

Community Services for Children

Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 12 December 2022

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

Region 12 Updates



The ELRC offices will be closed on December 26, 2022 & January 2, 2023. We wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season!



Winter Coat Drive

As winter weather approaches, we want to ensure the families of our communities are warm! The ELRC has a limited number of FREE winter coats available for distribution.

Should you have children in your program in need of a winter coat, please contact Melanie Gaughan at (610) 703-8590 or mgaughan@cscinc.org. Sizes and quantities are limited, and coats are first come first served. Please feel free to share this [flyer](#) with families as needed.



Director's Network

November's Director Network explored strategies to set staff up for success and ensuring all understand program policies, procedures, and state regulations. Participants engaged in role play activities and collaborative discussion. Thank you to all who joined and contributed to the conversation!

December's Director Network is Friday, 12/16/22 at 1:00 PM. Guest speaker, Lauren Kryston, of the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) consultant team will be taking a deep dive into the free services of IECMH, including their new school age supports! Check out the flyer below for registration.

- [Director's Network Registration](#)



LIHEAP Assistance Available!

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now accepting applications. LIHEAP is a federally-funded program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

(DHS) that provides assistance for home heating bills so those Pennsylvanians meeting eligibility and income guidelines can stay warm and safe during the winter months. Assistance is available for renters and homeowners.

The LIHEAP application period for both cash and crisis grants opened on November 1, 2022, and will remain open until April 28, 2023.

Pennsylvanians can apply for LIHEAP and other public assistance programs online at www.compass.state.pa.us or by phone at 1-866-550-4355. Please share this information with staff and families as needed.

Region 12 Provider Supports

Technology Tuesday

Our next Technology Tuesday will be on 12/13/22 at 1:00 pm. This month we will be focusing on navigating the PA PD Registry. Join us as we walk you through uploading education for Career Pathway and completing professional development plans. We will be sharing our screen to walk you through every step of the way! Click [here](#) to register now. Should you have any questions or would like assistance with a specific topic, please contact Lynda Castro at lycastro@cscinc.org.



STAR 2 Movement Cohort

Are you interested in moving to STAR 2 and don't know where to start? Please join our upcoming STAR 2 cohort! This will be a series of meeting for those

interested in moving to STAR 2. You will work together with a group of providers to navigate the Keystone STARS Performance Standards and gather evidence. Our first session will be held virtually on January 25, 2023 at 1:00 PM. Please see flyer below and contact Aubryn Wojtkielewicz at aubrynw@cscinc.org with any questions.

- [STAR 2 Movement Cohort](#)

Director's Boot Camp Returns!

Join Quality Coach, Deb Swartout, for the return of Directors' Boot Camp on Wednesday January 11, 2023! This year our Director's Boot Camp will explore team building and ensuring your staff have the tools they need to be successful. To accommodate your busy schedules, there will be an afternoon and evening session. Please register in advance for the session that best fits your schedule. Click below to register now.

- [Director's Boot Camp Registration](#)

Virtual Office Hours

Quality Coaches will be conducting virtual office hours in December! Should you need assistance with Work Force Support Grants, technology or individualized support to achieve your Keystone STARS goals, please call or email your coach to schedule an appointment! Click below to see our schedule for December.

- [Virtual Office Hours](#)

Healthy Minds

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

- [Healthy Minds Flyer](#)

ELRC Updates

Work Force Support 2.0 Deadline Approaching!

Work Force Support Grant 2.0 was released on Monday, October 24th. Providers must apply no later than December 6, 2022. All applications must be submitted to elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org.

Access the application and instructions here: [Work Force Support Grant 2.0 - THE PENNSYLVANIA KEY \(pakeys.org\)](#)

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.

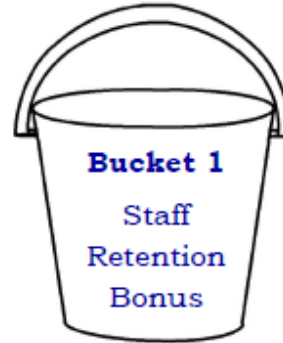
[Work Force Support Grant 2.0 – THE PENNSYLVANIA KEY \(pakeys.org\)](http://pakeys.org)

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.

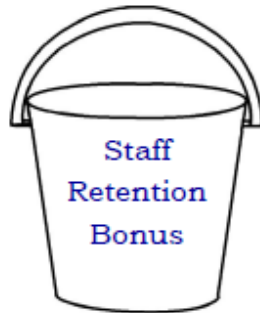
Ineligible Staff

- 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

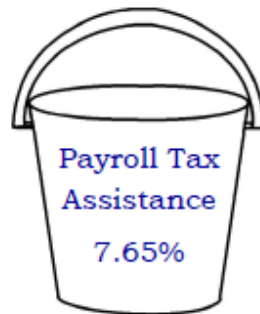


Bucket 1



- 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)

ALL WORK FORCE SUPPORT GRANT 1.0, OTHER STAFF SUPPORTS, MUST BE SPENT BY JANUARY 31, 2023.

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

Appendix I Due

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.

The attestation states your understanding that all childcare staff are required to take an annual training in Child Development each fiscal year. (This training will count toward 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.

Click [here](#) to access the Attestation.

