

Diane Getzinger

From: Diane Getzinger
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 8:36 PM
To: Diane Getzinger
Subject: ELRC 18 E-bulletin: Base rate news, PPE update and SO MUCH MORE!

Happy snowy Monday!

So many updates...so little time! ☺

MCCA Rate Increase

I hope you all heard the good news from the Governor's office today, announcing **an increase in the base rates for subsidized child care**. While more details will certainly follow, here's what we know right now:

- The rate increase will be effective 3/1/2021, so you will see this reflected in your April 20, 2021 payment.
- New providers agreements will NOT be needed.
- You will be able to increase your private pay rates (more details about how later this week). Not sure if ELRC has your current private pay rates? You can view them online either in PELICAN Provider Self Service or on www.findchildcare.pa.gov (search for your program name and click on More Details to view your currently displayed private pay rates).
- We are waiting for more details from OCDEL including the actual new rates and how the rate increase will roll out. We will share details with you when we have them.
- Read the full text of Governor Wolf's announcement [HERE](#).

Inclement Weather Reminder!

Just a reminder if you closed today and/or tomorrow due to inclement weather and have a provider agreement with ELRC 18, you must adhere to the following notification in order for these days to be recorded as paid closures (up to the 15-day maximum):

- If you use PELICAN Provider Self Service, you must enter the closures on the profile page in PSS **before March 5th**. Entering the closures on your online invoice will not result in proper payment (and actually takes more work on your part)! Navigate to Provider Profile > Manage Closed Days and enter the closed days. If you need help with this, please contact our Provider/STARS team at (215) 382-4762.
- If you do NOT use PELICAN Provider Self Service, WHY NOT??? (I will spare you my soapbox speech this time, but only because there's SO MUCH information to share with you. You really are missing out on significant benefits, though!) Anyway, if you do not use PELICAN PSS, in order to be paid for these closed days, you must report the closure to ELRC **within 3 days of reopening**. If you simply report them on your monthly invoice, OCDEL policy requires us to enter them as unpaid closures. You can report the closure by e-mailing ELRC18providers@caringpeoplealliance.org. Please be sure to include your name, program name, PELICAN provider number (or MPI number) and the dates you were closed. (Or you could just sign up for PELICAN PSS. I'm just sayin'....)

Pandemic Relief Award - UPDATE

To date, we have received 1,210 applications for the Pandemic Relief Award (with over 800 of them coming in on January 13th – the very first day that the application was available. As a reminder, full details of the grant, which provides a \$600 award to all of your eligible staff can be found [HERE](#). Philadelphia-based providers were

requested to apply using an online application: <https://form.jotform.com/210119006914041>. Use of this online application 1) guaranteed that your application was complete, 2) provided you automatic confirmation that your application was received, and 3) directly entered your information onto a spreadsheet (streamlining the process of getting funding into the hands of providers).

- When your application is processed, you will receive an award letter confirming the amount of your grant and how it will be paid on March 31, 2021. Please be patient! We are receiving several calls and e-mails from providers who have heard of others receiving their award letter. It takes time to process these applications, and responding to requests for status update is only delaying our ability to process your application.
- If you need to make changes to your application (other than the total amount requested, which will be based on the number of eligible staff on your application), forward your JotForm confirmation e-mail with an explanation of what needs to be updated to dgetzinger@caringpeoplealliance.org.
- If you applied by fax, e-mail, US Postal Service or hand delivered your application – Please await further instructions. You will not need to complete the online application unless your application is incomplete. We will manually data enter your grant information onto the spreadsheet, and it will be processed in the order in which it was received. If your manual application is incomplete, it will be returned to you with a request to complete the online application instead.

PPE from ELRC - UPDATE

By now, all licensed providers in Philadelphia should have received an e-mail from Laura Hollingsworth at Office Basics informing you of the following:

OCDEL has instructed ELRCs to spend remaining Round 3 CARES funding on personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies for child care providers. Your child care organization has been granted a budget to spend on PPE at Office Basics. I have attached instructions and a list of supplies you may purchase.

Please review the attachments to Laura's e-mail for your budget amount and directions on how to order, as well as a price list.

If you did not receive an e-mail from Laura, please check your junk mail folder first and then e-mail dgetzinger@caringpeoplealliance.org with your name and MPI #.

Reminder: Round 3 CARES Act

As a reminder, child care programs which received the Round 3 CARES Act payments were required to complete reporting on the use of those funds. As of Friday, Jan. 27, 2021, 60 percent of programs required to report have successfully completed this requirement. OCDEL and DHS have continued to provide support to programs having access issues to the reporting tool. If you need continued assistance accessing the report and have not contacted been by OCDEL, please submit an email request for assistance to RA-PWELRCQA@pa.gov.

- *Please note that OCDEL has approved ELRC staff to be given the security rights to data enter CARES 3 reporting for providers in two limited situations: 1) Providers who have no internet access (as opposed to those having problems accessing the reporting tool), and 2) Providers who are seriously ill. To date, I have submitted requests to OCDEL on behalf of six providers. However, someone has shared the form these providers are using to report their spending, and providers have begun sending their paper form to me. **I cannot do this data entry on your behalf without being given the appropriate permissions from OCDEL.** If you believe you meet one of the categories above and would like to discuss this further, please call me at (267) 504-4179. Again, this is not meant to be a solution to your inability to use the*

data entry tool. I understand how frustrating this process has been for you, and will help you as much as I can to resolve your access issues. You will not be penalized for failing to report due to access issues.

COVID Town Hall for Families – Going Back to Child Care

On **Thursday, February 11th from 5p to 7p**, parents and caregivers will have an opportunity to ask the experts about COVID-19 and sending their children back to child care. Join PCCY for this FREE event on Zoom and Facebook Live and hear current information presented by representatives of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and CHOP Policy Lab. Know the facts so you can make the right decision for you and your family! Register and submit questions [HERE](#).

PLEASE SHARE THIS OPPORTUNITY WITH YOUR FAMILIES – BOTH THOSE CURRENTLY IN CARE AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET RETURNED

Presented by: Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY), the City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health, CHOP Policy Lab, The School District of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Office of Children and Families, and the Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) Region 18 of Philadelphia.

ECE Business Administration Series

Join Mary Graham and the PD team at Children's Village for their acclaimed beginners business series for child care providers! Earn 12 PQAS hours for participating in this highly interactive series of Zoom webinars on Thursday afternoons from 12:30p-3:30p. Provided FREE of charge thanks to funding from PNC Grow Up Great. The [beginners series](#) will run **February 18th through March 11th**. The [advanced series](#) will begin immediately after on **March 18th** and run through **May 27th**. Participants in the advanced series will earn 27 PQAS hours. Click on the links above for additional information and the application for each series.

ParentChild+ panel on African American and Black representation in early literacy - with Rachel Honore!

In celebration of Black History Month, join ParentChild+ on **February 3rd at 6 PM ET** for a compelling discussion on the importance of representation of African American and Black characters, authors, and illustrators in children's literature. This panel will be featuring our fabulous colleague, Rachel Honore! We all know Rachel for her diligent work and advocacy on behalf of diversity, inclusion and early literacy for ALL, and she is now bringing her wisdom and experience to this dialogue. Check out the ParentChild+ link below for more info and to RSVP.

<https://www.parentchildplus.org/location/philadelphia/>

Webinar: COVID-19 and the Legacy of Racism: Vaccine Hesitancy and Treatment Bias

A no-cost webinar is being offered by National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation. *COVID-19 and the Legacy of Racism: Vaccine Hesitancy and Treatment Bias* will be held on **Feb. 3, 2021, 3-4:00 pm**. The COVID-19 pandemic's devastating impact on Black, Latino and other communities of color has resulted in disproportionately high rates of cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Racism, both historical and current, complicates efforts to reduce these disparities by contributing to vaccine hesitancy, treatment bias, barriers to testing, and ongoing economic and social inequities. Pre-registration required. [Get more info](#).

