

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 12 October 2022

Serving Susquehanna, Wayne, Lackawanna, Pike, Monroe & Carbon counties

Region 12 Updates

RAISE YOUR **STAR** ★★★★★

Keystone STARS Movements

Congratulations to the following providers who moved up to a STAR 2 since 7/1/22:

- *LVCCC at Palmerton Borough*
- *Loving Life Lehighton Preschool*

And Congratulations to the following provider who moved to a STAR 4 since 7/1/22:

- *Little Bombers*

Thank you for your continued commitment to quality!



Welcome!

The Early Learning Resource Center would like to welcome the following new programs to our region! The ELRC staff are here to assist you with your participation in Child Care Works and Keystone STARS and to provide you with local resources and referrals.

- *Inch By Inch Childcare LLC - Mount Pocono, PA*
- *Dekontee Christian Day Care - East Stroudsburg, PA*
- *Discovery Montessori Providence - Scranton, PA*

Director's Network

During our September Director's Network, we held an open "Q & A" session to address provider questions and discuss hot topics from the ECE field. Thank you to all who attended, asked thoughtful questions and contributed to the conversation!

Due to the upcoming Kick Off Meeting events, we will be taking a break from the Director's Network for the month of October. Instead, we encourage you to join us at one of our Kick Off meetings (see details below). We hope to see you there!



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 12 will be holding two meetings for your convenience. Select the session that works for you!

Tuesday 10/18/22 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Northampton Community College
2411 PA-715
Tannersville PA 18372

Thursday 10/20/22 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Jewish Community Center
601 Jefferson Ave
Scranton, PA 18510

Please pre-register [here](#).

Free CPR, AED, & First Aid Training

The NEIU 19 is hosting FREE CPR, AED, & First Aid training! This training is PQAS approved and will satisfy OCDEL's requirements for CPR training. Training dates are available in October and November.

Please [click here](#) for more information and registration details. Should you have additional questions, please contact Amanda Jacobino at (570) 876-9390 or amjacobino@iu19.org.





Art Displays

We would like to thank *Jack and Jill Nursery* in East Stroudsburg for graciously donating art work to be displayed in our ELRC Stroudsburg office! These owls are a hoot! We would love to feature art in our Scranton office as well.

Should you be interested in donating art for the Fall season, please click [here](#) to sign up, and contact your Quality Coach!

Region 12 Provider Supports

Technology Tuesday

Please join us for Technology Tuesday on 10/11/22 at 10:30 am. Quality Coaches will be available to discuss how to access and use technology systems like the PA PD Registry, Better Kid Care and more! Come learn how to manage your Organization Profile, complete Career Pathways and navigate the New World System. We will be sharing our screen to walk you through every step!

- [Technology Tuesday](#)



Quality Coach Office Days

Quality Coaches conduct weekly office days. If you need assistance with grants, technology or one on one support to achieve your Keystone STARS goals, please call or email your coach to schedule an appointment! Click [here](#) to see our Office Day schedule for October.

PQA - Let's Talk Quality Webinar Series

This month's webinar is a focus on using "Diverse Materials" in the classroom.

- [Let's Talk Quality Flyer](#)

Healthy Minds

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

- [Healthy Minds Flyer](#)

