

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 13 November 2022

Serving Berks & Schuylkill counties

Region 13 Updates



As we take a moment this time of year to reflect on what we are thankful for, know that everyone from the Early Learning Resource Center appreciates all you do for the children and families in your care. In spite of new challenges, the ECE community continues to serve children and give them a safe place to be nurtured, to learn and to thrive.

Annual Kick Off Meetings

Thank you to all who attended the ELRC Annual Kick Off meetings! It was a pleasure to see so many of you join us face to face. During these meetings we discussed important updates regarding Keystone STARS, Child Care Works and ELRC provider supports.

We also want to thank our hosts, Riverview Christian Early Learning Center and Jerusalem Child Care for providing us not only with space but also with snacks and beverages.





If you were not able to attend, we strongly encourage you to register for one of our virtual meetings scheduled for November 10th at 10:00 am or 6:00 pm.

See this [flyer](#) for registration information.

Community Resources

Berks County

The Berks Early Care and Education Council (BECEC) is looking for Berks County providers to join this group and support the work of ensuring all children have access to quality early learning experiences. See this [flyer](#) for more information and a 2022-2023 meeting schedule. Parents are also invited so please share this information with your families.

Schuylkill County

Community Services for Sight is offering free vision screening to children aged 3 to 5. Click [here](#) to view additional information about this service. You can also visit their website at <https://www.communityservicesforsight.org/>.



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. This month we will be discussing the benefits of IECMH from a director's point of view. We look forward to seeing you,

November 9th at 1:00! Please register for the event using the zoom link below

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



Work it Wednesday

Our November topic is "Don't Know What Parents Want...Ask Them!" Participants will earn 2 PQAS PD hours. We look forward to seeing you, Wednesday, -

November 16th at 1:00 pm. Please register for the event using the zoom link below

- [Work It Wed Flyer 11-16-22](#)

Regional Calendar

Check out our calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities

and professional development opportunities.

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

Program Quality Assessment Team Webinar

November Topic:

- [Talk to me Baby](#)

Healthy Minds

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

- [Healthy Minds Flyer](#)
-

ELRC Updates

Work Force Support Grant 2.0

Application, Information and Requirements For Department of Human Services (DHS) Certified Child Care Providers Please read all information on this webpage before completing and sending the Work Force Support Grant (WFSG) 2.0 Application to your Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC).

[Read More](#)

Workforce Support Grant 2.0

Bucket 1 Eligibility Criteria

It is the responsibility of each provider to read the full Work Force Support Grant 2.0 Provider Information, Requirements and Application document.

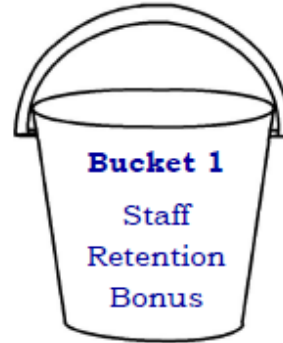
[Work Force Support Grant 2.0 – THE PENNSYLVANIA KEY \(pakeys.org\)](http://pakeys.org)

Staff Person = \$2000 award

- Provide **direct supervision** to children at **physical childcare location**
- Work with children at **least 15 hours a week** as indicated on staff schedule
- Be paid through employer payroll

Environmental Services Staff = \$1000 award

- Provide services for children and families at **physical child care location**
- Work at **least 15 hours a week** as indicated on staff schedule
- Be paid through employer payroll
- Example of ESS - transportation staff & cooks



Center directors are eligible at "Staff Person" level **IF** they work at least 15 hours a week with children as scheduled.

If they do not, but meet all other criteria, they can apply for "Environmental Service Staff" level.

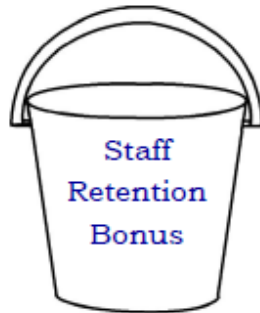
Ineligible Staff

- Center owners/operators
- Executives/Administrators
- Administrative Support Staff
- Contracted Staff
- Volunteers

- Application window is open 10/24/22-12/6/22
- Payments will not begin until after January 1, 2023
- This grant is **first come, first serve** and only **complete applications** will be considered
- Applications must be emailed to elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org

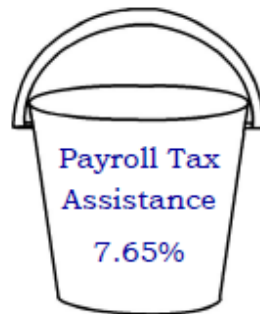


Bucket 1



- Staff Person = \$2000 award
- Environmental Services Staff = \$1000 award

Bucket 2



- 7.65% of total bucket 1 to offset the employer portion of payroll taxes

Bucket 3



- **Optional bucket—do not accept this funding if you are unable to spend by 6/30/23**
- For expenses related to recruitment and hiring of **new staff**
- Cannot be used in any capacity for existing staff



Work Force Support Grant 1.0

Do you still have dollars left in bucket 3 - Other Staff Supports? You can pay for a future voucher for First Aid/CPR training for all staff (Please note this ONLY applies to WSG 1.0. This is NOT an allowable expense for WSG 2.0)

Click [here](#) to view a flyer with more information on First Aid/CPR vouchers.