Montessori Opportunity Discussion

[Wildflower Schools](#), teacher-owned and led micro-schools committed to Montessori education, are looking for teachers and childcare providers to open their own Wildflower schools. Join us on **February 4** for [Wildflower 101](#) an information session about Wildflower and how Wildflower supports educators in the start up journey to create Wildflower schools and child care centers in their communities. For more information, contact Sunny.Greenberg@wildflowerschools.org.

Next SEPECC Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 9:00 - 11:00 am

This Southeastern PA Early Childhood Coalition (SEPECC) meeting agenda will include a special presentation on the new certification regulations, updates from OCDEL and ELRC agencies, funding updates, advocacy opportunities, perspectives from early learning providers, information and resources from community organizations, and more. We encourage you to email questions in advance to Jackie.Groetsch@FirstUp.org. Register for the **Feb. 9th** SEPECC meeting using the links below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

- Click to register for **February 9**

- Click here to access the [Meeting Slides](#) and [Recording](#) from the **January 26th** meeting.

PD from PENNAEYC

PennAEYC and our partners around the state have a variety of professional development opportunities available for you throughout the year. From conferences to CDAs to monthly sessions to apprenticeships, we have what you are looking for. Currently we are developing a number of sessions that includes film showings, advocacy sessions (from basics to specifics) and much more. In addition to newsletter announcements, check [our website](#) for a current list of options. In the meantime, check out these upcoming sessions:

- **February 3-4 and 9-10** Trying Together will host [Virtual Conference: Finding Joy through Playful Learning](#).
- **February 17** the Learning Lamp and PennAEYC present the virtual session [Leave It At the Door: Managing Personal Stress in the Classroom](#)
- **February 18** PennAEYC presents [Advocacy Basics](#)
- **March 5-6** First Up: Champions for Early Education will hold their annual conference [Hope and Healing: From Self-Care to Best Practice in a Trauma-Impacted World](#)
- **March 17** the Learning Lamp and PennAEYC present the virtual session [Observing Young Children](#)
- **April 12-16 Annual Head Start Conference** will be held virtually. Stay tuned for registration information

ExCITE Center's 7th Annual STEAM Education Workshop featuring Dr. Bettina Love!

The STEAM Education Workshop is happening (virtually) this year on **February 15th** (President's Day!) from 9 a.m. until noon! But the most amazing part is that The ExCITE Center has invited Dr. Bettina Love from the University of Georgia and founder of Abolitionist Teaching Network to speak at the event addressing an audience of those in Pre-K-12 as well as higher education: *We Gon' Be Alright, But That Ain't Alright: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom!* You can't miss it out!

Dr. Love's talk will discuss the struggles and the possibilities of committing ourselves to an abolitionist goal of educational freedom, as opposed to reform, and moving beyond what she calls the educational survival complex. Abolitionist Teaching is built on the creativity, imagination, boldness, ingenuity, and rebellious spirit and methods of abolitionists to demand and fight for an educational system where all students are thriving, not simply surviving. The program also includes brief presentations and a panel discussion with Drexel faculty.

Participation is free and ACT 48 credits are available for Pennsylvania teachers.

Register at: <https://drexel.edu/excite/engagement/steam-education/>

Supporting the Resilience of Families: Your Journey Together

February 23 and March 2, 2021 from 1:00pm-2:15pm ET both days

In this two-session webinar event, Nefertiti B. Poyner, Ed.D., will instruct participants on how to use [Your Journey Together \(YJT\)](#), a parenting curriculum that offers step-by-step, guided lessons for both home visits and parent trainings. Recognizing the incredible need created by the current pandemic, an

emphasis on how to enhance and strengthen virtual family support activities will also be highlighted. Each registrant will receive their own YJT Curriculum Kit. Let's learn together! Add the YJT Curriculum to your toolbox, and support families in building upon their strengths and raising resilient children.

[Register now.](#)

Fee: \$179 per person *Covers both webinar sessions, one YJT Kit and the shipping costs*
Registration closes February 16, 2021.

First Up Annual Conference

Have you registered for ***Hope and Healing: From Self-Care to Best Practice in a Trauma-Impacted World*** yet? Join your fellow ECE Professionals for First Up' Annual Conference on **March 5-6, 2021**. This year's conference will be virtual to protect the health and safety of all participants. Join us for keynote presentations with national experts who will help you deepen your Early Childhood Education knowledge and expand your toolkit. The conference is a two-day professional development opportunity that promises to have a positive impact on your experience of the challenging times we are currently in. All Early Childhood professionals are invited to experience this special event which will include strategies for managing challenging behaviors, instructions in professional skills, opportunities to move your body and focus on the present moment - and much more! For more information, visit our [conference website](#) and contact [Rebecca Tyrrell](#) with any questions. **REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!**

NAEYC Public Policy Forum

[Join the movement for high-quality early childhood care and education](#) by participating in [NAEYC's 2021 Public Policy Forum](#). As a 2021 Public Policy Forum participant, you will have the opportunity to:

- Be part of a powerful team working to advance federal and state early childhood policy
- Hear from national and state policy leaders and fellow advocates
- Get the resources and experiences you need to sharpen your advocacy skills
- Learn about new tools, strategies, and tactics to try in your own state and community
- Build critical relationships on Capitol Hill with members of Congress and their staff

SCHEDULE: On Sunday, **February 28 and Monday, March 1**, you will participate in a range of expert policy briefings, guest speakers, and skill-building breakout sessions, providing many opportunities for networking and learning.

COST: The fee to attend is \$100/person, which includes two days of sessions, from the start at 1 pm on Sunday, in addition to virtual Hill visits which will occur between Tuesday afternoon and Friday. PennAEYC has limited funds available to cover registration if you or your employer do not have the ability to pay for or contribute to the \$100 registration fee.

REGISTRATION: As State Team Leader, Kimberly Early is responsible for coordinating our PA state team. Please contact her directly if you are interested in joining us by providing your NAEYC Customer ID/Membership ID and home address. Registration is open to PennAEYC members only so now is the perfect time to [become a member](#).

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to [contact Kim directly](#) or you can also check [NAEYC's website](#) to find more information.

COVID-19 Funding and Financial Assistance

Special thanks to Gail Carter-Hamilton from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health for sharing the following:

PIDC, a non-profit organization founded by the City of Philadelphia and the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia in 1958, has compiled a list of financial resources to help Philadelphia business owners respond to the COVID financial crisis. This web-based resource can be found [HERE](#). (Be sure to bookmark it and check back, as resources are updated regularly.)

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is Currently Recruiting

(Those who know me well know that I am a HUGE fan of this program. If you are beginning to think about expanding, please at least check out what they have to offer. Did I mention that the program is FREE?)

The deadline for the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program has been extended and they are now accepting applications up until **February 8th, 2021** for their Summer Cohort beginning in May. Program criteria has been recently relaxed due to the pandemic. Business owners can now apply with a minimum of \$75,000 in annual revenue and 2 full-time employees. I have attached to this email materials that can be used to promote the program with the new criteria, including a couple of videos, one in which would be ideal for social media usage.

Through Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses, participants gain practical skills across topics like financial statements, negotiations, and marketing to help grow their businesses. Apply to the free education program today at 10ksbapply.com

<https://youtu.be/hHR4ssMDN-s>

<https://youtu.be/ECnhmq8gOVs>

News from PHMC PDO

- **Community College of Philadelphia** is offering two TUITION FREE Child Development Associate courses and two TUITION FREE Credit-bearing courses: ED 105- Foundations of Early Childhood Education; and ED 204- Engaging Young Children.

All courses are fully online and each has a weekly synchronous Zoom meeting.

Classes start in Mid-February and registration is now open.

For Credit course information and registration materials please contact cda@ccp.edu.

[CLICK HERE](#) for CDA registration.

- **La Salle University**

Make an Impact! Please join us for a virtual information session to learn more about our **new** Early Elementary Pre-K- 4 part-time, evening BA degree completion program. If you have an AA in Early Childhood/PreK-4, you can complete your BA degree with certification (PreK-4). Our new program is a cohort model designed with the early childhood working professional in mind. Please register for one of our upcoming interest sessions. We are currently accepting applications. Become an Explorer!