Should you have any question regarding this policy, please contact your provider specialist:

Mary Ruth Tanner – mtanner@cscinc.org
Marcia Shaw – mshaw@cscinc.org

If you have not yet returned your Appendix I, please sign and return to ELRC12@cscinc.org

Winter Weather Closures

This is the time of year when winter weather can prompt program closures. Providers who use PSS will have until the 5th of the month to report closures. Providers who do not use PSS must contact their provider specialist within three days of reopening the facility in order to receive a paid closure.



The subsidy program will pay for a maximum of 15 closed days per year from July 1 through June 30th for which the provider also charges private-pay families.

First Aid/CPR trainers

The Approved Pediatric First Aid and Pediatric CPR Providers and Curriculums chart has been updated to include the number of PQAS hours participants will be awarded. Pediatric First Aid and CPR course lengths vary due to factors, such as number of participants and time needed for skill practice.

As a reminder, Pediatric First Aid & Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) can also count towards the annual minimum 12 clock hours for certification regulatory compliance based on the renewal of the training certificate.

Click [here](#) for more information.



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

[Announcement C-22-06](#), announced 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 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**

Please reach out to your certification rep if you have any questions regarding this announcement:

- Northeast Region 800-222-2108
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Share Your Success

Is your program celebrating a significant event like a retirement, anniversary or expansion? Do you have staff who have completed a degree or did your program just receive accreditation? Please share out these stories with your Quality Coach so the ELRC can acknowledge these successes and celebrate with you!

The Child & Adult Care Food Program

Are you interested in becoming a CACFP provider but unsure of where to start? The CACFP is a nutrition program run by the Department of Agriculture. The program exists to help make sure children are getting the nutrition they need. You can watch this brief overview presentation of the CACFP program and reach out to your Quality Coach with any questions.

Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

Health & Safety

Check Your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors



healthychildren.org
Powered by pediatricians. Trusted by parents.
from the American Academy of Pediatrics

Daylight saving time ended November 6th, which always serves as a great time to check your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors and replace batteries, if needed.

Healthy Children offers this resource on how to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Click [here](#) to read more.

Respiratory Virus Activity (RSV)

RSV is a viral infection that is very common in the winter, especially in young children. While most people with RSV have mild cold symptoms, it can cause severe illness and hospitalization. This year, the virus is showing up earlier than usual, and more children are becoming sick. Staff must understand RSV so they know symptoms to watch for and what to do. The National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety has a new resource to help everyone learn more about RSV, including the importance of daily health checks, inclusion/exclusion due to illness, and what to do when it's more than just a cold.

Click [here](#) to view the resource



Fingerprint Results

DHS applicants who register under Identogo for fingerprints will now have the opportunity to receive their results electronically via email. This only applies to results with no record.

During the registration process applicants will be asked for an email address and will be asked to create a security question and a security answer. It is very important that once the user creates the security question and answer, they retain this information. Three unsuccessful logins will prevent the applicant from retrieving their results electronically. In order to prevent any unauthorized release of information their security information cannot be reset.

Shortly after their fingerprints have been taken and a result can be provided, they will receive an email. They will be advised to click on the link within the email and enter the security question and answer. If they lock themselves out of

the security question and answer, the result will be transmitted by US Mail. Current mailing timelines take 7-10 business days to reach the intended destination.

When the applicant does access the results, it is important they download it, save it and print it for future needs. There will be no second access to the electronic result. All results will still be transmitted by US Mail to all applicants.

Taking Care of Oral Health During Pregnancy

Taking good care of oral health is important for the individual who is pregnant and for their unborn baby. It is safe to get oral health care during pregnancy. Practicing good oral hygiene, eating healthy foods, and getting oral health care will help keep the pregnant person and their baby healthy.



Click here for a [flyer](#) you can share with families with the following tips for keeping your mouth and teeth healthy when you are pregnant:

- Eat healthy foods, like whole-grain products; fruits; vegetables; and low-fat milk, cheese, cottage cheese, and unsweetened yogurt. Meats, fish, chicken, eggs, beans, and nuts are also good choices.
 - Drink water, especially between meals and snacks. Drink tap water that has fluoride.
 - Eat healthy snacks, like fruits; vegetables; and low-fat milk, cheese, cottage cheese, and unsweetened yogurt.
 - Eat fewer sweets like candy, cookies, cake, and dried fruits. Drink fewer sugary drinks like fruit-flavored drinks, pop (soda), and fruit juice. If you eat sweets or drink sugary drinks, have them only at mealtimes.
 - Brush your teeth with a soft toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste twice a day, after breakfast and before bed. Do not rinse after brushing. The small amount of toothpaste that stays in your mouth is good for the teeth.
 - Floss once a day before bed.
 - Rinse every night with an over-the-counter alcohol-free mouthrinse with fluoride.
 - If you vomit, rinse your mouth with a teaspoon of baking soda in a cup of water. This helps prevent damage to your teeth.
 - Get oral health care. If your last dental visit took place more than 6 months ago or if you have any oral health problems or concerns, schedule a dental appointment as soon as possible.
 - Tell the dental clinic that you are pregnant and your due date. This information will help staff provide the best care for you.
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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

Connect with us



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

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with



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