

Community Services for Children

Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16

December 2024

Serving Bucks County

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Region 16 Updates

Please note that the ELRC offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th and Wednesday, January 1st. We wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season!



Rapid Response Team

The Rapid Response Team provides prompt support in the event a child is at risk of suspension or expulsion. It is a short-term, collaborative approach, designed to connect families and providers with existing tools and resources. Supports are customized to fit a child's or teacher's needs.



Requests can be made using this [RRT Referral form](#). Referrals are processed on a first come, first served basis and we ask that providers prioritize one child referral at a time. One of the goals of the RRT is that strategies and supports will be used across classrooms at the provider so that all children and staff will benefit from these supports.

Before submitting a referral, please discuss with the parent as parental consent is required. Child observations, screenings and parent conferences should also have been completed so that you can provide the referral coordinator with

detailed information regarding the case.

If you have any questions regarding the RRT supports, please reach out to your Quality Coach.

Regional Child Care Works Waitlist



Some ELRC regions have recently begun to experience a CCW waitlist. It is important for providers to check with the ELRC and not assume that a child has CCW funding, even if your region is not currently on a waitlist. An eligibility letter does not mean that the family has funds available.

Once funds would become available for a child on a waitlist, payments would begin from the date funds were released - no retroactive payments will be made.

Virtual CDA Prep Course - Spring 2025

PHMC PDO is offering a CDA prep course for child care workers in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties. It is ideal for child care professionals who have the 120 clock hours for the CDA Credential but never submitted, or those who need to make the portfolio and schedule the observation and exam. This course provides the final steps to obtain the CDA credential through binder completion. See the attached flyer for more information.

- [CDA Prep Flyer](#)



2024 Outstanding Educator Award

In October, The Bucks County Chapter of PennAEYC held their first Gala Celebration for Early Childhood Education. The purpose of the Gala was to celebrate the importance of quality early childhood education in Bucks County and to create a scholarship for ECE professionals to

begin or continue higher education in the field. The scholarship fund will be named after Pat Miller, who dedicated her life to being an Early Childhood Education advocate.

Those who attended the Gala also honored the 2024 Outstanding Educator Award Recipients:

- Stacy Keeler - Crossing Cooperative Nursery School
- Stuart Kavitsky - Shir Ami Learning Center
- Gaynell Grenfell - Life Span School & Daycare
- Veronica Lauer - First Friends
- Ashley Elliott - First Friends
- Tara Cacciatore - Radcliffe Learning Center
- Tracie Goodz - Children's Village

Congratulations to all the honorees!

Region 16 Provider Supports

Director's Network

Each month the Quality Coaches host the Bucks County Directors' Network meeting. These sessions are an excellent opportunity to network, learn, and engage with representatives from a wide variety of service agencies in the county. On a regular basis, providers can hear updates from early intervention staff, advocates, the Professional Development Organization, certification and more.



- [Community of Practice - Directors](#)

Please join us this month on Wednesday, December 18, 1:00-3:00, for an *in-person* gathering at Bucks County Community College, Bristol Campus. Attendance is strongly recommended. Hear updates from a variety of early childhood partners who can help support your children, families, and program goals. Our Community of Practice topic will be ***Routines and Schedules***. Registration is required for this meeting. Please review the Quality Coach Calendar to sign up.

Please review the attached In-Person Director's Network Schedule. You may register on this flyer for future meetings.

- [Community of Practice - Early Educators](#)

Coaches Calendar

Quality Coaches are here for you! There are many opportunities to connect with your Quality Coach for support and information. Please view our Quality Coach Calendar for the month and click on the event to register.

- [December Coaches Calendar](#)

ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders

Provider Agreement

- Per the Child Care Works Provider Agreement, the owner of the child care facility is not eligible for subsidized child care for their own child if that child will be cared for in the same facility.
- If the provider employs a subsidy parent or caretaker, the provider must ensure that the parent or caretaker/employee is not paid to care for their own subsidized child(ren). This means the parent or caretaker/employee may not be assigned to their child's classroom and they may not be assigned to supervise their child(ren).
- It is important for all providers to be mindful of their licensed capacity. This includes both the private pay and subsidized enrollments. Appendix H of the Provider Agreement lists the capacity and providers sign that they will remain in compliance at all times. Failure to stay within the capacity may impact the status of your certificate of compliance.