Virtual Information Session Dates

Feb 16th at 12:30PM: [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Feb 18th at 6:00PM: [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

- **Arcadia University: Graduate Level Coursework For Early Childhood**

Enroll today in a fully online program with a tuition discount - Arcadia is now offering a [Master's of](#)

[Education with a certificate in Infant Toddler Mental Health Certificate](#) as well as graduate coursework to apply for the [PA Director Credential](#). Contact soe@arcadia.edu for more information.

- **Contact the ECE PDO at PHMC today for your Career Advising Needs**

Are you a director or teacher who is interested in advancing your placement on PA's Career Pathway? Our ECE/IHE Coordinators can help individuals or programs access CDA credentials or Early Childhood Education degrees.

Visit our [Career Advising](#) webpage for more information and complete an intake form to get started!

For general questions, contact our ECE Workforce Specialist at 267.773.4400 or email us at

ECEPDO@phmc.org.

PFCCC is Recruiting FCCH!

If you are a new or existing family child care provider and welcome support in improving the quality and sustainability of your program, the Philadelphia Family Child Care Consortium wants to help. PFCCC is a pipeline of supports that takes providers from initial licensing through accreditation through research and collaboration with community partners. Resources include:

- Access to coaches and mentors
- Road map to achieving and sustaining quality within programs
- Access to professional development tailored to the needs and interests of providers
- Technical assistance

See the [attached flyer](#) for additional details or register at <https://1199ctraining.org/pfccc>.

Register for the Pennsylvania Foundations of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®)

This 2-hour virtual session was developed by the Pennsylvania Key Program Quality Assessment CLASS® Team and includes content used with permission from Teachstone. Participants that attend this session will learn how CLASS® measures quality and how CLASS® is currently being used to support continuous quality improvement work in Pennsylvania. It will be a pre-requisite for age specific sessions, which are also being developed. Sessions have been added to [the PD Registry](#) and will be facilitated by a Pennsylvania Key Program Quality Assessor that is a certified CLASS® observer.

[Learn more about CLASS® on the Pennsylvania Key website.](#)

State of STEM – Weigh In!

Hello!

We are writing to ask you to participate in the “State of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and Inclusion in Early Education” Survey. This study is important because we are collecting data from current early intervention and early childhood practitioners and agency leaders to the STEM Innovations for Inclusion in Early Education Center (STEMIE), a national center funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Your experiences, beliefs, and practices can help us design the most useful and innovative professional development resources and ways to ensure that each and every child is included in high quality STEM experiences. If you are interested, please click the link below and choose the survey appropriate for you:

<https://stemie.fpq.unc.edu/calling-all-early-childhood-practitioners-and-directors-we-want-hear-you>

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.

The STEMIE Team

2020 Out-of-School Time Professionals Survey

Deadline: Monday, **March 1, 2021**

At PSAYDN, we want to better understand the afterschool workforce to support professional growth, improve representation in advocacy efforts, and help to advance equity within the field. With only five minutes of your time, you will help uncover trends and identify opportunities and gaps in the out-of-school time field that will inform new strategies.

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to OST programs in 2020 and to this day. In order to provide consistency in results for an OST landscape overview, we ask that you consider reflecting and responding to the questions in a pre-COVID-19 program setting. You will be able to provide feedback about OST during the pandemic at the end of the survey.

This survey should be completed by anyone who works with or on behalf of youth in out-of-school time. Contact [PSAYDN](#) for additional questions regarding the survey.

Research for Action Wants to Hear from You, Too!

Research for Action, a non-profit education research organization, has been contracted by the Council for Professional Recognition to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a national, competency-based certification for lead early childhood teachers (serving children from *birth through eight years old*).

The survey is for *lead teachers, program administrators, parents/guardians, policymakers, and deans/ECE program directors at institutions of higher education*. We will randomly award \$25 gift cards to 60 people who choose to enter their email address into the survey.

The link to English is here: <https://www.researchforaction.org/edsurvey/> and Spanish is here: <https://www.researchforaction.org/encuesta/>

The links connect people to information about the study; risks, benefits, and confidentiality; and the stakeholder groups that are eligible to complete the survey.

Ellen Hall and Billie Young Fellowships

From ExchangeEveryDay

Dear Exchange Community,

Sometimes people find new ways to spread love. The families and friends of Ellen Hall and Billie Young have worked with the World Forum Foundation to find a truly loving way to honor two remarkable early childhood professionals who left us all too soon.

The Ellen Hall Fellowship will support early childhood practitioners working on behalf of children's rights, and the Billie Young Fellowship will be awarded to people working to connect children with nature. Both Fellowships will make it possible for recipients (who would otherwise have been unable) to attend World Forum Foundation events that connect them to the inspiration of a worldwide ECD

community. [Learn more](#) about both of these extraordinary women and how to donate in their honor.

And, speaking of the World Forum Foundation, the next hundred people who register for the [2021 World Forum Virtual World Tour](#) of early childhood education in ten countries will now receive a free t-shirt commemorating the event. Remember to check on group rates and low student rates.

Thinking of both Ellen and Billie reminds me how many truly selfless, dedicated people choose to spend their lives on behalf of children, families and educators. Exchange is proud to support each of you in your dedicated work.

With admiration,
Nancy Rosenow, on behalf of our Exchange team

Shante' A. Brown Announced as Director of Bureau of Certification!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning has announced Shante' A. Brown as the new Director of the Bureau of Certification. Ms. Brown is a dedicated early childhood education leader with over a decade of experience in leading child care programs. She believes in connecting people to resources and building strong community relationships. Prior to this role, she served as the director of the PHLpreK program, Philadelphia's locally funded pre-K initiative. A 2019, Drexel University School of Lebow "Leading for Change" fellow, Ms. Brown holds a B.S.Ed in Early Childhood - Elementary Education, M.S. in Reading Education and an EdS in Teacher Leadership. She is a genuine advocate for the field, and committed to positive outcomes for children, families and providers in the state of Pennsylvania.

Last, but not least, if you missed to PHMC / CHOP PolicyLab **January 20th** Community of Learning on **Maintaining Health and Safety Practices**, here are [the slides](#) with hyperlinked resources, as well as some additional resources that were presented!

- Vaccination Pre-registration Websites
 - Philly Fighting Covid: <https://phillyfightingcovid.com/vaccine>
 - Black Doctors Consortium: <https://blackdoctorsconsortium.com/>
- Vaccine Information
 - [PA Department of Health Vaccine Dashboard](#)
 - [Philadelphia Department of Health Covid-19 Vaccine distribution plan](#)
- Community of Learning Recordings
 - COL - [Maintaining Health & Safety Practices](#)
 - COL - [Caring for Children with Asthma](#)
 - COL - [Exclusion Guidelines in Childcare](#)
 - COL - [Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting](#)
 - COL - [Policies and Procedures](#)

If you have any questions or need additional Health & Safety support, please reach out to eceprovidersupport@phmc.org.

That's all for now, but I am SURE you will be hearing from me very soon with updates about rate increases and undoubtedly MUCH MORE!

Stay warm,
Diane

Diane Getzinger

Assistant Director of Provider/STARS
ELRC Region 18, Philadelphia County
2361-2373 Welsh Road
Philadelphia, PA 19114
Phone: 267-504-4179
Fax: 215-940-0226



Diane Getzinger

From: Diane Getzinger
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 2:09 AM
To: Diane Getzinger
Subject: ELRC18 E-bulletin: Updates on vaccine roll-out, rate increase and MUCH more!

Hi everyone,

HAPPY WEEKEND! There's so much going on...but you already know that. I have lots of very important information to share with you, so get comfy and let's get to it!

COVID-19 Vaccine for Childcare in Philadelphia

Please be aware that the [City of Philadelphia has entered into a partnership with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#) to administer the COVID-19 vaccine for childcare employees, as identified in the [City's Schedule of Priority Populations \(1b, Childcare, Education providers\)](#). The registration of childcare employees will begin next week, and childcare locations will be sent an email to begin uploading roster information on a rolling basis. We expect this process of registering childcare employees who elect to register for the vaccine with the CHOP partnership to be ongoing throughout the remainder of February. As we get closer to the end of February, we will send out a registration form in case any sites did not receive a link for employee registration information. In the meantime, please be patient while the process of signing up takes place.

