



## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 14 March 2023

Serving Lehigh & Northampton counties

### Region 14 Updates

#### Latinos Educando Juntos

Join **Latinos Educando Juntos** and **First Up** as we gather in a Spanish led conversation around ECE resources for providers and their families, also learn about the importance of Advocacy and ways you can take action to be an advocate for the children you serve. Register [here](#) for the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Únase a **Latinos Educando Juntos** y **First Up** mientras nos reunimos en una conversación dirigida en español sobre los recursos de ECE para proveedores y sus familias, también aprenda sobre la importancia de la Abogacía y las formas en que puede tomar medidas para ser un defensor de los niños a los que sirve. Regístrese [aquí](#) para la reunión del 10 de marzo.



#### Professional Development Organization

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Professional Development Organization (PDO) at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) is a Pennsylvania Department of Education grant-funded partnership among PASSHE universities to increase the educational credentials among those who teach and care for preschool-school aged children in childcare centers.

For more information on PDO funded coursework, please contact:

Anabela Araujo  
Northeast Professional Development Coordinator  
908-420-0417  
[aaaraujo@eceptdo.org](mailto:aaaraujo@eceptdo.org)

## Virtual Curriculum Fair



Have you considered purchasing a new OCDEL approved curriculum or would you like more information on how to effectively implement the curriculum you already use? Join us for a *Virtual Curriculum Fair* on Wednesday, 4/19 at 1:00 pm. Six different vendors will share out an overview and give participants the opportunity to join a breakout session to hear more.

Click [here](#) for more details.

Space is limited. Register now!

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## Region 14 Provider Supports



### ELRC 14 Director's Network

At our Director's Network Meeting in February, we had Natasha Kershner, the Intermediary Liaison for CDA Apprenticeship and Anabela Araujo the Northeast Professional Development Coordinator provide updates on free professional development opportunities currently available for teachers/directors.

Our next meeting will be March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. We will continue our discussion on challenging behaviors that we started during our January meeting. Come and share supports you received that have helped you overcome some challenging behaviors you experienced in your classrooms. We will share some additional resources and supports that are available for you. We will also discuss how to create teamwork among multiple generations and cultures. Bring ideas to share with the group. Click [here](#) to register.

### Quality Coach Office Days

Do you need assistance with your Keystone STARS Renewal or Designation? Are you thinking about moving up in STARS and need some extra assistance? Your Quality Coach is here to help. Quality Coaches are in the office weekly and are available to meet. Click [here](#) for dates of when your Quality Coach will in the office. Please don't hesitate to email, call or schedule a time to meet.

### Work Together Wednesdays!

Each Wednesday, the ELRC 14 is offering an opportunity for all directors and teaching staff to come together via Zoom to explore one specific topic together. In March we will be discussing Staff Observations and Evaluations, Staff Meetings, Shared Services, School Age clarifications, and Professional Development Vendor clarifications.

You will be able to ask questions, share resources, and network with other programs. Register for the sessions you would like to attend [here](#)

**Please note:** Work Together Wednesdays will now be from **1:00 to 1:30 pm!** We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays!

### CDA Apprenticeship

This program is designed for residents of Pennsylvania currently employed by Early Childhood Education programs. The state-wide apprenticeship model aims

to provide working educators with the opportunity for education coaching and mentorship while applying their learning directly to their work in the classroom they are employed in. The end result being readiness to apply for their Child Development Associate® credential with the Council for Professional Recognition. For more information contact:

Natasha Kershner  
Intermediary Liaison for CDA Apprenticeship  
[nkershner@northampton.edu](mailto:nkershner@northampton.edu)

**Let's Talk Quality**- Monthly webinar by the Program Quality Assessors

- [Learning Through Sensory Play](#)

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## ELRC Updates

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### CCW updates

#### Increase in CCW Base Payment Rates!

OCDEL has released [Announcement ELRC23-01](#). This announcement is notification of an increase to base rates paid by PA Department of Human Services (DHS) to certified child care providers participating in Child Care Works (CCW). Base payment rates are also known as the Maximum Child Care Allowance (MCCA). The new MCCA chart is posted [here](#).

If the provider's:

- private pay rates are HIGHER than the newly published MCCA, participating DHS providers will not have to submit a new Appendix C-1. The new rates will automatically be reflected in the payment for March.
- private-pay rate is LOWER than the new MCCA, they will receive the lower of the two rates.
- would like to update their private pay rates, communicate those changes to families and provide verification of the updated child care rates to the ELRC. The updated rate will become effective the first of the month following the date the verification was received by the ELRC.

#### Registration Fees

Effective **January 1, 2023**, Early Learning Resource Centers began paying a registration fee to DHS certified child care providers for all CCW children at the time of their initial enrollment. Registration fees for newly enrolled children will automatically be added to the provider invoice for the service period in which the enrollment was effective. No further action will be required. **Effective January 1, 2023, providers cannot charge CCW families registration fees or the difference between what the ELRC pays for a registration fee and what the provider charges private pay families for a registration fee.** (\$75 for centers, \$50 for group/family providers).

