



Provider Link Newsletter ~ Region 11 January 2022

Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Wyoming, Luzerne, Columbia & Montour counties

Community Services for Children continues to serve families and the childcare community. We are scheduling meetings and visits remotely when possible. If you do need to visit our offices, please wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status, limit visitors to only those whom must be in attendance and stay home if you are feeling unwell.

Region 11 Updates

Child Care Works Update!

- **MCCA Increase** - OCDEL is increasing the Maximum Child Care Allowance (MCCA) effective 1/1/2022. The MCCA is the highest rate OCDEL will allow the ELRC to pay for subsidized child care services.
- **Non-traditional Add-on** - Effective 1/1/22, a 25% add-on rate will be paid for a child who receives at least 2 hours of care during non-traditional hours on a weekday or any care received on the weekend.



- Updated C-1 and updated published rates are due to the ELRC by 1/31/22.
- Click [here](#) to read all the details on these increases.

Region	Provider Type	Full Time Care					Part Time Care				
		INFANT	YOUNG TODDLER	OLD TODDLER	PRE-SCHOOL	SCHOOL-AGE	INFANT	YOUNG TODDLER	OLD TODDLER	PRE-SCHOOL	SCHOOL-AGE
11	CENTER	\$36.40	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$32.00	\$31.00	\$32.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$27.00	\$21.32
	GROUP	\$30.39	\$28.34	\$27.32	\$26.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$24.55	\$24.55	\$24.55	\$20.19
	FDCH	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$29.98	\$29.98	\$29.98	\$29.98	\$29.98	\$29.98	\$29.98	\$29.98
	R/N	\$15.68	\$15.68	\$15.68	\$15.68	\$14.28	\$15.68	\$15.68	\$15.68	\$15.68	\$13.13



Directors Network with Guest Speaker Tom Copeland

January 20th 1:00 pm

ELRC Region 11 has renowned speaker, Tom Copeland, joining the group for the January meeting. Tom is a leading expert in the business of family child care and he will answer questions regarding the ARPA grant, financial implications and tax law. All provider types (family, center and group) are encouraged to attend. Please submit questions to mbeckhorn@cscinc.org by January 10th.

Pre-registration is required. Click [here](#) to register.

Family & Group Providers ~ STAR 2 Movement Cohort!

A cohort is starting just for you! Beginning on January 13, Family & Group providers will be meeting via zoom to address each STAR 2 indicator. Attend 10 easy sessions and learn everything you need to know to be ready to move to STAR 2! Meetings will be held in the evening for your convenience.

Click [here](#) for more detailed information on the sessions. Please contact Dana DeVito at ddevito@cscinc.org to register.

Special Directors' Roundtable with Karen Grimm-Thomas

We know the early childhood field continues to face challenges and obstacles during this unprecedented time. In response to your concerns, we have invited Karen Grimm-Thomas, OCDEL Director of External Relations, to a special roundtable meeting to hear your successes, challenges and concerns. This meeting is scheduled for

Thursday January 6, 2022 @ 1 p.m. Join via this [Zoom link](#)

In preparation for this meeting, we would ask for your feedback on the following points:

- 1) How has COVID-19 impacted your program.
- 2) What is working well in your program?
- 3) What are your current challenges?
- 4) Tell us about your experiences and stories (A day in the life at your center during COVID).
- 5) Any specific questions for OCDEL?
- 6) Suggestions for improvement?

Please respond to Laurinda Guarriello, lguarriello@cscinc.org, with your thoughts by January 4th.

Even if you are unable to attend the zoom we still welcome your thoughts and feedback. This session will be recorded for later viewing.

Provider Supports

PQA - Let's Talk Quality Monthly webinar series

- [January topic: Exploring Books with Infants and Toddlers](#)

Information on Keystone STARS Quality Coach Supports

- [Free supports offered to all certified providers](#)

ELRC Updates

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

ARPA Grant applications are continuing to be

Providers will receive 6

processed. Providers who have not yet submitted their grant application will have until mid-January to do so. Please reach out to your Quality Coach if you have any questions.

Grant monitoring will take place in the summer of 2022 so it is important to keep receipts organized. Begin to track expenses into these categories:

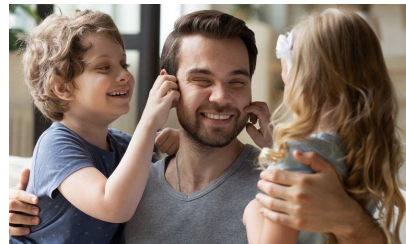
- Personnel costs
- Rent/Mortgage & Utilities
- Facilities Maintenance & Insurance
- PPE, Cleaning & Health & Safety Practices
- Equipment & Supplies
- Goods & Services
- Mental Health Supports for Staff & Children

installments for the ARPA grant. Your last payment will be 6 months from the date of your first payment. Payments are scheduled to be released via direct deposit or paper check on the following dates:

- 1/21/22
- 2/22/22
- 3/22/22
- 4/22/22
- 5/20/22
- 6/22/22

STARS Movement Tip of the Month - Tracking Staff PD

Investing in the professional development of your staff is an essential part of building and maintaining a high quality program. However, tracking staff PD and ensuring everyone has what they need can feel overwhelming. Join Quality Coach, Michelle Beckhorn, as she walks you through some strategies for tracking PD in this short video. Click [here](#) to watch.



Co-Pay Updates

OCDEL will be using part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to reduce family CCW co-pays. Adjustments will be made to families who qualify and you will be notified of any changes in January.

Inclement Weather & Winter Reminders

- Emergency Closures - if you are not able to update your closures through Provider Self Service, these must be reported within 3 business days of the closure to the ELRC.
- Drop-in Care - General payment practice does not cover the cost of drop-in care for children. If a parent requests a drop-in enrollment, for example a school snow day, usually it will be the parent's responsibility to cover the cost of care. Check with your provider specialist before expecting the ELRC to cover this child's enrollment.
- Invoices are due to the ELRC by the 5th of the month.

Health & Safety

Face Coverings

On 12/10/21, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a ruling that ended the Secretary of Health's order that masks were required to be worn by children over two and by staff in a child care settings. This decision does not impact the Federal directive requiring all Head Start and Early Head Start programs or those driving and riding on school buses to continue to wear face coverings. While face coverings are still encouraged for children and staff, certification will no longer cite programs for noncompliance.

[Special Announcement: Message from Acting Secretary Meg Snead - Mask Guidance](#)

Reporting Communicable Diseases

With the addition of COVID-19 to the list of reportable communicable diseases, child care providers are reminded of certification regulations regarding reporting of these cases.

Any child or facility person reporting positive test results or showing symptoms of COVID-19, cannot be in attendance at the child care facility. Upon return, the individual must provide a written note or a negative test

result signed and verified by a physician or nurse practitioner (CRNP) clearing them to return to the child care facility. A home test or any other negative test results that have not been reviewed, signed and verified by a physician or CRNP will not be acceptable for a child or a facility person to return to the child care facility.

Review additional information and a helpful reporting guidance chart [here](#).

Want to add staff or other members of your team to this newsletter? Email croman@cscinc.org and specify which Regional Newsletter you would like and requests will be added to next month's distribution.

[Visit ELRC Region 11](#)

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