We understand that there is a lot of information to try and work through this process. For that reason, we are scheduling a townhall conversation about the vaccine and its distribution. Please continue to monitor this newsletter for that discussion day/time/location that will occur sometime in the next two weeks.

Parents' Town Hall Recording

If you have families who were unable to attend Thursday evening's "Going Back to Child Care: Parent Town Hall on COVID Safety," please share the following link to the You Tube video of the event:
<https://youtu.be/nABHBCws0Es>.

CCW Rate Increase

As announced in the last e-bulletin, Governor Wolf has announced [an increase in the base rates for subsidy reimbursement](#) effective March 1, 2021. Although we are still waiting for details about implementation, the new rates have been published on the DHS website: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/Child-Care-Early-Learning.aspx>

Here are the new Maximum Child Care Allowances (MCCAs) for Philadelphia County (effective 3/1/2021):

		Full-Time Care					
Region	Provider Type	INFANT	YOUNG TODDLER	OLD TODDLER	PRE-SCHOOL	SCHOOL-AGE	INFA
18	CENTER	\$45.00	\$43.00	\$39.00	\$36.00	\$30.00	\$
	GROUP	\$40.00	\$36.00	\$35.00	\$31.40	\$28.00	\$
	FDCH	\$36.00	\$35.00	\$33.00	\$30.00	\$28.00	\$

Please note: The Keystone STAR Add-on Rates are NOT changing at this time. They remain as follows for all licensed providers (center, GCCH, FCCH):

Care Level	STAR 2		STAR 3		STAR 4	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Infant	2.00	1.20	8.70	4.15	13.20	5.25
Young and Older Toddler	1.85	1.10	8.45	3.95	12.95	5.00
Preschool and School-Age	0.95	0.45	5.90	2.50	9.20	3.20

Once we have details about implementation, we will share them in this e-bulletin.

Pandemic Relief Award

February 12, 2021 (YESTERDAY) was the deadline for submitting applications for the Pandemic Relief Award (\$600 for eligible staff in your employ as of 1/1/2021). We received over 1,200 applications and have processed a little more than a third of those. When your application is processed, you will receive either an award or denial letter via e-mail (likely within the next week). Grants will be paid on March 31, 2021. Providers will be required to pay out the grant to employees no later than May 31, 2021. If you have questions, please e-mail dgetzinger@caringpeoplealliance.org.

FY22 PHLpreK Procurement, Application, and Timeline Information

PHMC is pleased to provide the following important information regarding the application process for PHLpreK in Fiscal Year 2022.

The City of Philadelphia Office of Children and Families intends to fund 3,300 quality pre-k seats in FY22. Two applications will be available:

1. Renewal Application for provider locations contracted with PHLpreK for FY21, and
2. Request for Qualifications for Pre-Qualified Providers. New provider locations. Providers determined to be “pre-qualified” will be on a waitlist to be considered for slot awards for the FY22 program year and will be awarded a contract **only if** reallocation of current FY21 slot allocations is needed.

[Click here](#) to see the FY22 PHLpreK Procurement Timeline for PHLpreK Application for Funding. Any updates will be posted to the PHLpreK website at <http://www.phlprek.org/provider-application/>. Questions about the FY21 PHLpreK application should be directed to phlprek@phmc.org.

Mandatory Pre-Application Conference Sessions:

Interested applicants **must** participate in one mandatory pre-application information session. The schedule of sessions and registration links are below.

Renewal Application Conference Sessions

- **February 24, 2021**
 - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm [Register Here](#)
 - 4:00 pm-6:00 pm [Register Here](#)

- **February 25, 2021**
 - 10:00 am-12:00 pm [Register Here](#)

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Pre-Qualified Application Sessions

- **February 25, 2021**
 - 4:00 – 6:00pm [Register Here](#)
- **February 26, 2021**
 - 10:00 am-12:00 pm [Register Here](#)
 - 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm [Register Here](#)

Terri Lynne Lokoff Teacher Award Applications Open Until Feb 15th

The applications for the [2021 Terri Lynne Lokoff Teacher Awards](#) are still being accepted! The awards acknowledge the critical role childcare teachers play in providing quality early care and education. Childcare teachers from all 50 states, Washington D. C., US Military bases and installations around the world are invited to apply. There are two ways to apply, a [PDF application](#) to complete and mail in - as well as a [fully electronic version](#). The application deadline has been extended to **February 15, 2021**. For more information contact [Sharon Bell](#).

Tax Webinar for Family Child Care Providers - English and Spanish – February 16th

All Our Kin's Business Team is hosting a webinar for family child care providers: How to Get the Tax Benefits You Deserve. The webinar will cover topics such as how to receive the maximum Earned Income and Child Tax Credit, treat grant, loan or unemployment proceeds, COVID related tax credits, such as how to claim Self-employed Emergency Sick Pay and Family Leave credits, and more. The session will be simultaneously translated into Spanish. A recording will be sent to those who register, so providers who can't join in real time should sign up. More information about the webinar and how to register can be found [here](#).

PHMC & CHOP PolicyLab Present: A Community of Learning

Join us on **February 17, 2021 from 10:00-11:30am** as health experts from The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to discuss COVID-19 updates including new variants, double masking, and vaccination updates. The session will also include updated resources to support health and safety practices and success stories from ECE providers. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Catch up on previous Community of Learning sessions by visiting our [website](#).

If you are in need of health and safety support for your program, please reach out to us at eceprovidersupport@phmc.org.

February Children's Work Group Early Childhood Conference

BELL hosted a **Lunch and Learn Conversation** on the topic of Domestic Violence last month. During the webinar **Women Against Abuse** and **BELL staff** engaged early childhood and housing staff in small group conversations around four questions. What emerged were authentic responses participants either struggle with or have concerns about regarding those who face domestic abuse/intimate partner violence. BELL will continue the conversation. **Join us on February 19th** as panelists from the field of domestic violence share their challenges, realities, and strategies when helping survivors create safety. Two Youth Prevention programs will also share their models and experiences in creating safety during the pandemic.

When: **Friday, February 19**

Time: 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

How: [Register today for your Zoom link!](#)

First Up Annual Conference – March 5-6 – Register TODAY!

First Up warmly invites you to join us as we gather (virtually) for our annual conference ***Hope and Healing: From Self-Care to Best Practice in a Trauma-Impacted World*** on **March 5-6, 2021**. Both days are curated to provide a break, a safe space and a chance for us to come together and fill our cups with what we need. Whether you need a strategy for managing challenging behaviors, instruction in a professional skill, or a chance to move your bodies and focus your minds – these topics and many more will be covered. The conference will also feature breakout activities that can be experienced with the whole family. [Click here to register.](#)

Additional Information:

Keynote speakers are Dr. Amy Lynch and Thaddeus Bullard. Dr Lynch is an associate professor in the occupational therapy program at Temple University. She completed her MS in occupational therapy at Tufts University and her PhD at University of Delaware with a focus on infant development. Her expertise is with children who have experienced neglect, abuse, and institutionalization; children with autism, sensory integration problems, feeding/oral motor dysphagia, brain injury, and cerebral palsy. [Click here for more information.](#)

Thaddeus Bullard, more commonly known as WWE Superstar Titus O’Neil - is an accomplished athlete, philanthropist and entertainer. Bullard went from being a troubled, underperforming young man to being a mentor, role model and honorary Deputy for the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office. Bullard has supported various organizations, locally and globally, by giving of his time, talent and treasure. Although Bullard lacked a strong male role model as a child, his commitment to family and his two sons is nothing short of remarkable. For the past ten years his “Joy of Giving” event has given over 15,000 gifts annually to underprivileged children. [Click here for more.](#)

Free Trainings Sponsored by Elwyn for ECE Providers

The following opportunities are sponsored by Elwyn and The Education Institute for Early Childhood (EIEI). Please share with your staff, providers, and networks as **registration is limited**.

