



## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 14 June 2022

Serving Lehigh & Northampton counties

### Region 14 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 14, regardless of their schedule.

Email the completed form back to your provider specialist at:

- Abby Araujo - [aaraujo@cscinc.org](mailto:aaraujo@cscinc.org)
  - Damaris Nieves - [dnieves@cscinc.org](mailto:dnieves@cscinc.org)
  - Susan Ritter - [sritter@cscinc.org](mailto:sritter@cscinc.org)
  - ELRC 14 general email - [elrc14@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc14@cscinc.org)
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## Region 14 Provider Supports

### Director's Network

At the Directors Network in May, the directors discussed the Technology Grant, the new streamlined Keystone STARS process, the CKC transition to PA PCECEC and the summer activities they have planned for their programs. The directors also discussed water safety regulations and the family engagement activities they have planned for their summer programming. Join us for the next Directors Network meeting on June 14, 2022 at 1:00 pm. The IECMH Consultants will be joining us to discuss Challenging Behaviors. Please bring your questions and join in the discussion.



- [Director's Network Group Invite Flyer - 6.8.22](#)

### FREE Professional Development for Directors!

Director Circle: Self Reflection and Leadership

The pandemic and staffing issues has put a strain on everyone. You have to lead your staff and families through a variety of challenging and difficult situations. Take this opportunity for reflection and acknowledge your successes and strength as a director.

This FREE PD session is on June 29, 2022 1:00-3:00 pm in the Community Services for Children/Training Institute - Fowler Building, 1520 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109

Click [here](#) to see the flyer for registration details.

### Professional Development Opportunities Available this Summer!

The ELRC Region 14 Quality Coaches are providing needs based Professional Development opportunities this summer for **FREE!**

These Professional Development opportunities are open to all Program Directors, Family Providers, and Teaching Staff. Each person will receive 2 hours of PD for each session they attend. All sessions will be offered through Zoom every Tuesday during the summer between 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. There's no need to travel. Attend one session or attend all!

Click [here](#) for more information and to find out what is being offered and when.

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

- [Social Emotional Learning](#)

### Healthy Minds

- [Healthy Minds flyer](#)

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## ELRC Updates

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### 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.



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### 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.

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### 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.

## Health & Safety



### 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.

### Oral Health - Choosing Healthy Drinks 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 14](#)

Community Services for Children | [elrc14@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc14@cscinc.org) | [www.cscinc.org](http://www.cscinc.org)

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