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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BRISTOL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER RECEIVES ARPA FUNDING TO EXPAND TODDLER CLASSROOM AND RENOVATE PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND**

BRISTOL, CT – The Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC), which has been serving Bristol's preschool community and their families since 1971, was awarded an American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) grant from the City of Bristol in the amount of \$275,000 to assist with the expansion of a toddler classroom, the addition of a new toddler playground, and the upgrade of a preschool playground.

The ARPA funding allowed the BCDC to convert one large preschool classroom into two toddler classrooms and build a dedicated safe outdoor play space for toddlers. With the additional preschool classroom, the BCDC was able to enroll and serve up to 16 new children and families and add an additional 5 new employees to the BCDC staff.

The ARPA grant was also used to upgrade a preschool playground – the old playground was removed and replaced with a newer one which was easier for staff to clean and sanitize to help with COVID mitigation efforts.

“These transformative changes we have been able to achieve through APRA funding, have allowed us to provide toddler care at our West Street location. With the opening of the two toddler classrooms, we have been able to instantly fill the spaces as the need for affordable toddler care is significantly high. We will see the impact of opening these rooms for years to come,” stated Maegan Adams, Executive Director of Operations, Bristol Child Development Center.

“The City of Bristol utilized an innovative process to allow businesses and nonprofits to put forth transformative projects in vying for the City's allocation of ARPA funding. The new classrooms and play areas at the Bristol Child Development Center will allow them to meet the demand for toddler care which will provide children and families with opportunities that the BCDC may not have otherwise been able to provide,” stated Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano.

#### **City of Bristol**

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*The new toddler playground that was added to the outdoor area for the two new toddler classrooms at the Bristol Child Development Center using APRA funding.*



*The new preschool playground at the Bristol Child Development Center that was funded through an APRA grant from the City of Bristol.*



*Members of the ARPA Task Force, Bristol Child Development staff, and City staff visited the Bristol Child Development Center recently to see the additions and improvements made with ARPA funding.*

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