- Data Collection for EI Paraprofessionals and ECE Providers
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=1193&cld=128&pCld>
- Introduction to Special Education Regulations for EI Paraprofessionals and ECE Providers
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=1194&cld=128&pCld>
- Introduction to PBIS/Tiered Models of Support for EI Paraprofessionals and ECE Providers
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=1195&cld=128&pCld>
- Building Partnerships amongst Early Childhood Programs, Early Intervention & Families
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=1196&cld=128&pCld>
- Understanding Pennsylvania’s Suspension & Expulsion Policy
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=1197&cld=128&pCld>

Webinars to Celebrate Black History Month | Center for Schools and Communities

In recognition and celebration of February as Black History month, Center for Schools and Communities is pleased to offer three free professional learning opportunities designed to advance knowledge and promote discussion on issues relevant to the African American experience and education. We remain committed to lead and support programs and initiatives to address systemic discrimination and social injustice. We hope you will join us.

Critical Examination of Race Narratives in Children's Literature

Despite good intentions, not all literature that is marketed as multicultural is high-quality and asset-oriented. Learn about a critical analysis tool for examining multicultural literature and practice conducting critical examinations of various children's books.

Tuesday, Feb. 16 | 6–7:15 p.m. EST | FREE

The Intersection of Equity and Education

Shileste Overton Morris, Ed.D., director of the Center for Schools and Communities will interview equity advocates Nikole Y. Hollins-Sims, Ed.D. and Amber M. Sessoms, Ed.D. to explore the intersections between equity and education.

Friday, Feb. 26 | 1–2 p.m. EST | FREE

[More Information and Registration](#)

PD from PennAEYC (and Partners)!

PennAEYC and our partners around the state have a variety of professional development opportunities available for you throughout the year. From conferences to CDAs to monthly sessions to apprenticeships, we have what you are looking for. Currently we are developing a number of virtual sessions that includes film showings, advocacy work (from basics to specifics) and much more. In addition to newsletter announcements, check [our website](#) for a current list of options. In the meantime, check out these upcoming sessions and click on the blue links to register.

February

- **February 17** the Learning Lamp and PennAEYC present [Leave It At the Door: Managing Personal Stress in the Classroom](#)
- **February 18** PennAEYC presents [Advocacy Basics](#)

March

- **March 4** PennAEYC presents [Advocacy Basics](#)
- **March 5-6** First Up: Champions for Early Education's annual conference [Hope and Healing: From Self-Care to Best Practice in a Trauma-Impacted World](#)
- **March 9** First Up: Champions for Early Education presents [Engaging Families in Advocacy](#)
- **March 17** The Learning Lamp and PennAEYC present [Observing Young Children](#)
- **March 18** PennAEYC presents [Raising Your Voice in Support of Children: Share Your Story](#)

April

- **April 1** PennAEYC presents [Raising Your Voice in Support of Children: Share Your Story](#)
- **April 12-16** [Annual Head Start Conference](#) Stay tuned for registration information.
- **April 15** [Meet the Advocates: Home-Based Provider Advocacy Panel](#) (presented by PennAEYC, First Up: Champions for Early Education and Trying Together)
- **April 21** The Learning Lamp and PennAEYC present [Communication and language development including dual language learners – ages birth to 5 years](#)

- **April 29** First Up: Champions for Early Education presents [Calculating Your Cost of Care During COVID-19](#)

If you are in need of a professional development session and do not see on this list or PennAEYC's [website](#), contact [Rose Snyder](#) to discuss options.

From PHMC PDO

- **Community College of Philadelphia**
CCP is offering two TUITION FREE Child Development Associate courses and two TUITION FREE Credit-bearing courses: ED 105- Foundations of Early Childhood Education; and ED 204- Engaging Young Children. All courses are fully online and each has a weekly synchronous Zoom meeting. Classes start in Mid-February and registration is now open.
For Credit course information and registration materials please contact cda@ccp.edu.
[CLICK HERE](#) for CDA registration.
- **La Salle University**
Make an Impact! Please join us for a virtual information session to learn more about our **new** Early Elementary Pre-K- 4 part-time, evening BA degree completion program. If you have an AA in Early Childhood/PreK-4, you can complete your BA degree with certification (PreK-4). Our new program is a cohort model designed with the early childhood working professional in mind. Please register for one of our upcoming interest sessions. We are currently accepting applications. Become an Explorer!

Virtual Information Session Dates

Feb 16th at 12:30PM: [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Feb 18th at 6:00PM: [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Specifically for School-Age Care Providers

- Looking for an interesting way to approach curriculum during the summer? Check out this FREE session: [Learning We Need: The Case for Rigorous Project-Based Learning](#) - **Monday, Feb. 22, 2021, from 7 to 8 p.m. EST**
- The link to the video recording of the session around Planning for Summer (Summer Learning and Funding Opportunities) is here: <https://youtu.be/MhqONs1cbuc>
- [2021 Out-of-School Time Professionals Survey](#)
Deadline: Monday, March 1, 2021
At PSAYDN, we want to better understand the afterschool workforce to support professional growth, improve representation in advocacy efforts, and help to advance equity within the field. With only five minutes of your time, you will help uncover trends and identify opportunities and gaps in the OST field that will inform new strategies. This survey should be completed by anyone who works with or on behalf of youth in OST. Contact [PSAYDN](#) for additional questions regarding the survey.
- [NAA Professional Learning Communities - Spring 2021 Registration](#)
6-8 Weeks Starting Mid-March | Virtual
During this unique time in history, afterschool professionals and leaders must meet the moment by finding new ways to connect, learn and grow. NAA Professional Learning Communities are designed to inspire meaningful connections where participants join expert facilitators for collaborative guided learning experiences focused on the most important topics in afterschool.

From STEMfinity

- Crazy Circuits Webinar – **Monday, February 15 at 4p**
Join STEMfinity and Joshua Zimmerman from Brown Dog Gadgets as he presents their new Crazy Circuits Bit Board equipped with a micro bit processor. Use this activity to teach basic engineering, motors, and circuitry principles. Join on [Facebook Live](#) or [YouTube Live](#)
- Win a "Fall in Love with STEM" Bundle! **\$229.96 value!** [ENTER TO WIN](#)
 - [GEOMAG Panels Pink 66pc](#)
 - [XDrone Spy](#)
 - [Makers Studio: Winches Set](#)
 - [Math Learning Games, Grade 2](#)
 - [Advanced Ping-Pong Ball Launcher Activity - 10 Pac](#)
- **Earn An Extra Entry In The STEM Giveaway!**
Complete a short survey and make your voice heard.
As much as you want to learn new and fun ways to integrate STEM, we want to learn about you. Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey so we can enhance your webinar experience going forward. By completing the survey, you will receive an additional entry into our monthly giveaway.
[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Dual Language Learner Celebration Week

A Virtual Celebration to Honor Language and Strengthen Practice

Feb. 22–26, 2021

This annual week-long celebration is all about building cooperation, emphasizing growth, and fostering belonging for children who are dual language learners (DLLs) and their families. This year, we're reviewing [culture and language](#) resources on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) to find new ideas and inspiration.

Join us **Feb. 22–26, 2021**, across Office of Head Start (OHS) virtual platforms to celebrate children who are DLLs and their families. Each day at 3 p.m. ET, we'll go live on the [Head Start Facebook page](#). Chat with experts and colleagues to find new strategies you can use right away. Discover hidden gems from our favorite resources about working with children who are DLLs and their families. We will also be celebrating in [MyPeers](#)! Check your community to continue the conversation.