**Annual Registration Fees** - If you charge an annual re-registration fee, the ELRC will pay this registration fee for your CCW enrolled children. This fee must be requested using the following form:

- [Annual Registration Fee Form](#)

Prior to authorizing these annual fees, the ELRC must receive a one-time verification of these charges. This may include a copy of your family handbook or

family contract that states all families are charged an annual fee every year.

Please note that the ELRC will not pay any other type of fee such as waitlist fees, field trip fees, etc. If you have any questions, you can click [here](#) to read the full announcement or reach out to your Provider Specialist.

### **CCW Reminders**

- Remember to report all children who are absent more than 5 consecutive days to your provider specialist prior to submitting your invoice.
- If you accept the blended rate, you are receiving a higher reimbursement amount for school age children to account for school closing days, inclement weather and other emergencies. Accommodations must be made to accept CCW school-age children for these full days of care if you have accepted the blended rate. Please reach out to your provider specialist with any questions regarding this expectation.



### **Work Force Support Grant 1.0 & 2.0**

All grant payments have been issued for 1.0 & 2.0 through the ELRC. Please reach out to your Quality Coach with any concerns.

#### ***WSG 1.0 Reporting***

It is now time to complete this reporting if you have not done so already. Please watch this video on reporting instructions.

<https://www.loom.com/share/990e21ab6aca46789a65ef83a1cfdca9>

If you discover that you have unspent funds, please return your reporting form with the payment to:

Community Services for Children  
Attn: Jori Farley  
1520 Hanover Ave  
Allentown, PA 18109

#### ***Work Force Support 2.0***

All staff retention funds must be paid out to the staff within 45 days of receipt.

- These funds must be paid out in one lump amount.
- Must be paid through payroll.

Staff recruitment funds may be used.

on expenses between 7/1/22-6/30/23. Please see your grant application for eligible expenses.

Reporting forms for WSG 2.0 will be sent to each provider in March.

### **1099**

If you have received grant funding or Child Care Works payments from Community Services for Children in 2022, you should have received your 1099. Please reach out to your Provider Specialist with any questions.

*Mel Fell* by Corey R. Tabor has been named the [2023 PA One Book Early Literacy selection](#). The Pennsylvania One Book program promotes the value and benefits of reading early and often to preschoolers. PA One Book is a statewide initiative that encourages family engagement through books and offers activities designed to build key language, literacy, and social skills.



*Mel Fell*, is a triumphant tale of a young bird learning to fly, emphasizing the importance of self-confidence and encouraging children to feel brave. Certified early childhood education programs will be provided with a copy of the book in early 2023. In addition, resources and supporting information will be shared at a later date.

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## T.E.A.C.H Summer Scholarship

Staff interested in attending college for Summer semesters that begin in May/June 2023 should apply to T.E.A.C.H. now. T.E.A.C.H. applications must be complete and submitted with all required documentation/ information by Friday, April 7, 2023, to be considered for the Summer 2023 semester.

Need More Information? Click [here](#) to for details on eligibility, program requirements and to download a scholarship application. Questions? Click [here](#) to contact a T.E.A.C.H. Counselor .

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## Health & Safety

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### Medicaid and CHIP Renewals

Starting April 1, 2023, Pennsylvania is required by federal law to review Medicaid and CHIP recipients' eligibility every year, which means that recipients must submit a renewal.

It is very important that renewal forms are completed and returned even if nothing has changed. Completing a renewal allows DHS to determine eligibility for MA or CHIP coverage. Coverage will continue for recipients who are still eligible.

There are a few ways for recipients to complete a renewal:

- Complete the forms DHS sends and mail them back in the envelope included in the packet.
- Drop completed forms off at the [local county assistance office \(CAO\)](#).
- Complete the renewal online at [dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS](#).
- Complete the renewal over the phone by calling 1-866-550-4355.

Make sure contact information is correct with DHS. Recipients can opt-in to receive text messages and email alerts about their benefits.

- Visit [COMPASS](#) and log into their My COMPASS Account.
- Use the free [myCOMPASS PA](#) mobile app.
- Call 1-877-395-8930

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## Oral Health Tip - Please Share with Families

Before visiting a dentist, it is very helpful if a child's parent or guardian completes this form: [Getting to Know Me: Information for Your Child's Dental Office](#). The form gathers information about the child's ability to cooperate during dental visits. It also includes suggestions about approaches that might work best for the child. This information will help the dental office staff understand and meet the child's needs.

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

[Visit ELRC Region 14](#)

Community Services for Children | [elrc14@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc14@cscinc.org) | [www.cscinc.org](http://www.cscinc.org)

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