vice President, Child Care Services, United Way of CT. “Launching this initiative brings the state to the next level in its ongoing commitment to quality early learning and childhood development,” she said.

Connecticut’s Thrive! dovetails with United Way’s 2-1-1 Child Care which is a free, confidential, and state-wide service which helps parents identify quality child care and matches the requests of parents with child care providers and programs. Serving as a key support to child care providers, 2-1-1 Child Care offers providers the information they need to operate a successful child care business.

For more information about Thrive!, the Office of Early Childhood or United Way, please visit www.thrivect.org.

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