Topics for DLL Celebration Week

- **Monday, Feb. 22: Honoring Home** – Build on children's and families' strengths in their homes and communities.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 23: Innovation** – Share strategies from science and technology that help you connect, teach, and learn in many languages.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 24: Indigenous Ingenuity** – Shine a light on Indigenous knowledge, heritage, language, and culture. Share stories about the creative ways you strengthen practices in Indigenous programs.
- **Thursday, Feb. 25: Activating Virtual Interactions** – Celebrate high-quality language and learning interactions for all children.
- **Friday, Feb. 26: Building Belonging in a Virtual World** – Create and try new ways to nurture equity and belonging for children, families, and the Head Start

How to Participate

Join us on [Facebook LIVE](#) each day at 3 p.m. ET. Listen as OHS and National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning (NCECDTL) staff talk with special guests on a variety of topics. Tell us how you are celebrating children who are DLLs and their families and look for the resources we share in the chat.

Keep the conversation going on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) by tagging your posts with **#brilliantduallanguagelearners**.

If you haven't already, sign up for [MyPeers](#). It's a virtual learning network where you can brainstorm, exchange ideas, and share resources with early childhood colleagues from across the country. Join us in the [Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Practices](#), [Home Visiting](#), [AIAN Language and Culture](#), and other communities for DLL resources and more.

Looking for More?

Check out our courses on the [Individualized Professional Development \(iPD\) Portfolio](#). Last year's DLL Celebration Week course, "Celebrating DLLs: Spring into Practice," is still available and offers continuing education units.

Target Audience

- Head Start and Early Head Start program staff, home visitors, directors, and managers
- Child care and administrators

Share This Opportunity

Please share this message with colleagues who may be interested in this topic.

Did someone forward you this invitation? Stay up to date by subscribing:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/subscribe>

Questions

Contact NCECDTL at ecdtl@ecetta.info or (toll-free) 844-261-3752.

Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Scholarships Available Now!

First Up is excited to announce that we have full-tuition preschool scholarship funding for families of young children experiencing financial hardships, especially due to COVID-19. STAR 3 and 4 providers, if you know of families who are unable to send their children to preschool due to a loss of jobs, income, or being on a subsidy waiting list, you may be eligible to receive EITC Pre-K scholarship funding to support those families. [Click to watch](#) this video. [Click here to apply](#) or email [Tyrone Scott](#) if you have additional questions.

Mental Health Grant

The Cigna Healthier Kids for Our Future mental health grant funds programs that address loneliness, anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention for children. [Click here to apply now](#).

A Running Start Health presents

Social Media Campaign Toolkit: Maternal Behavioral Health & Parenting Support

[A Running Start—Health](#) (ARS-H) is a citywide initiative—operated by the Health Department's Division of Maternal, Child, and Family Health—that focuses on improving the health of children from birth to 5 years of

age. We're launching a social media campaign toolkit to link Philly families and providers to available resources related to **maternal behavioral health** and **abuse prevention/parenting support**. We'll be sending social media posts on a regular basis highlighting community resources in Philadelphia and we're asking partners to share these posts on your organization's social media platforms. If you would like to receive these materials directly, you can sign up for the listserv [here](#).

- Week #1 - The Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence, WOAR, provides FREE virtual victim and trauma therapy services to children and adults who have experienced sexual violence. Call or text their 24-hour Hotline to access services at 215-985-3333 #PhillyLovesFamilies
- Week #2 - Congreso's Family Social Services program provides short-term case management to ensure that Philadelphia families receive the necessary services and support. Call 215-763-8870 (ext. 1417) for more information #PhillyLovesFamilies

Free Telelactation App

Pacify is a **FREE** mobile app that provides on-demand lactation and feeding support. Lactation consultants are available 24/7, via video, to offer breastfeeding support and answer feeding-related questions. There are no appointments required and users can call as often as they need to. Please share the attached [enrollment flyer](#) with your families and staff. And check out the [Pacify website](#) for more information.

Celebrating Early Educators: Say Thank You!

PennAEYC is proud to join NAEYC in giving a special **"Thank You!"** to early childhood educators for the hard work they've done during the COVID-19 crisis. Being adaptable, resilient, and welcoming is at the core of who you are as an educator. Over the past year, you've gone above and beyond to make sure the young children in your care continue to safely receive the attention and direction they need to excel no matter where they are. We know how important community is to each of you, so we invite you to share the thanks with a peer or coworker who has made a difference, no matter how big or small, to help in this unprecedented time. From staying late for extra cleaning to sharing virtual meeting tips, mirroring proper mask use for students to making time for professional development, it has all had a positive impact on the young children, families, and the communities they serve. Visit the [Celebrating Educators](#) webpage to let them know how appreciative you are of the extra effort they've given. Be sure to share this message with your friends, family and the community! Start [HERE](#) to say thank you to an Educator!

NAEYC Accreditation Updates

- [Provisional Accreditation is here!](#)
[Provisional Accreditation](#) is a new way that programs can engage in the accreditation process during this time if an onsite observation visit is not possible. It is an opportunity for you to share your program's portfolios with NAEYC assessors digitally for review.
- [Accreditation Visit Options](#)
NAEYC staff will begin contacting programs beginning in February that are currently due, or overdue, for a site visit. Staff will walk you through [your options](#) and help you make a decision on which option you wish to choose.
- [Provisional Accreditation Resources](#)
To learn more about how to digitize your portfolio, review [these resources](#) on Provisional Accreditation. Programs can choose to use the free resources provided at their own discretion.

Are You the Next Exchange Leader?

Dear Exchange Community,

Is it time for you or someone you know to be recognized as an Exchange Leader? Each year we search for the most powerful leaders in the field of early care and education to join the Exchange Leadership Initiative. The opportunity to become part of this group of inspiring individuals is profound. [Apply for yourself or nominate someone else.](#) Standing forward in your own leadership or encouraging someone else to do the same is an act of empowerment. I invite you to seriously consider taking this life-enhancing step.

With gratitude for acts of courageous leadership I witness in our community every day,
Nancy Rosenow, Exchange Publisher, on behalf of our entire team

Get Certified

Are you a Woman-owned childcare center?

Are you a Minority-owned childcare center?

It is time to get certified. Being certified can qualify you for additional funding, grants, additional resources, higher standing in competitive applications and so much more.

Please email Ellen for Special Childcare Rates: Ellen Russell: evrpp@yahoo.com

Sprayer Safety Recall

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports a recall for the [Victory Innovations and Protexus Electrostatic Sprayers](#), as the sprayer's rechargeable lithium-ion battery pack can overheat and melt, posing a risk of the product catching fire and/or exploding. Early childhood educators should check if these sprayers were purchased for use in disinfectant procedures.

Job Openings

- **ECE Learning Specialist/Early Headstart/Quality Improvement Coach**

First Up is hiring! We are looking for someone well versed in the ECE field, has knowledge of State-wide early childhood systems and has practical early childhood experience. This person will coach, train and there may also be opportunities for some project management. [Click here for the full job announcement.](#)

From Certification: Monitoring Coordination Across Dually Licensed Programs and Programs with PA Pre-K Counts and Head State Supplemental Assistance Programs

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) has released the [Announcement DS 21-01 Monitoring Coordination Across Dually Licensed Programs and Programs with PA Pre-K Counts and Head State Supplemental Assistance Programs](#). The Announcement clarifies the distinction of and interaction between Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) licensed programs, PDE funded programs, and Department of Human Services (DHS) licensed child care as it relates to program monitoring and or complaint investigation. The Announcement provides information on DHS licensed (certified) programs, PDE private licensed school (also referred to as Private Academic School (PAS), PDE-funded programs, DHS Certificate of Compliance (COC) and PDE PAS licenses, as well as next steps. For details, please read the [Announcement DS 21-01 Monitoring Coordination Across Dually Licensed Programs and Programs with PA Pre-K Counts and Head State Supplemental Assistance Programs](#).