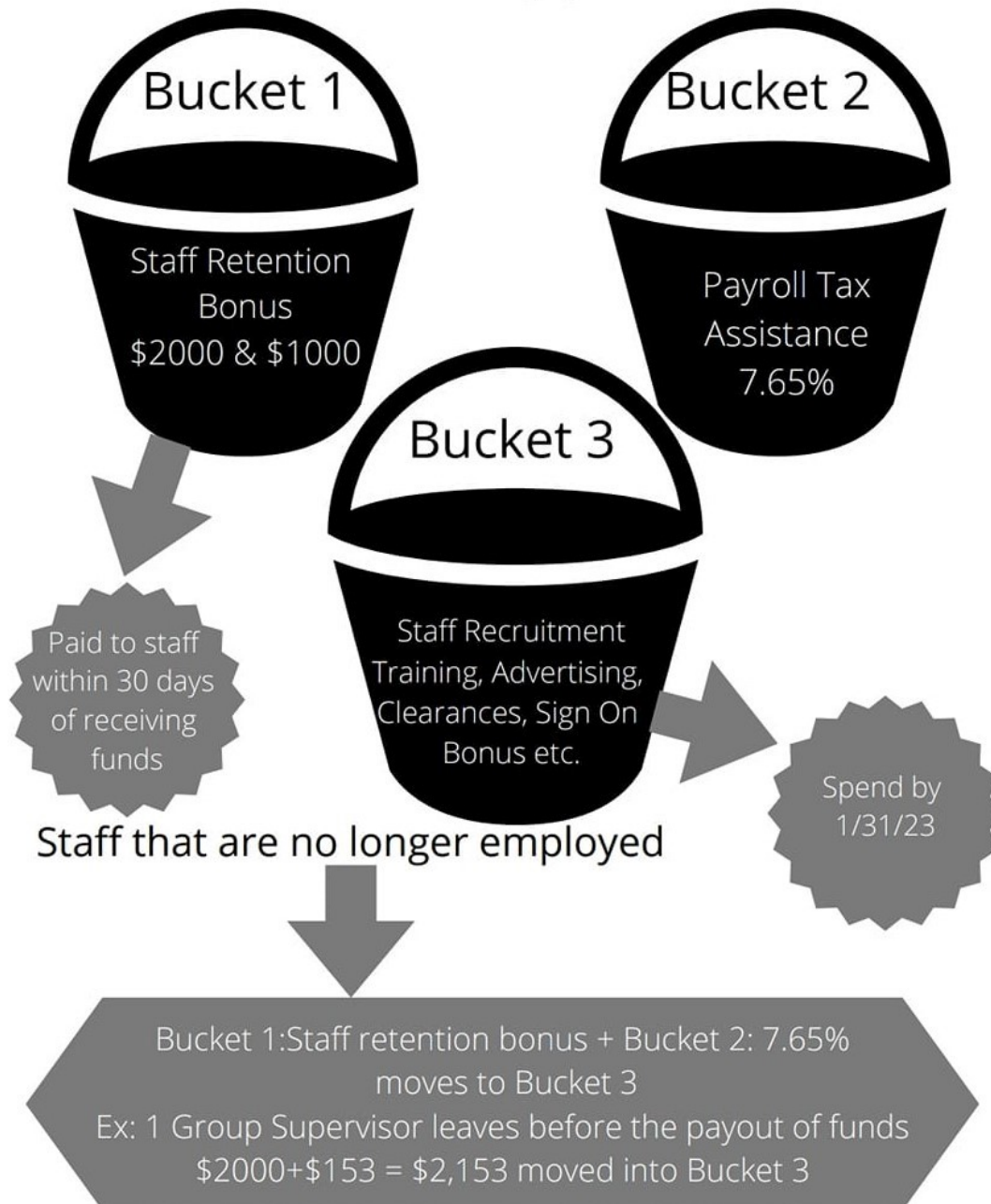
ELRC Updates

Workforce Support Grant Payments

All Work Force Support Grant payments have been issued. Reminder that all staff retention amounts must be paid out to staff within 30 days of receipt of the grant payment.

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. **Amounts reported for Bucket 1 & 2 cannot exceed the amount 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.

CCW Reminders

- Please remember to report excessive child absences, late starts and terminations prior to invoicing time. Children exceeding 5 consecutive days of absences need to be reported immediately. If these circumstances are reported as they occur, the corrections may already be reflected on your attendance invoice making it easier for you to complete the monthly attendance accurately.
- Please report co-payment delinquencies timely. If you attempt to report more than one week, the ELRC will be unable to pursue the outstanding weeks with the family.



Child Care Works Required Training

As of 8/30/22, all child care staff (in a program that participates in CCW), are required to take a 1 hour annual training in Child Development each fiscal year. This training will count toward the 12 hour annual training for certification. In addition, all leadership staff who have a role in processing CCW payments must take the PD “CCW Program Integrity & Accountability Training” by 11/30/22. This training is a free, one-hour session and is available in both English and Spanish on the PD Registry.

All programs who have a Child Care Works agreement with the ELRC, must complete Appendix I - Attestation of PD, and return to the ELRC by 12/30/22. Failure to complete the attestation and return to ELRC will result in the termination of the CCW Agreement. Click [here](#) to access the Attestation.

PPE for Child Care

The PA Department of Health & PEMA are offering free PPE while supplies last. Providers are encouraged to request PPE through [this form](#). These resources are intended to support organizations for current or future COVID-19 protection, or other associated purposes (including training purposes). These resources are **NOT** permitted to be used to offset normal operational costs.

Please click [here](#) for full details! There are specific instructions regarding shipping, receiving and use of some "shortly expiring" materials.

This survey will be kept open and orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis through at least October 2022. Please email HOC_Log@pa.gov if you have any questions about this program.

Coach Approach Training

Do you have members of your staff who could benefit from coaching training? Program leadership who are trained to “coach” others can support the team and provide collaborative feedback.

The Pennsylvania Key is excited to share their *Coach Approach* offerings for the 22/23 school year. Click [here](#) to view the flyer with dates, registration information and other details. Contact Barb Willier at barwil@pakeys.org for additional support.

