

## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 June 2026

Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Wyoming, Luzerne, Columbia, & Montour Counties

To distribute this newsletter to others, copy and share this link:

### Region 11 Updates



*Please note that the ELRC offices will be closed on Friday, June 19th for the Juneteenth federal holiday.*

### Welcome New Providers

The Early Learning Resource Center would like to welcome the following new programs to our region! We look forward to working with you. ELRC staff are here to assist with your participation in Child Care Works, Keystone STARS, and to provide you with local resources and referrals.

- St. Joseph School , Danville
- Tiny Learners Learning Center. Exeter
- Little Cubs Den, Orangeville



## Region 11 Provider Supports



### Director's Network

The Region 11 Director's Network meets monthly to share ideas and resources and to build partnerships in the childcare community. Each meeting will include a Community of Practice for leadership. Topics will focus on strategies for reducing suspension and expulsion, classroom management, and behavior management through the lens of the director. **We hope you will join us for our next meeting, Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am for "Building Staff Morale"**. Click [here](#) for details and to join the discussion.

### Regional Calendar

Print out a copy of the Region 11 Quality Coach Monthly Calendar for a quick reference to all regional support activities. Remember, **your Quality Coach has office hours** scheduled on the calendar and is available to meet with you and provide any support needed. Click [here](#) to view this month's calendar.

### RRT Toolkit Training

ELRC Region 11 Quality Coaches have been leading RRT Toolkit Trainings across the region. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to network and share experiences. All participating childcare programs received a resource book and USB drive containing social emotional resources for their programs. If you have not already attended one of the trainings, check out the upcoming dates below.



Attendees have shared this feedback:

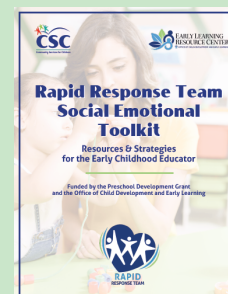
*"Grateful we attended the RRT ToolKit Training — it's always beneficial to be in a room with other providers, talking through practical strategies and realistic situations. It is especially nice to be able to walk away with a tool we can implement immediately. Our staff are already pulling documents from the toolkit to use in their classrooms to help to prevent challenging behaviors."*

*"Thank you for your time and the great resource book. This is definitely going to be the next few staff meetings at all of our locations and the videos will also be part of staff training. Our focus this year is getting back to that INTENTIONAL TEACHER!! and this training really will help pull that all together"*

*"I wanted to drop an email about the RRT- social emotional toolkit. This is AMAZING!!!! The information you all put together in this resource is outstanding! My 2 Pre-K teachers that were there yesterday couldn't wait to tell me all about it."*

### Rapid Response Team Toolkit Free Professional Development

All Region 11 providers are invited to attend the FREE, 2-hour PD, "Rapid Response Team Social Emotional Toolkit." This training will support providers to identify social-emotional skill gaps, and how to apply proactive, relationship-based strategies to prevent challenging behaviors.



Attendees will be given a RRT Toolkit (one per facility) full of resources to use with classroom staff.

These trainings will be offered throughout the Summer 2026. Registration required on the PD Registry. Keep an eye on your email for upcoming events.

**Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

The HUB at Mulberry Mill, Conference Room

160 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Bloomsburg, PA

**Event ID 98716**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

ELRC Region11 Office

41 South Main Street

Wilkes-Barre, PA

**Event ID 398650**

**Thursday, July 16, 2026, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Penn State Extension

200 Main Street, #3

Towanda, PA

**Event ID 399312**

**Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

ELRC Region11 Office

41 South Main Street

Wilkes-Barre, PA

**Event ID 398651**

Once a program has attended this training, they along with their program staff, will be invited to attend a monthly Community of Practice.

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## **Rapid Response Team**

### ***\*\*Update for the 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.

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## **Community Resource Spotlight**

***Educational Opportunity Centers of PA***



[www.eocinc.org](http://www.eocinc.org)

Educational Opportunity Centers, Inc. provides FREE services, including financial aid assistance, assistance in decision making, strengths assessment and coaching, to encourage and assist adults 19 years and older, as well as high school students who are interested in continuing their education. EOC serves residents of Columbia, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, & Wayne counties.

Program representatives can be found at PA Careerlink on a monthly basis, please contact your local PA Careerlink for their schedule. The EOC calendar of events can also be found at [eocinc.org](http://eocinc.org).

EOC offices are located:

107 Gateway Shopping Center  
Edwardsville PA 18704  
570-331-6755

8 West Broad Street, Suite 820  
Hayden Towers, Hazleton PA 18201  
570-454-6161

## ELRC Updates

# SAVE THE DATE

## ELRC Child Care Provider Conference



Date

October 12, 2026



Time

8:15-4:00



Place




Hilton Scranton

More information coming soon!



