

Community Services for Children

Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 13

September 2022

Serving Berks & Schuylkill counties

Region 13 Updates

Berks Early Care and Education Council (BECEC) Annual Training

The Berks Early Care and Education Council (BECEC) is hosting its annual training on September 15 from 9:00am - 1:00pm via Zoom with speaker: Dr. Veindra Jackson.

Seven Essential Skills to an Equitable Trauma Responsive System:

Our exploration of the price, power, and pervasiveness of complex forms of trauma will allow us to learn system-building approaches for trauma responsiveness in order to examine and respond to toxic stress, allostatic load, embedded inequities, and cultural bias that barricade the bridges out of poverty for many families and hinders the 5 building blocks toward safe, valued, and heard relationships.

We will also discuss how to create a “reason to be” to inspire hope and shift from self-care to community care in order to maintain caregiver capacity to combat compassion fatigue and secondary trauma. Click [here](#) to register

Please note that the deadline for registration is **September 13**. PQAS hours and training certificates will be awarded.

Community Resources

Having community resources readily available is a great way to support the families enrolled in your program. Families often need assistance accessing social services to meet their needs. Below is an excellent resource for families experiencing food insecurity.

Helping Harvest Food Bank - Serving Berks and Schuylkill County

Helping Harvest distributes food at no charge to over 300 charitable food

program partners, such as food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. Helping Harvest also provides food directly to families in need through several direct service programs. Individuals may also contact Helping Harvest for help applying for SNAP (food stamps) benefits. Call 610-926-5802 X 206 for assistance.



Kick Off Meetings

ELRC is holding it's annual Kick Off Meetings. Attendance in these meetings is highly encouraged as all updates to CCW, Keystone STARS, grants and other provider information will be included. We will also be raffling off several Amazon Fire Tablets to those in attendance!

Region 13 will be holding several meetings for your convenience. Select the session that works for you!

Thursday 10/13/22 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Riverview Christian School
3301 Stoudts Ferry Bridge
Reading, PA 19605

Thursday 10/13/22 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Riverview Christian School
3301 Stoudts Ferry Bridge
Reading, PA 19605

Wednesday 10/19/22 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Jerusalem Child Care Center
252 Dock St
Pottsville, PA 17972

Please pre-register [here](#).

School Year Flip

The ELRC is preparing for the change in schedules for school-age children. The school age flip from full-time to part-time for all eligible school age enrollments,

took place on August 29, 2022. This will affect your attendance reporting and payments.

If you have not done so already, please fill out the School Age Schedule Form [here](#) reporting only those children for whom you receive payment from ELRC Region 13, regardless of their schedule.

Email the completed form back to your Provider Specialist.

Kim Lamp - klamp@cscinc.org
Claribel Valentin - cvalentin@cscinc.org

In addition, please check the August invoice and make any necessary corrections to schedules.

Region 13 Provider Supports



Director's Network Group

The Director's Network is back in session! Join your region of directors to share resources and create partnerships. We look forward to seeing you, Wednesday, September 14th at 1:00! Please register for the event using the zoom link below

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

Work it Wednesday

Take a deeper dive and gain an increased understanding of the value and scope of the Shared Resources indicator. Participants will earn 2 PQAS PD hours. We look forward to seeing you, Wednesday, September 28th at 1:00! Please register for the event using the zoom link below

- [Work It Wed Flyer](#)

Regional Calendar

Check out our calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities and professional development opportunities.

- [Region 13 Calendar - September 2022](#)

Healthy Minds

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

- [Healthy Minds flyer](#)

