



## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 June 2022

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

### Region 11 Updates

#### Juneteenth

The ELRC offices will be closed on Monday, June 20th in observation of the Juneteenth federal holiday. Known to some as the country's "second Independence Day," Juneteenth celebrates the freedom of enslaved people in the United States at the end of the Civil War. For more than 150 years, African American communities across the country have observed this holiday.

Juneteenth has gained awareness in recent years as activists have pushed for state and federal recognition. President Joe Biden signed a bill declaring Juneteenth as a federal holiday, the first new federal holiday since the establishment of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.



#### CCW Reminder

#### School Age Summer Schedule Changes

Reminder that the School Age Summer Schedule Form was due back to the ELRC on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The school age flip from part-time to full-time for all eligible school age enrollments, will take place on June 13, 2022. This will affect your attendance reporting and

payments.

If you have not yet completed the Summer Schedule Form, it can be found [here](#).

Please include only those children for whom you receive payment from ELRC Region 11, regardless of their schedule.

Email the completed form back to your provider specialist at:

- Romaine Long - [rlong@cscinc.org](mailto:rlong@cscinc.org)
  - Nicole Meade - [nmeade@cscinc.org](mailto:nmeade@cscinc.org)
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## Technology Tuesdays

Every Tuesday in June from 1:00-2:00 pm, Quality Coach Fawn Unger will be available to walk providers through the PD Registry, Better Kid Care, Career Pathway applications, Organizational Profiles and any other technology system that may be providing a challenge. Fawn will share her screen so providers can watch step by step how to navigate the websites.

Click [here](#) to view the flyer and to register.

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## Directors Network Roundtable

During the May Directors Network meeting, providers discussed results from the recent Network survey.

Thank you to Brianne from Magic World for sharing their 3-year plan for sustaining a \$2.00/hour wage increase after ARPA grant funds are exhausted. It was a very helpful presentation showing how tuition increases could sustain this wage increase. There was an opportunity for small group discussions on the challenges and successes of increasing wages and tuition.

We are looking forward to the next meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm via Zoom. [Click here](#) for the flyer and link to register.

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## Region 11 Provider Supports

### Successful Strategies Series

The Successful Strategies Series is a monthly networking opportunity for teachers to share strategies that help support social emotional learning, guide behavior, build relationships and decrease stress. Join this webinar the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

- [Successful Strategies Teacher Roundtable](#)

### Keystone STARS Family & Group Cohort

It's not too late to join the Keystone STARS Family & Group Cohort. This group is meeting virtually to work towards achieving a STAR 2 rating. See the flyer for the Zoom link and more information!

- [STAR 2 Family & Group](#)



## Quality Coach Monthly Calendar

Print out a copy of the Region 11 Quality Coach Monthly Calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities.

- [Calendar - June 2022](#)

## PQA - Let's Talk Quality monthly webinar series

- [Social Emotional Learning](#)

## Healthy Minds

Join us for guided meditation every Monday at 1:00 pm

- [Healthy Minds flyer](#)

# ELRC Updates

## Keystone STARS Updates

- The document uploader used by providers to complete their STAR evidence reviews will be discontinued on 7/31/22. As of 7/1/22, providers will begin to transition to the Document Vault and Designation system in the PD Registry. For further instructions on this new system, click [here](#).
- 2022 Keystone STAR indicators will begin implementation on 7/1/22. [Announcement 22-04](#) summarizes these changes. Watch for webinars and meetings from your Quality Coach to review the updates.
- Programs can download a copy of the updated 2022 Keystone STARS Performance Standards [here](#). Visit the [PA Key website](#) for additional supporting documents.



## Program Observation Instruments (POI)

Programs have many options when selecting which POI tool to use for their annual, internal assessment. POI tools provide feedback to assist a program in guiding program quality improvements. Tools look at classroom environment, teacher interactions, health & safety, business practice and so much more.

Programs are encouraged to discuss options with their Quality Coach and have the opportunity to request additional supports from a Program Quality Assessor. You can also review this [POI Map](#) to make a selection that will best meet your program's needs.

## Workforce Support Grant

Applications are being processed for the Workforce Support Grant. **All requests must be received to the ELRC no later than 6/17/22.** All eligibility criteria and applications are available on the PA Keys website. Click [here](#) to access the page.



