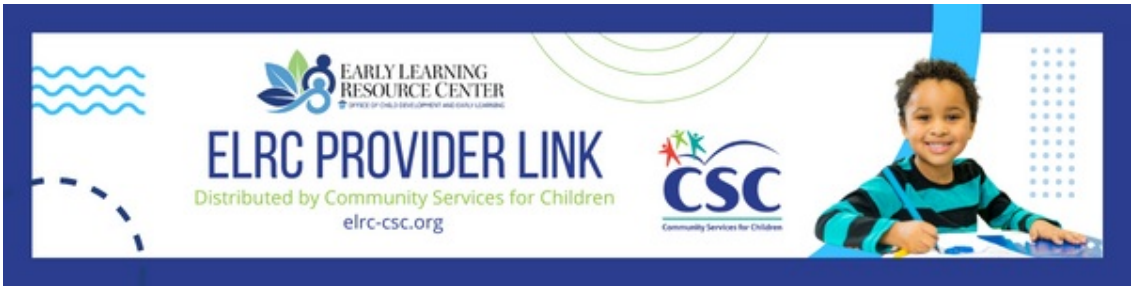


Community Services for Children

Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16 October 2022

Serving Bucks Countie

Region 16 Updates

Keystone STARS Movements

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

- ***Sunshine Day Care Center***
- ***Alphabet Child Care***
- ***Newtown Discovery Center***

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

- ***Creative Little Hands Preschool***
- ***Children of God Educational Services***

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.

- *Kidsberry Academy, Yardley, PA*
- *Kids Care Penn Valley Elementary, Levittown, PA*
- *Safe And Sound Child Care Center, Quakertown, PA*
- *Cb Montessori, Warrington, PA*

2022 ELRC KICK-OFF Meetings

A huge "Thank You!" to Christian Life Academy and Pennridge Christian Academy for hosting the ELRC Region 16 Kick Off Meetings this year!
Our attendees received important updates on Keystone STARS, grants, Child Care Works and other provider supports from our Quality Coaches and Provider Team.

If you would like the ELRC to visit your site and present information on the provider and family supports that we offer, please e-mail mlang@cscinc.org with your request. there!

First Aid & CPR Training Are Now Available Through The Bucks County Intermediate Unit

The Bucks IU is a PQAS-approved provider of First Aid/CPR for PA child care providers. Sessions offered prior to 12/31/2022 are **free** and must have a minimum of 5 participants. Find sessions and register on the PD Registry today. See flyer for more information.

- Bucks IU First Aid CPR Training Flyer Fall 2022

Region 16 Provider Supports

Bucks County Director Network Group

Join us for our monthly Bucks County Director Alliance meeting! Attendance is strongly recommended as there are important updates for all child care providers! Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month from 1:00-2:00 PM
Please join our BCDA October Meeting on October 20th at 1:00 pm – Registration Link.

If you would like to help with the planning on October 7th at 1:00 pm - Register here.

- BCDA October Invitation

Coaches Calendar
Quality Coaches Are Here For You! There are many options for ways to connect with your Quality Coach for support and information. Please view our Quality Coach Calendar for the month.

- Coaches Calendar October 2022

Coffee With Your Coach
Take some time away from the hustle and bustle of your program and meet up with your Coach! Our Keystone STARS Quality Coaches will once again be available throughout the community for in-person meetings. Coaches will be available to address questions, concerns, address supports or chat about any need you have!

- Coffee With Coach

Coach Virtual Office Hours
Your Quality Coach is available to connect on Fridays with the availability of Virtual Office Hours. Please see flyer for dates and times your coach is available and office hours link.