Contact Information

- Please keep all contact information current with the ELRC. Reach out to either your Quality Coach or Provider Specialist if there are any changes to your email, phone number, or contact person.

STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Awards Payments Sent!



Provider payments are being sent out to those who submitted their acceptance letters by 11/20/2024. Payments will be made in the same manner in which you receive your CCW payment (paper check or direct deposit). If your letter was submitted after November 20, payments will be made again in late December.

The intent of the Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Award is to improve, support, and recognize the quality of Pennsylvania's early learning and school-age programs that are invested in the Keystone STARS Program.

If you have not done so already, please complete your acceptance letter and email back to elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org. All acceptance letters must be received by December 13, 2024.

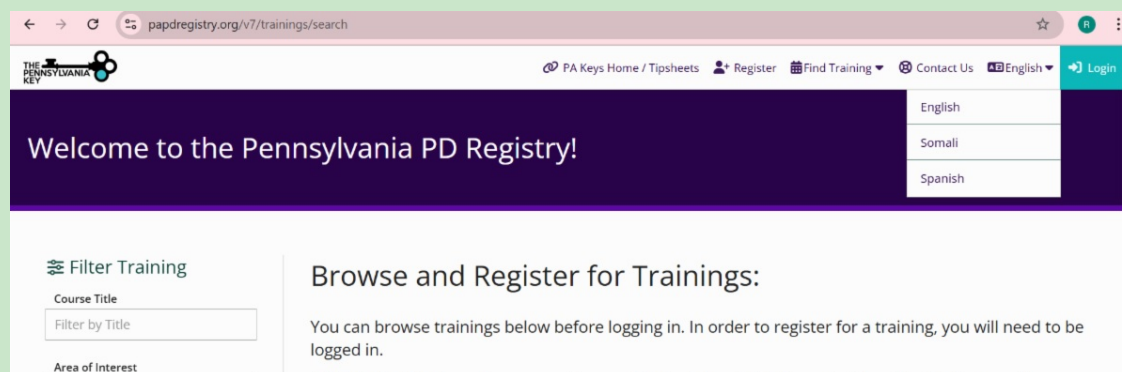
For full details, please see the [Announcement ELRC 24 #02, 2024-25 Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Awards](#). This Announcement contains important information regarding general provider eligibility requirements, a policy eligibility exception for STAR 1 programs, special consideration for STAR 2 and 3 programs, award amounts, allowable expenses, ineligible expenses, processes and a timeline.

PD Registry Update

Two new language translations are available in the PD Registry. To translate language to Spanish or Somali.

- Click on the dropdown menu beside user's name when user logs in, user will see Somali and Spanish.
- If the person clicks on one of these languages, the PD Registry will translate to this language.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the PD Registry HelpDesk: registry@pakeys.org



Directors Credential Coursework

Northampton Community College is running EARL 231:

Administration of Early Childhood Program. Coursework begins in January and funding may be provided through Rising STAR Tuition Assistance.



For more information, click [here](#).

Rapid Response Team - Tip of the Month Children Receiving Outside Services

Children may already have services in place before they even enroll in your program. It is important to review your Family Handbook policies and make sure you have requested a copy of any IEP/IFSP from families. Discuss at enrollment meetings that the purpose of obtaining a copy of the IEP is to understand the needs of the children, review the goals and keep communication open with the family and service providers.

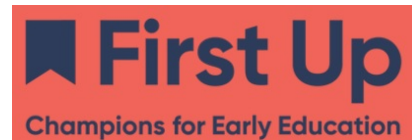


Teachers and program leadership should be included at IEP/IFSP meetings so that progress and challenges can be discussed and strategies created to meet the child and family needs.

When submitting a referral for a child who already has services in place, please include details of these service providers, with parental permission, as part of your referral.

Hispanic ECE Fellowship

First Up's Hispanic ECE Fellowship program is now accepting applications! The program will train a new generation of early childhood leaders and is designed to educate, connect, and support emerging leaders working to bring about positive change in early childhood. The program will culminate with a trip to Harrisburg, PA to speak with policy makers about issues that are impacting Hispanic early learning providers and families so don't miss this opportunity to impact change!



Click [here](#) for more information.