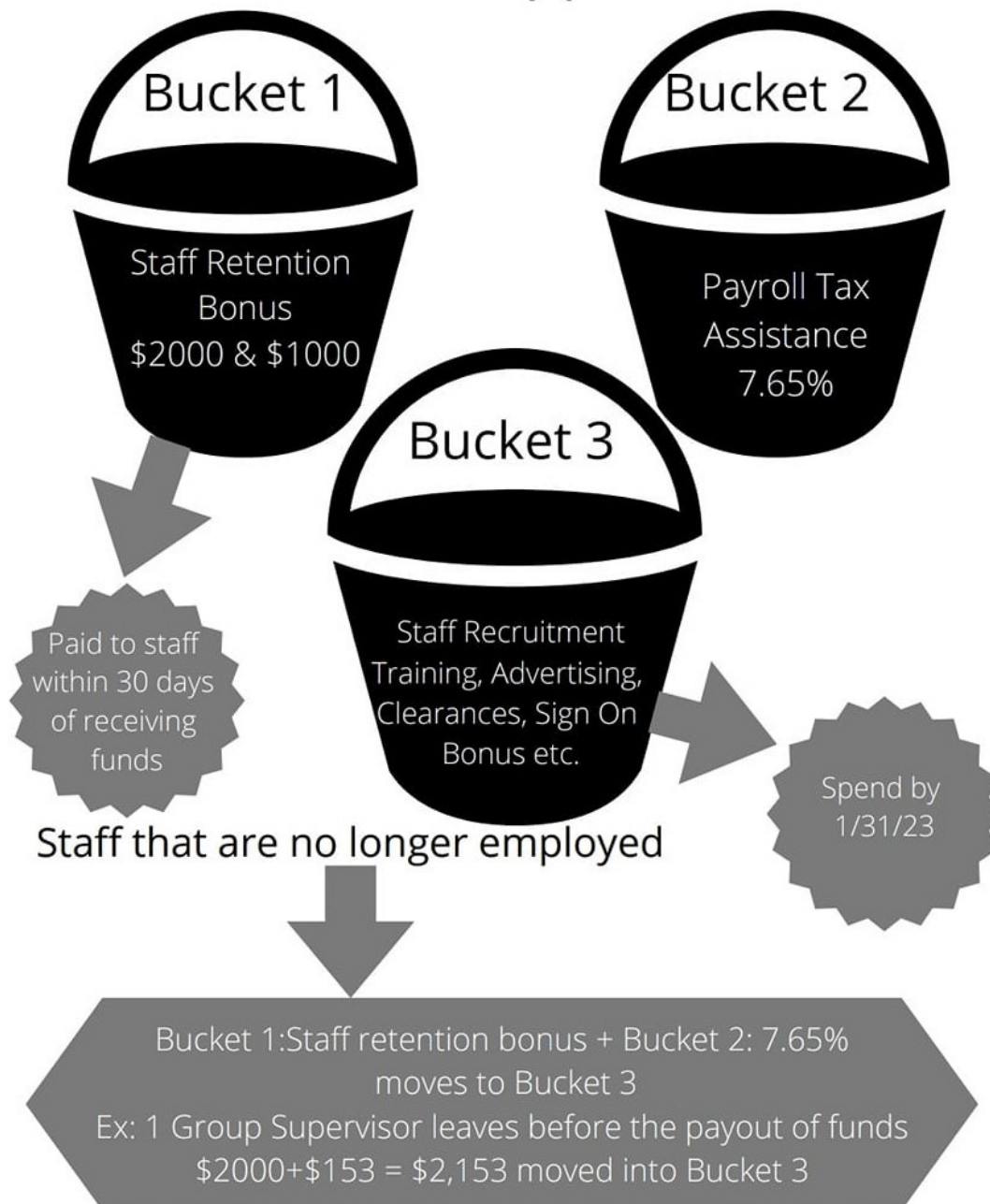
ELRC Updates

Workforce Support Grant Payments

Workforce Support Grant applications are being approved and finalized by the ELRC. Payments will be sent to providers via direct deposit or check prior to 9/16/22.

As you begin to plan your spending, reference this infographic to explain the 3 "buckets":

Workforce Support Grant



Closing out your Work Force Support Grant:

- Once all funding has been expended, please complete the reporting page which came with your approval letter. If you cannot locate this reporting form, please reach out to your Quality Coach
- Complete the report, fully accounting for all funds received
- Return the reporting form to elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org
- Funds that were unspent need to be returned to the ELRC

Send payment to:
Community Services for Children
Attn: Jori Farley
1520 Hanover Avenue
Allentown, PA 18109

*Please include a copy of your Work Force Support Reporting form with your payment.

2022 Keystone STARS Performance Standards Recorded Webinar

The Keystone STARS 2022 Performance Standards took effect on July 1, 2022. A recorded webinar is now available to help providers understand the updates and edits that have been made to these standards. [Click here](#) to view the recording.

You can also visit the PA Key website for additional supporting documents and download a copy of the performance standards and STARS manual. Click [here](#) to access the resource page.



PA NAPSACC Wellness Grant

Providers can apply for the PA NAPSACC Wellness grant. This grant provides an opportunity to engage in a continuous quality improvement process focused on obesity prevention practices within early education settings. Selected providers will utilize the GO NAPSACC tool and work with a Child Care Health Consultant at no cost to the site.

Beyond the reward of making a difference in the health of children, those who participate and complete grant requirements will receive up to **\$500 in grant funding** to support staff time and/or any materials and resources needed. For STAR 3 and 4 programs, participation in all components of the PA NAPSACC Wellness Grant satisfies Keystone STARS performance standard **LM.3.4.10** (utilizing a health care consultant to establish and maintain health policies above those required by certification) as well as **bonus points** area Partnerships with Families and Communities (participating in an organized effort to promote nutritional health for children).

Applications are due by 9/16/22 and notification of acceptance will be received on 9/30/22.

Click [here](#) to read more about this opportunity and to download the application.