2022 Market Rate Survey - Closes 10/11/22

OCDEL is requesting all providers complete the 2022 Child Care Market Rate Survey! The facility's director, owner, or other person who is knowledgeable about the facility's operations and finances should be the one to complete this survey. This includes questions about private pay tuition rates, payments and fees, Child Care Works program participation, enrollment, staffing, and operations. Private pay tuition rates collected from this survey will be used to update a facility's rates in the PELICAN system. Rates from PELICAN are also displayed publicly on websites such as the Compass Provider search.



At the end of the survey, a provider can enter the optional drawing for one of 100 \$100 Amazon e-gift cards.

Do you have questions about the 2022 Child Care Market Rate Survey, didn't receive one, or need help submitting the survey? Contact the Institute of State and Regional Affairs at ChildCareResearch@psu.edu or leave a toll-free voicemail at (866) 982-6433.

Child & Adult Care Food Program

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health - Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Education are hosting a quarterly series called Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Community Conversations. The meetings include updates, resources, and important reminders regarding CACFP from collaborators at the Pennsylvania Department of Education and other partners.

These conversations take place quarterly. You can email Shannon Dryden directly at Shannon.dryden@phila.gov to be added to the calendar invite or join the meeting directly via this [link](#). Dates listed on the flyer below:



JOIN US FOR CHILD & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

2-3 PM

9/16/22 • 12/16/22

3/17/22 • 6/16/22

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

To submit questions or topics, send to:

Shannon.Dryden @Phila.gov

Matthew.Williams@Phila.gov

Family-Friendly Resources Available to Support Early Learning

Now available at no cost are resources and materials to support Pennsylvania's early learning professionals and families.

- Early learning materials for families (like Learning is Everywhere, Kindergarten Here I Come, Kindergarten Here I Am, and more). Most are available in English & Spanish.
- Color Me Healthy Kits and CDs (available in English & Spanish)
- Developmental Screening Using the ASQ-3™ and the ASQ:SE-2™: Tips and Strategies for Preparation, Communication and Partnerships tip rings (English only)

Supplies are limited and requests will be fulfilled in order as received. Materials are for Pennsylvania programs and partners only. Click [here](#) to learn more and submit a request.

PD Registry Office Hours - Spanish Option

The Pennsylvania Key will host recurring office hours for Spanish speaking early childhood education providers interested in learning more about the Professional Development (PD) Registry.

The PD Registry is a system for the workforce that connects to many of the OCDEL initiatives for early childhood education programs in Pennsylvania. Office hours will be held the same day, at two times of the day to meet the needs of both center and family child care settings.

Click [here](#) to view the flyer with dates and log in information.



Public Loan Forgiveness

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in financial hardship for many, including members of the early care and education (ECE) workforce. If you work for a qualified employer, including many Head Start, preschool and child care programs, you may now be eligible for federal student loan forgiveness for your important public service. Some borrowers will need to consolidate their federal loans and/or submit a PSLF form by October 31, 2022, to take advantage of this opportunity.

See this [flyer](#) for eligibility criteria and additional details.

Health & Safety

Fire Prevention

October is Fire Prevention Month! The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) has an abundance of resources available on their website, including lesson plans and classroom activity ideas.

Fire Safety may also be an interesting parent workshop idea (STARS indicator FC3.4.6). Invite a local fire house to visit the center one evening to show the trucks to the children and ask a firefighter to discuss home fire safety with families. You can provide the following resources and handouts to families to supplement the workshop.

- [Fire Escape Plan](#)
 - [Escape Planning Tips](#)
 - [Smoke Alarms at Home](#)
 - [Safety Action Plan](#)
-

Helping Children Stop Using a Pacifier



Below are some tips you can share with families who struggle to have their child wean off a pacifier.

- **Talk to your child** - Tell the child why you want them to stop using their pacifier. Say to them you believe they can stop.
- **Take the pacifier away gradually** - Let the child use it only at certain times, like naptime or bedtime. Slowly increase the amount of time that the child isn't using a pacifier.
- **Reward the child** - For each day they don't use their pacifier, put a star on the calendar. At the end of an agreed upon time period, give them a non-food reward, like a trip to the park.
- **Encourage the child to throw their pacifier away** - If the child asks for it, remind them that they threw it away. Tell the child they're a big kid, and big kids don't use pacifiers.
- **Trade the pacifier** - Ask the child to put the pacifier under their pillow. Tell them the pacifier fairy or someone else will take the pacifier while they sleep and leave a gift instead. If the child asks for the pacifier, remind them they traded it for a gift.
- **Poke holes in the pacifier** - Use a clean pin to make the holes. If the pacifier has holes in it, it won't feel good for the child to suck on.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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 12](#)

Community Services for Children | elrc12@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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