*Designed for Spanish Language preferred providers. Apply here:
<https://forms.gle/T3n5tKKfd6V3GcMt6>

To learn more, register for upcoming info sessions:

Dec. 11th 6:30pm: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkd-qhjqgvHdCOPxgfiV9HgbG-gFimv5bS>

Jan. 8th 1pm: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZludu-grz0sHdd4qqdqVM3-0-JXWXaqyAS>

Strengthening Business Practices

Training available at no cost. PQAS hours available.

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance is offering a new curriculum series, Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs.



The training content and activities are designed to strengthen child care providers' foundational knowledge of sound fiscal management and business operations.

The series contains four modules of business practices content:

- Budgets, Projections, and Planning
- Financial Reports and Internal Controls
- Marketing for Child Care Programs
- Staff Recruitment and Retention for Center-based Child Care Programs

There are two versions of this series: one for center-based providers and one for family child care (based) providers.

- [Strengthening Business Practice Overview Flyer](#)
- [Strengthening Business Practice Registration](#)

A green flyer for a virtual open house. At the top left is the logo for the Pennsylvania Farm to School Network, which includes a stylized carrot and an open book. To the right of the logo, the text reads "PENNSYLVANIA FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK". Below this, the words "VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE!" are written in white on a dark green brushstroke background. The main text says "You're invited:" followed by a bulleted list: "Hear from farm to school practitioners", "Learn about resources & opportunities", and "Network and connect with members". The event details are "Thursday, December 12th, 3:00-4:30 pm ET, virtually on zoom". To the right of these details is a QR code and the text "Register here >". At the bottom, there are three circular images: the first shows children in a garden, the second shows hands picking strawberries, and the third shows a child eating a banana.

November 1 begins open enrollment for Pennie, which is Pennsylvania's official health insurance market place and the only place to get financial savings to help lower the cost of coverage and care.



Visit the website at <https://pennie.com/>



Equity in Early Childhood Education Champion Awards

Applications are now open for Pennsylvania's fourth annual Equity in Early Childhood Education Champion Awards. This award brings awareness to and highlights the equity work being done within Pennsylvania's early childhood education settings, including child care, evidence-based home visiting, and early intervention programs.

Pennsylvania recognizes outstanding achievements in advancing equity by individuals and early childhood education and/or afterschool programs. Pennsylvania invites nominations of individuals or programs that have demonstrated support to children and their families by embracing diversity and full inclusion as strengths, upholding fundamental principles of fairness and justice, and/or working to eliminate structural inequities that limit equitable learning opportunities.

Applicants (individual and program) must demonstrate how the individual, early childhood, and/or afterschool program has supported children and their families through embracing diversity and full inclusion as strengths, upholding fundamental principles of fairness and justice, and/or working to eliminate structural inequities that limit equitable learning opportunities.

Application deadline Friday, January 24, 2025.

Click [here](#) for more information and how to apply.

Health & Safety

Child Care Regulations Now Available in Spanish

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' (DHS) regulations for operating a child care facility are now available in both English and Spanish.

[Visit the DHS website](#) to view each of the regulations that pertain to the operation of a child care facility, a brief description of the regulation, and the hyperlink to the regulation.

Early Childhood Education Linkage System (ECELS) publishes a monthly newsletter full of valuable health & safety tips and resources for staff, children and families.

Click [here](#) to download the most recent newsletter.

Virtual Office Hours

You can now connect with ECELS staff during office hours. ECELS staff can discuss any questions and concerns you may have, pertaining to healthy child care practices. Please register for an appointment for our office hours by following this [link](#). After you register, you will receive an email confirmation with your appointment information.

Reduce Childhood Lead Poisoning

Lead is a metal that can be harmful to children in many ways, including damage to the brain and nervous system, slow growth and development, and learning and behavior problems.

Please share this resource with families about the dangers of lead poisoning and what we can all do to reduce childhood exposure to lead.

- [Lead Exposure in Childhood](#)

Finding a Dentist

Did you know that tooth decay is the number one chronic disease for children but can be prevented and managed with good oral care? Oral care starts during pregnancy and dental visits should begin by a child's 1st birthday. For help finding a dentist use the following links:

- Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/finding-dental-clinic-your-child>
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry - Find a Pediatric Dentist: <https://www.aapd.org/publications/find-a-pd/>
- American Dental Association - Find a Dentist: <https://findadentist.ada.org/>
- Pennsylvania Dental Association: <http://www.padental.org>
- Find Dentists Accepting Medical Assistance: <http://www.InsureKidsNow.gov>

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. Requests will be added to next month's distribution.

Connect with us



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