# Reserva la fecha

## Conferencia de Proveedores de ELRC (Español)

 <b>Fecha</b> October 12, 2026	 <b>Hora</b> 8:00-12:30	 <b>Lugar</b> CSC
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**Más información próximamente!**



### CCW Reminders



#### Co-payment Delinquencies

- It is important to report delinquent CCW co-payments timely to the ELRC. Per Appendix A of the ELRC Certified Provider Agreement, providers must report a delinquent co-payment to the ELRC on the business day following the day the co-payment becomes delinquent. For example, if a co-pay is not paid by Friday for that service week, the delinquency must be reported on your next business day, which is typically Monday.
- Please note, delinquencies can only be reported for co-payments. Delinquencies regarding additional fees your program charges must be handled privately with the family. If you are aware that a family is currently under adverse action, please urge them to resolve this as soon as possible in order to maintain their eligibility and prevent any disruptions in care.
- When delinquent co-pays are resolved, please notify us, or report on Provider Self Service, so we can satisfy the client's adverse action. When families are seeking to transfer enrollments, an ELRC Family Specialist will contact you to verify if that family is current with their co-payment before authorizing the transfer.

#### June Invoices

All providers must submit their June invoice no later than July 30th. While other months allow for a 60 day window to submit invoices, due to the close of the ELRC fiscal year, all invoices must be closed out by the end of July. Invoices received beyond July 30th may not be paid.

#### School Age Flip

The ELRC is preparing for the change in schedules for school-age children over the summer months. The school age flip from part-time to full-time for all eligible

school age enrollments and eligible PKC and Head Start children, will take place on **June 15, 2026**.

You will receive an email from the ELRC with instructions on how to review and update your summer, anticipated attendance.



## Child Care Staff Retention & Recruitment Grant - FER

All CCSRR grant requests have been paid out to providers.

### Policy Reminders:

- Providers must pay retention awards to staff within 45 days of receipt of payment from the ELRC.
- Awards must be paid through payroll with appropriate taxes withheld.
- Recruitment awards must be spent or returned to the ELRC by June 30th.
- Final Expense Reports will be due by July 31st.

### Staff Employment Changes:

- Staff who have given notice when the program receives their payment, must be paid their award.
- Staff who have left employment prior to the receipt of award from the ELRC, provider may move those funds into the recruitment award to pay a sign on bonus for the staff replacement (cannot exceed number of recruitment slots).

### Grant Closures:

- Once you have paid all retention and recruitment funds, please complete the Final Expense Report which you can download [here](#). Please complete ALL sections highlighted in yellow. Return the completed expense report to your Quality Coach.
- If you have to return funds because staff have left employment and/or you haven't been able to use the recruitment funds, complete the [Final Expense Report](#) and return the document with your payment to:

*Community Services for Children, Inc  
Attn: Elizabeth Stair  
1520 Hanover Avenue  
Allentown, PA 18109*

## Supports for Spanish Speaking Providers

### Thursday, June 18 – 1-2pm: ECE Latinos Roundtable.

Join an informal conversation with other caregivers and ELRC representatives.

\*\*This meeting is delivered in Spanish.

Click here for the [Meeting Registration](#).



## Rapid Response Team Tip of the Month

### *Engaging Children with Social and Emotional Challenges*

- **Build Trust and Safety:** Children with social-emotional difficulties often need a predictable, safe environment where they feel heard and respected.



- **Creating a Safe and Nurturing Environment:** Establish a consistent daily routine, create a warm and welcoming atmosphere, and foster positive relationships between caregivers and children.
- **Encouraging Emotional Expression:** Provide opportunities for children to express their emotions in healthy ways, encourage open communication, and teach them emotion words.
- **Teaching Emotional Regulation:** Help children manage and respond to their emotions in a healthy way by creating a safe space, teaching them to use positive language, and using art and play as tools for emotional expression.
- **Support Social and Emotional Skills:** Incorporate social-emotional learning (SEL) strategies such as:
- **Emotion Labeling:** Help children identify and name feelings (How are you feeling?)
- **Role-Playing:** Practice social scenarios to build communication and conflict resolution skills.
- **Mindfulness and Regulation Tools:** Use breathing exercises, calming corners, or sensory activities to help self-regulate.
- **Promoting Empathy and Social Skills:** Encourage children to practice empathy and social skills through guided play, storytelling and role playing.
- **Addressing Challenging Behavior with Empathy:** Approach challenging behaviors with empathy, curiosity and care, and modeling emotional literacy and social-emotional learning.
- **Foster Relationships:** Encourage positive relationships with adults and peers. Pair children with supportive caregivers, use group activities that promote cooperation, and model respectful interactions. For children with attachment challenges, spend extra time building one-on-one connections.
- **Collaborate with Families:** Involve parents or guardians in understanding the child's behavior and in planning supportive strategies. Share observations, celebrate progress, and work together to create a cohesive approach between home and childcare.

Sources: [virtuallabschool.org](https://www.virtuallabschool.org)

<https://www.ed.gov/media/document/feelings-teacherspdf-89404.pdf>

## Children Experiencing Homelessness

As the school year comes to a close, some children may be experiencing housing insecurity. Here are some strategies to help families over the summer months adjust to the changes in routine:

### Plan for Summer Gaps

- Survey parents to ask about needs or concerns - food, clothing, diapers, formula, shelter/housing, etc.
- Reach out to community partners to determine where to refer families over the summer.