That's all, except to share a few important reminders:

- **To report positive COVID exposure in child care**, use the centralized reporting form: <https://form.jotform.com/203145664181149>. If you have questions, please contact the Philadelphia Department of Public Health either by e-mail at COVID.schools@phila.gov or by phone at (215) 685-5488. Do not enter COVID-related closures as closed days on your PELICAN Provider Profile. Instead, you must mark the children absent and enter a comment "COVID-related closure."
- **For questions about your Year 2020 Form 1099 or your attendance invoice**, e-mail ELRC18's finance team at ELRC18invs@caringpeoplealliance.org.
- **To submit documents to our eligibility department on behalf of parents**, e-mail eligibility@caringpeoplealliance.org.
- **To report snow closures:**
 - **If you use PELICAN Provider Self Service** – enter the closures in PSS. Navigate to Provider Profile > Manage Closed Days. You have until the 5th of the following month to update your closures.
 - **If you do not use PELICAN Provider Self Service** – You must notify ELRC within three business days of reopening after an emergency closure in order for the closures to be entered as paid closures. E-mail ELRC18providers@caringpeoplealliance.org (and be sure to include your PELICAN provider number).

Thanks for all that you're doing to take care of Philadelphia's children and families. If you have questions or need to connect with resources, please contact me at dgetzinger@caringpeoplealliance.org.

Have a great weekend,
Diane

Diane Getzinger
Assistant Director of Provider/STARS
ELRC Region 18, Philadelphia County
2361-2373 Welsh Road
Philadelphia, PA 19114
Phone: 267-504-4179
Fax: 215-940-0226



Diane Getzinger

From: Diane Getzinger
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 9:01 PM
To: Diane Getzinger
Subject: ELRC 18 E-bulletin: COVID-19 Vaccine Discussion - THIS THURSDAY!

Hi everyone,

Please share the following with your staff and colleagues – especially those who may be hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccine!

Discussing the COVID-19 Vaccine for Childcare

As released last week, the [City of Philadelphia announced that CHOP](#) will assist the Department of Public Health with a new vaccination program for teachers and staff in schools, pre-K providers, and licensed child care centers. The CHOP vaccination program is scheduled to begin later this month. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health is also exploring additional partnerships to increase the available appointment locations and times.

In the meantime, there have been a lot of questions related to the vaccine itself, and to help provide additional insight, a Discussion about the COVID-19 Vaccine for Childcare will be held on Thursday, February 18th from 5-7 pm via WebEx at the link [HERE](#). Details and registration information is below. Please note that this event will be recorded and shared with all licensed centers. Prior to the Discussion, please complete a short (11 question) survey about your thoughts about the vaccine, here: [Childcare COVID-19 Vaccine Survey](#)

- Title: ***A Discussion About the COVID-19 Vaccine for Childcare***
- Date: Thursday, February 18th from 5-7 p.m.
- Where: WebEx ([link](#))
 - Will be recorded and shared throughout Philadelphia childcare sector
 - Join by phone: 408-418-9388; Access code: 179 781 8851
- Panelists:
 - Priscilla M. Mpasi, MD, Attending Physician, Division of Community Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
 - Gail V. Carter-Hamilton, MSN, RN, CSN, Pediatric Resource Manager, COVID Containment Division, PDPH
 - Zakiyyah Boone, CEO of Wonderspring Early Education
 - Tanya Dhingra, MPH, Pediatric Partnerships Coordinator, Division of COVID Containment, PDPH
 - Julianne Burns, MD, MSCE, Medical Specialist, Immunizations, Division of Disease Control, PDPH
 - Nicole Spector, MSN, CRNP, Nurse Practitioner, Immunizations Program, Division of Disease Control, PDPH
- Questions, Comments, Concerns: [complete the survey!](#)

Thanks, very much, and I hope to see you all there!

Be well,
Diane

Diane Getzinger
Assistant Director of Provider/STARS
ELRC Region 18, Philadelphia County
2361-2373 Welsh Road
Philadelphia, PA 19114

Phone: 267-504-4179

Fax: 215-940-0226



February 2021

From: Diane Getzinger

Subject: ELRC18 E-bulletin: Updates on vaccine roll-out, rate increase and MUCH more!

Hi everyone,

It's time!

Unlike most other areas, Philadelphia is currently vaccinating individuals in priority category 1b. This includes child care staff!!!

All DHS licensed child care facilities located in Philadelphia have been sent an e-mail with instructions on how to input employee information for staff who are interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Please check both your inbox and spam folders for an e-mail from covid.schools@phila.gov.

- If you received the e-mail – Great! Be sure to respond as quickly as possible. (You can add stragglers later if you are not sure whether they're interested.)
- If you did not receive the e-mail – Please fill out a brief Childcare Workforce Vaccine Planning Form (<https://form.jotform.com/210547083666055>) from the City of Philadelphia. Your information will be forwarded to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health's COVID Schools Team. You will be sent an e-mail linking to a template to enter the contact information for your staff who are interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Allow at least 24 hours to receive the follow-up e-mail and remember to check your spam or junk mail folder!

This is time-sensitive. The City has a short-term partnership to provide individual vaccine appointments specifically for childcare employees in the month of March. If you have any additional questions, e-mail covid.schools@phila.gov. Please be patient, though! Sending multiple e-mails will result in unnecessary delays. (Trust me...I've experienced it! As a group, you all are truly wonderful, just not wonderfully patient! 😊)

Town Hall

On Thursday evening, February 18th a panel of medical professionals and ECE staff held a discussion with child care professionals about the COVID-19 vaccine. It was attended by nearly 200 people and was very well received. You can watch a recording of the event on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/l9-M2Fj3shE>.

Another discussion is being planned for Saturday morning, March 13th. Save the date...details to follow...

And a few related (and timely) reminders...

Reporting COVID Exposure

Remember that you are required to report all COVID-19 positive cases for children, teachers, and/or staff to both OCDEL Certification and to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. Please remember to use the centralized form that is shared between the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), OCDEL's Bureau of Certification, ELRC 18, the School District of Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Children and Families. The link to that form is: <https://form.jotform.com/203145664181149>.

Subsidy Invoicing for COVID-related Closures/Absences

February invoicing for ELRC 18 is due this Friday, March 5th. If you experienced any COVID-related absences or closures, please remember that current OCDEL policy allows us to pay you for 14 consecutive business days (as long as you have reported the closure – see the paragraph above). In order to make sure that you're paid correctly and that these days do NOT count toward children's annual absences, please remember to mark your invoice accordingly:

- Paper: Write CA for "COVID absence"
- Online: Mark the absence with an A, but indicate in the child comment that the "absence was COVID-related" (click on the case number hyperlink to open the child detail screen to find the comments field)

Remember, too:

- Anything beyond 14 consecutive business days will result in the suspension/re-enrollment of children.
- DO NOT charge parents co-payments during a full week of COVID-related absence.

Vaccine Rollout for Childcare Providers - PHILADELPHIA ONLY

All DHS licensed child care facilities located in Philadelphia have now been sent an e-mail with instructions on how to input employee information for staff who are interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Please check both your inbox and spam folders for an e-mail from covid.schools@phila.gov. These e-mails were sent to the sites' e-mails used for licensing. If you represent a licensed child care program (center, GCCH or FCCH) that did not receive this e-mail, please complete [this form](https://form.jotform.com/210547083666055) (<https://form.jotform.com/210547083666055>) to receive a link that is unique to your program to begin entering employee information.

You should only complete this form if you are the authorized representative of your child care program who will be responsible for providing contact information for employees at your facility who wish to have the opportunity to register for the COVID-19 vaccine.

After completing and submitting the survey, your information will be forwarded to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health's COVID Schools Team. You will be sent an e-mail linking to a template to enter the contact information for your staff who are interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Please allow up to 24 hours to receive the follow-up e-mail and remember to check your spam or junk mail folder. If you have any additional questions, please e-mail covid.schools@phila.gov.

COVID-19 Vaccine for Childcare in Philadelphia

Please be aware that the [City of Philadelphia has entered into a partnership with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#) to administer the COVID-19 vaccine for childcare employees, as identified in the [City's Schedule of Priority Populations \(1b, Childcare, Education providers\)](#). The registration of childcare employees will begin next week, and childcare locations will be sent an email to begin uploading roster information on a rolling basis. We expect this process of registering childcare employees who elect to register for the vaccine with the CHOP partnership to be ongoing throughout the remainder of February. As we get closer to the end of February, we will send out a registration form in case any sites did not receive a link for employee

registration information. In the meantime, please be patient while the process of signing up takes place.