Closing out your Work Force Support Grant 1.0:

- 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.

CCW Reminders

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 it to the ELRC by 12/30/22. Failure to complete the attestation and return it to ELRC will result in the termination of the CCW Agreement. Click [here](#) to access the Attestation.

COVID Absence Sunset

As of 11/1/22, we will no longer be paying for COVID absences and closures. Child Care Works payments for COVID absences have ended. Any closures related to COVID may be counted toward your 15 day paid annual allotment upon your request. Children will be suspended after the 5th consecutive day of absence. COVID absences will count toward the child’s 40 day absence. COVID closures must still be reported to Certification and Department of Health.

Other Certification regulations that were also suspended have been reinstated as of 10/31/22. See the complete list [here](#).

Paid Holidays/Closures

Please take a moment to review the holiday closures you submitted to ensure they are still correct. If you need any help, please contact your Provider Specialist.



Teacher Wellness Project

First Up is excited to announce a new comprehensive wellness program to support the Philadelphia ECE field, the Teacher Wellness Project. The project supported by the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey provides free individualized support and connection for the entire individual.

We hope that by providing resources that support the entire teacher through mind, body, and heart that educators will step into their classrooms uplifted and empowered. Reach out to start your wellness journey today!

[Read More](#)



The 2023 Terri Lynne Lokoff Teacher Awards

In 1994, Kay and Fred Lokoff launched the Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Teacher Awards to honor their daughter Terri who was a devoted childcare teacher. The Awards are designed to recognize and celebrate the achievements of outstanding early care and education teachers and bring attention to the critical role these teachers play in the lives of young children.

Up to 50 awards are presented each year, and each award recipient receives a cash prize, a paid trip to the historic city of Philadelphia to participate in the Terri Lynne Lokoff Teacher Awards weekend-long celebration, ongoing opportunities to connect with peers, exchange ideas, as well as ongoing professional learning and program enrichment opportunities.

Applications for the 2023 Terri Lynne Lokoff Teachers Awards are now open until November 18th, 2022. Please see the application requirements below or reach

out to teacheraward@firststap.org for more help!

[Read More](#)



Mail In Ballot Tips

If you are voting by mail ballot, use these tips to get your ballot counted:

- On November 8, 2022, at 8:00 PM voted ballots must be RECEIVED by your county election office - postmarks are not enough.
- Seal the ballot inside BOTH envelopes
- Sign the voter's declaration

[Read More](#)



Accessing Updated Health and Safety Pre-Service and One-Hour Training

On Oct. 4, 2022, the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Bureau of Early Learning Policy and Professional Development and Bureau of Certification Services released Announcement C-22-06, which provided updated required Health and Safety Pre-Service Training information for new hires and advised that all child care staff must complete any additional health and safety professional development requirements as prescribed by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL).

Accessing the training can be done by:

1. Login into the **PD Registry**; then click on Required Pre-Service for DHS from the Area of Interest drop down in the Training Calendar OR
2. Go directly to the **Better Kid Care site**

Comments and questions regarding this announcement should be directed to the childcare provider's Regional Office of Child Development and Early Learning:

- Northeast Region 800-222-2108

[Read More](#)

PreK Counts Rebid

2022-2023 is the last program year for the current grant cycle of PA PKC program. In the spring of 2023, PA Department of Education will announce a full, competitive rebid. During the rebid, all eligible providers interested in receiving a grant must apply.



All eligible applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the full series of offered webinars to fully understand the PA PKC program regulations and expectations. The webinars will review program information and provide an opportunity to ask questions.

Use the links below to register for EACH webinar:

- [Program Requirements and Grant Basics: 11/3, 12-1 PM](#)
- [Community Needs Assessment & Partnerships: 11/10, 12-1 PM](#)
- [Eligibility, Enrollment, and Attendance: 11/17, 12-1 PM](#)
- [Personnel Qualifications and Professional Development: 12/1, 12-1 PM](#)
- [Health and Safety: 12/8, 12-1 PM](#)
- [Classroom Instructional Support: 12/15, 12-1 PM](#)
- [Family Engagement: 1/5, 12-1 PM](#)
- [Fiscal Responsibilities: 1/12, 12-1 PM](#)

Health & Safety

School Age Mental Health Consultation

The PA Key is excited to announce an expansion of the IECMH program to now include school age children. This service provides support to providers who struggle with challenging behaviors or have concerns about the social and emotional development of the school-age children enrolled in their program.

- [School Age Child Care Mental Health](#)



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

Connect with us



Community Services for Children | 1520 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109

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