## Staff Retention Awards

Group A - Owners/operators, Directors, Assistant Directors, Group Supervisors, Assistant Group Supervisors

- THIS STAFF GROUP MUST BE LISTED ON YOUR PD REGISTRY STAFF REPORT AND A COPY OF THE REPORT MUST ACCOMPANY THE GRANT APPLICATION
- Eligible for \$2000 award/staff person

Group B - Aides, Floaters, Drivers, Cooks, Support staff on site.

- This group does not have to be on your PD Registry Report for this grant (but those working with children 500+ hours a year need to be in the Registry for designation purposes)
- This group is eligible for \$1000 award/staff person

### Payroll Tax Assistance

- Award of 7.65% to support payroll tax for the staff retention award

### Other Work Force Support Award

- For sign on bonuses, advertising for employment, clearance costs, staff trainings, etc.
- Amount based on program type/size

Important details to remember:

- Completed grant applications must be submitted to the grant team email at [elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org). If you are unable to email the application, reach out to your Quality Coach for other arrangements.
- Grant applications are considered final upon receipt to the ELRC. Changes to staff lists cannot be altered once submitted.
- Incomplete grant applications will not be accepted and must include the corresponding PD Registry staff list for all staff in Group A.
- Please reach out to your Quality Coach with any questions.

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## **ARPA Grant Reporting**

Providers have received or will be receiving their 6th installment of the ARPA grant. All providers are required to complete a spending report on the PD Registry. The contact listed on the organization profile in the PD Registry will receive an email notification when the report has opened (approximately six months from the date of first payment).

Providers should enter all expenditures equal to the amount they received. Please note, at ten months from your first payment, your application is automatically moved to complete and you will not be able to edit your report.

The Tip Sheet for ARPA reporting can be found [here](#). Questions with reporting should be directed to the PD Registry at [registry@pakeys.org](mailto:registry@pakeys.org) or 1-800-284-6031.

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## **Child Care Technology Access Award**

All eligible DHS certified child care providers, regardless of Keystone STAR level, who are in need of technology tools can apply for this one-time award. This funding opportunity will be awarded in the form of a voucher to



order approved materials from the Kaplan Learning Company. The award amount is based on provider type and licensed capacity.

Any questions regarding this opportunity should be directed to OCDEL at [RA-ocdelsubchildcare@pa.gov](mailto:RA-ocdelsubchildcare@pa.gov) or to Kaplan at 1-800-334-2014.

Click [here](#) to read the full announcement with details on eligibility, ordering and reporting requirements.

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## School-Age Professional Credential

Registration is now open for a FREE School Age Professional Credential course beginning in October 2022 through March 2023.

Please see this [flyer](#) for eligibility requirements and registration information.

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## Health & Safety

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### Infant Formula Shortage

The infant formula recall in February is having lasting effects on the formula supply nationwide. Powdered formulas Similac, Alimentum and Elecare were all recalled as well as Similac PM60/40.

Providers supplying formula should visit the [FDA page](#) to read more about the formula recall and ways to determine if the formula you provide is affected.

Parents are concerned about this shortage. Please share these tips with families:

- Check smaller stores and drug stores, which may not be out of supply when the bigger stores are.
- If you can afford it, buy formula online until store shortages ease. Purchase from well-recognized distributors, grocers, and pharmacies rather than individually sold or auction sites.
- Check social media groups. There are groups dedicated to infant feeding and formula, and members may have ideas for where to find formula. Make sure to check any advice with your pediatrician.
- If you find it in stock, it can be tempting to buy as much formula as possible right now, but the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises buying no more than a 10-day to 2-week supply of formula to ease shortages.
- Call your pediatrician if you cannot find formula you need for your baby. They may have samples in stock, connections to other local organizations or ideas of other places to call, such as your local WIC clinic.

## for Young Children

Providers should be mindful about what drinks are served to children while in care. Limit drinks with natural or added sugar. Even 100% fruit juice is full of sugar that can lead to tooth decay.



### Tips for Choosing Healthy Drinks:

- Give children plain water with fluoride. Water from the tap (faucet) is safe and cheap.
- Give children milk at scheduled meal and snack times.
- Do not lay a child down for nap with a bottle or sippy cup. If you do, the bottle or sippy cup should contain only water, nothing else.
- Give children cut-up or whole fruit instead of fruit juice.

For more information that we encourage you to share with families, click [here](#).

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

Visit ELRC Region 11

Community Services for Children | [elrc11@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc11@cscinc.org) | [www.cscinc.org](http://www.cscinc.org)

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