### Prioritize Enrollment for Families Experiencing Homelessness

- Connect with the local educational agency for referrals of young children experiencing homelessness.
- Ensure that homeless families are prioritized for services per federal guidance.

### Make Your Program Accessible

- Update enrollment forms and housing questionnaires to ask about living situations that may qualify as homeless.
- Translate information about homelessness into languages commonly spoken in your community.

### Support Smooth Transitions to K-12

- Provide warm handoffs to school district homeless education liaisons.

## The Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

CACFP is a federal program, administered by the PA Dept. of Education, that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children enrolled in participating child care centers and child care homes. In PA, only 36% of child care providers participate in this valuable program. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, check out the [PA Dept. Of Education's website](#) . Additional resources are also listed below. Click on the name of the resource to go to the website.



### [National CACFP Association](#)

The National CACFP Association monitors federal changes to CACFP policy and provides tools and training to sponsors and participants.

### [CACFP PA Storymap](#)

The CACFP PA Storymap was developed by Child Care Aware America. This Storymap includes participation rates, food desert locations and more.

### [Home Grown Childcare](#)

Home Grown is a national organization that supports family child care homes. Home Grown is regularly working on better understanding how CACFP functions and what can be changed to make it more accessible for all

### [CACFP Expert: Alana Jones' CACFP Webinars](#)

Reinvestment Fund has three recorded community webinars hosted by Alana Jones, a CACFP Expert, that are available for all child care providers to view.

### [Child Nutrition Toolbox](#)

PDE's training website. An account is required to access all features and resources. This website includes mandatory and additional trainings, it also has some resources for documentation and CACFP management.

*Information obtained from Reinvestment Fund.*

## Provider Support Line

Childcare providers with ELRC agreements can now reach out to the Provider Support line. This is a safe space to share any questions, concerns, or gratitude regarding an ELRC experience.

Before reaching out regarding issues, first contact the ELRC to attempt to resolve your concerns. OCDEL supports providers with matters that cannot be resolved directly with the ELRC.

Calls to this direct line to OCDEL are welcomed Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at 717-346-0042 or 1-844-675-6349.



## New Community of Practice and Subgrant Opportunity

Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA) is pleased to invite applications for the Family Advocacy Subgrant and Community of Practice. CCAoA seeks to partner

with five community-based child care organizations to empower families as active, effective advocates positioned to deliver compelling messages that can drive policy action among decisionmakers by utilizing Vroom®, a research-based tool sharing the science of early brain development, to drive narrative change and build the capacity of families as child care advocates.

- A “[Fillable Proposal Application](#)”. This Word document must be completed and submitted as your proposal response
- The “[RFA For Family Advocacy Subgrant and Community of Practice](#)”. This PDF document must be reviewed prior to completing the “Fillable Proposal Application” as it outlines the full proposal details and requirements.

In order to be considered, proposals must be completed and emailed to CCAoA at [FamilyAdvocacyRFA@usa.childcareaware.org](mailto:FamilyAdvocacyRFA@usa.childcareaware.org) by 5:00PM ET on FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026. Proposals received after this deadline will be disqualified.

Please submit any questions to [FamilyAdvocacyRFA@usa.childcareaware.org](mailto:FamilyAdvocacyRFA@usa.childcareaware.org).



## Health & Safety

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 view their newsletter and download the most recent edition.

### 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 childcare practices. Please register for an appointment for their office hours by following this [link](#). After you register, you will receive an email confirmation with your appointment information.

For a full list of topics visit their [webpage](#).

ECELS has compiled a master list of emergency preparedness resources for ECE programs. This collection includes practical, evidence-based tools such as webinars, training modules, printable guides, articles, videos, fillable PDFs, and developmentally appropriate activities for young children, along with resources to share with families. Covering national and regional content, it helps Pennsylvania ECE programs plan, prepare for, and respond effectively to emergencies while supporting the safety of children and staff.

Find All ECELS Resources [here](#).

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## Summer Safety Tips

As the weather heats up, we can ensure a safe and fun summer with these practical tips:



### Sunscreen

- Sunscreen must be provided by the parent and labelled with the child's name. Check for expiration dates too! It should be a broad-spectrum sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher to prevent sunburn.
- Apply at least 15-30 minutes before going outside.

### Outdoor Safety

- Avoid outdoors between the peak hours of 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If you do go outside, seek a shady area or invest in shade structures for your playground.
- Use the [Child Care Weather Watch](#) to help decide if it is safe for children to be outside.

### Hydration and Heat Exhaustion Prevention

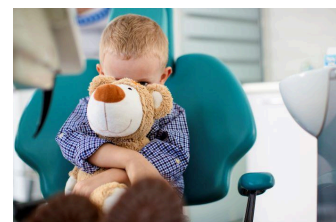
- Provide frequent water breaks when outside during hot weather
- Make sure water is accessible at all times
- Encourage parents to send their children in light colored clothing

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## Oral Health Tip

### *Communicating with Your Dentist*

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.

Please share this form and information with the families in your program.

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

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[Visit ELRC Region 11](#)

Community Services for Children | [elrc11@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc11@cscinc.org) | [www.cscinc.org](http://www.cscinc.org)

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