CCW Reminders

- Continue to report COVID absences on your invoice. If you complete the paper invoice, continue to write “C/A” for COVID absence. For those who complete their invoice on Provider Self Service, please make a note under the child’s name for any absences due to COVID.
- COVID closures must still be reported to your certification representative
 - Northeast Certification: 1-800-222-2108
 - Southeast Certification: 1-800-346-2929



STARS Tip of the Month

The start of a new school year provides opportunities to get to know families just enrolling in the program or transitioning to a new classroom. Offering a “Getting to

Know You” conference allows time for parents to ask questions and become familiar with classroom routines.

Teachers can also ask about the child’s daily schedule, likes and dislikes, personality traits and other details to get to know the new student. This is also a great time to review the child’s recently completed developmental screening (EC2.3) with the parents and begin any needed referrals to partner agencies (FC3.4.1).

Offering 2 conferences a year is a required indicator for all STAR 3 & 4 providers (FC3.4.2) and this “Getting to Know You” meeting can count as that first conference. Just remember to keep a copy of your invitation as part of the child’s record.

PreK Counts & Head Start Enrollment Form

If you have any children that share enrollment between CCW and PreK Counts or Head Start programming, please complete the following form to verify their enrollment. The form should be returned to your Provider Specialist as soon as possible.

[PKC Verification Form](#)

[Head Start Verification Form](#)

Keystone STAR Renewals & Designations

Keystone STAR Renewals and Designations have all moved over to the new system in the PD Registry. Programs should discontinue using the old document uploader.

When logged into the Registry,

- click on your organization profile
- click on Keystone STARS tab
- click on the button for Quality Overview.
- This screen will pop up:



Only click on this **APPLY** button if this is your **FULL EVIDENCE REVIEW YEAR!**

Apply

Keystone STARS is a program of Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL).

Keystone STARS has four primary goals:

- To improve the quality of early care and education.
- To support early care and education providers in meeting their quality improvement goals.
- To recognize programs for continuous quality improvement and meeting higher quality standards.
- To provide families a way to choose a quality early care and education program.

OCDEL's Keystone STARS Program supports all early care and education programs to improve program quality. We encourage programs to think about the Keystone STARS Performance Standards as a tool to support continuous quality improvement (CQI) that impacts services to the children and families in your care.



Only click on this **APPLY** button if this is your **Year 2 or 3 Annual Renewal year!**

Apply

Keystone STARS Annual Renewal

All STAR 2, 3, and 4 Keystone STARS Programs are required to complete Annual Renewals at Year 2 and Year 3 of their 3-year Keystone STARS designation cycles in order to maintain their current designation. A program's Annual Renewal at Years 2 and 3 serves as a touchpoint between a program and their Quality Coach. During Annual Renewals, Quality Coaches and programs collaborate to ensure that Continuous Quality Improvement activities and practices are continuing in the program, and to verify program teaching staff are continuing to meet the requirements for STARS Staff Qualifications and Professional Development.



ARPA Reporting

If you have not done so already, please begin to complete your ARPA spending report on the PD Registry. All dollar amounts received must be allocated to one of the spending categories. Also, please note that **age-level capacity** must be completed at the bottom of the report. If you have any questions, please reach out to your Quality Coach.

You will receive a reminder email from the PD Registry to complete this report. Failure to submit by its due date, which is 60 days after your last payment was received, will require all ARPA funds to be returned.

Provider Marketing Needs

The Pennsylvania Key in conjunction with OCDEL will be conducting online discussions with providers throughout the commonwealth to better understand specific marketing-related needs. This would require one 60-90 minute small group Zoom conversation with a research team, yourself and a few other providers. All of this work will help inform the support and programming developed for you and other PA child care providers in the near future.

If you are willing to participate, please click the link below to answer a few questions, including your availability for a discussion. You'll need to complete these questions by **Monday September 12** in order to participate. Once reviewed, research partner, Lindsey Williams, will be reaching out to schedule.

[Please complete the Child Care Provider Survey here](#)

Health & Safety



Getting Mentally Prepared for a New School Year

Summer is quickly ending and a new school year is fast approaching! The beginning of a new school year can be stressful! As you plan to make your students' transition into a new school year easier, do not forget about yourself.

Your self-care when preparing for this school year is just as important! The Resilient Educator website has many helpful resources to help educators focus on self-care and cope with stressful situations.

Check out this article on [Self-Care: Getting Mentally Prepared for a New School Year.](#)

Safe Drinking Water

On August 12, OCDEL released an update to the announcement C-19-01 regarding changes to the verification process for child care centers with an on-site water source that is in a stand-alone public water system, such as a location in a strip mall.

Click [here](#) for the announcement.

Oral Health - The Importance of Fluoride

There are several important ways to make teeth strong and prevent tooth decay. These include drinking tap (faucet) water with fluoride, brushing with fluoride toothpaste, and having a health professional apply fluoride varnish. Fluoride is safe. It is found in nature in plants, soil, and water.



See this [Cavity Fighter flyer](#) and the [Getting Fluoride flyer](#) for more information, and please consider posting this information and/or sharing with families.

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

[Visit ELRC Region 13](#)

Community Services for Children | elrc13@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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