- Virtual Office Hours

Back to Basics
The Quality Coaches will be holding weekly virtual sessions for an in depth discussion on individual Keystone STARS Standards. Any STAR level is welcome to attend, however, all STAR 2, 3 & 4 directors should plan to attend any or all sessions in which they need or want a better understanding of a particular standard. These sessions will last 15 – 30 minutes. Please save flyer for zoom link. Registration not required, just click link to join. All sessions begin at 1:30 pm.
Back to Basics - October Schedule

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

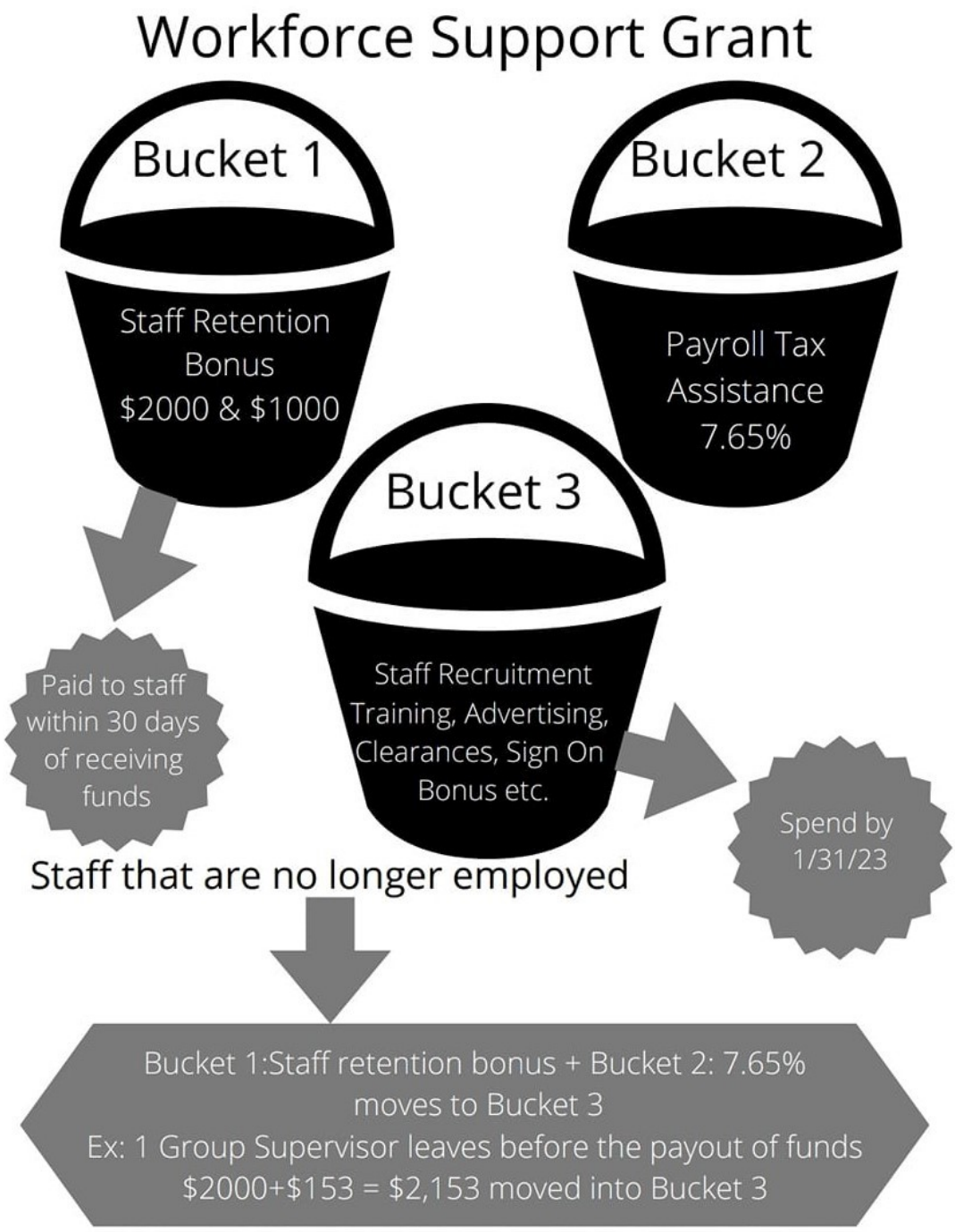
- Healthy Minds Flyer

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”:



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 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:

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 16

Community Services for Children |elrc16@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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