We understand that there is a lot of information to try and work through this process. For that reason, we are scheduling a townhall conversation about the vaccine and its distribution. Please continue to monitor this newsletter for that discussion day/time/location that will occur sometime in the next two weeks.

Parents' Town Hall Recording

If you have families who were unable to attend Thursday evening's "Going Back to Child Care: Parent Town Hall on COVID Safety," please share the following link to the You Tube video of the event: <https://youtu.be/nABHBCws0Es>.

CCW Rate Increase

As announced in the last e-bulletin, Governor Wolf has announced [an increase in the base rates for subsidy reimbursement](#) effective March 1, 2021. Although we are still waiting for details about implementation, the new rates have been published on the DHS website: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/Child-Care-Early-Learning.aspx>

Here are the new Maximum Child Care Allowances (MCCAs) for Philadelphia County (effective 3/1/2021):

Region	Provider Type	Full-Time Care				
		INFANT	YOUNG TODDLER	OLD TODDLER	PRE-SCHOOL	SCHOOL-AGE
18	CENTER	\$45.00	\$43.00	\$39.00	\$36.00	\$30.00
	GROUP	\$40.00	\$36.00	\$35.00	\$31.40	\$28.00
	FDCH	\$36.00	\$35.00	\$33.00	\$30.00	\$28.00

Please note: The Keystone STAR Add-on Rates are NOT changing at this time. They remain as follows for all licensed providers (center, GCCH, FCCH):

Care Level	STAR 2		STAR 3		STAR 4	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Infant	2.00	1.20	8.70	4.15	13.20	5.25
Young and Older Toddler	1.85	1.10	8.45	3.95	12.95	5.00
Preschool and School-Age	0.95	0.45	5.90	2.50	9.20	3.20

Once we have details about implementation, we will share them in this e-bulletin.

Pandemic Relief Award

February 12, 2021 (YESTERDAY) was the deadline for submitting applications for the Pandemic Relief Award (\$600 for eligible staff in your employ as of 1/1/2021). We received over 1,200 applications and have processed a little more than a third of those. When your application is processed, you will receive either an award or denial letter via e-mail (likely within the next week). Grants will be paid on March 31, 2021. Providers will be required to pay out the grant to employees no later than May 31, 2021. If you have questions, please e-mail dgetzinger@caringpeoplealliance.org.

FY22 PHLpreK Procurement, Application, and Timeline Information

PHMC is pleased to provide the following important information regarding the application process for PHLpreK in Fiscal Year 2022.

The City of Philadelphia Office of Children and Families intends to fund 3,300 quality pre-k seats in FY22. Two applications will be available:

1. Renewal Application for provider locations contracted with PHLpreK for FY21, and
2. Request for Qualifications for Pre-Qualified Providers. New provider locations. Providers determined to be “pre-qualified” will be on a waitlist to be considered for slot awards for the FY22 program year and will be awarded a contract **only if** reallocation of current FY21 slot allocations is needed.

[Click here](#) to see the FY22 PHLpreK Procurement Timeline for PHLpreK Application for Funding. Any updates will be posted to the PHLpreK website at <http://www.phlprek.org/provider-application/>. Questions about the FY21 PHLpreK application should be directed to phlprek@phmc.org.

Mandatory Pre-Application Conference Sessions:

Interested applicants **must** participate in one mandatory pre-application information session. The schedule of sessions and registration links are below.

Renewal Application Conference Sessions

- **February 24, 2021**
 - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm [Register Here](#)
 - 4:00 pm-6:00 pm [Register Here](#)
- **February 25, 2021**
 - 10:00 am-12:00 pm [Register Here](#)

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Pre-Qualified Application Sessions

- **February 25, 2021**
 - 4:00 – 6:00pm [Register Here](#)
- **February 26, 2021**

- 10:00 am-12:00 pm [Register Here](#)
- 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm [Register Here](#)

First Up Annual Conference – March 5-6 – Register TODAY!

First Up warmly invites you to join us as we gather (virtually) for our annual conference ***Hope and Healing: From Self-Care to Best Practice in a Trauma-Impacted World*** on **March 5-6, 2021**.

Both days are curated to provide a break, a safe space and a chance for us to come together and fill our cups with what we need. Whether you need a strategy for managing challenging behaviors, instruction in a professional skill, or a chance to move your bodies and focus your minds – these topics and many more will be covered. The conference will also feature breakout activities that can be experienced with the whole family. [Click here to register.](#)

Additional Information:

Keynote speakers are Dr. Amy Lynch and Thaddeus Bullard. Dr Lynch is an associate professor in the occupational therapy program at Temple University. She completed her MS in occupational therapy at Tufts University and her PhD at University of Delaware with a focus on infant development. Her expertise is with children who have experienced neglect, abuse, and institutionalization; children with autism, sensory integration problems, feeding/oral motor dysphagia, brain injury, and cerebral palsy. [Click here for more information.](#)

Thaddeus Bullard, more commonly known as WWE Superstar Titus O’Neil - is an accomplished athlete, philanthropist and entertainer. Bullard went from being a troubled, underperforming young man to being a mentor, role model and honorary Deputy for the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office. Bullard has supported various organizations, locally and globally, by giving of his time, talent and treasure. Although Bullard lacked a strong male role model as a child, his commitment to family and his two sons is nothing short of remarkable. For the past ten years his “Joy of Giving” event has given over 15,000 gifts annually to underprivileged children. [Click here for more.](#)

Free Trainings Sponsored by Elwyn for ECE Providers

The following opportunities are sponsored by Elwyn and The Education Institute for Early Childhood (EIEI). Please share with your staff, providers, and networks as **registration is limited**.

- Data Collection for EI Paraprofessionals and ECE Providers
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=1193&cId=128&pCId=0>
- Introduction to Special Education Regulations for EI Paraprofessionals and ECE Providers
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=1194&cId=128&pCId=0>
- Introduction to PBIS/Tiered Models of Support for EI Paraprofessionals and ECE Providers

<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=1195&cId=128&pCId=0>

- Building Partnerships amongst Early Childhood Programs, Early Intervention & Families
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=1196&cId=128&pCId=0>
- Understanding Pennsylvania's Suspension & Expulsion Policy
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=1197&cId=128&pCId=0>

Webinars to Celebrate Black History Month | Center for Schools and Communities

In recognition and celebration of February as Black History month, Center for Schools and Communities is pleased to offer three free professional learning opportunities designed to advance knowledge and promote discussion on issues relevant to the African American experience and education. We remain committed to lead and support programs and initiatives to address systemic discrimination and social injustice. We hope you will join us.

The Intersection of Equity and Education

Shileste Overton Morris, Ed.D., director of the Center for Schools and Communities will interview equity advocates Nikole Y. Hollins-Sims, Ed.D. and Amber M. Sessoms, Ed.D. to explore the intersections between equity and education.

Friday, Feb. 26 | 1–2 p.m. EST | FREE

[More Information and Registration](#)

PD from PennAEYC (and Partners)!

PennAEYC and our partners around the state have a variety of professional development opportunities available for you throughout the year. From conferences to CDAs to monthly sessions to apprenticeships, we have what you are looking for. Currently we are developing a number of virtual sessions that includes film showings, advocacy work (from basics to specifics) and much more. In addition to newsletter announcements, check [our website](#) for a current list of options. In the meantime, check out these upcoming sessions and click on the blue links to register.

March

- **March 4** PennAEYC presents [Advocacy Basics](#)
- **March 5-6** First Up: Champions for Early Education's annual conference [Hope and Healing: From Self-Care to Best Practice in a Trauma-Impacted World](#)
- **March 9** First Up: Champions for Early Education presents [Engaging Families in Advocacy](#)
- **March 17** The Learning Lamp and PennAEYC present [Observing Young Children](#)
- **March 18** PennAEYC presents [Raising Your Voice in Support of Children: Share Your Story](#)

April

- **April 1** PennAEYC presents [Raising Your Voice in Support of Children: Share Your Story](#)
- **April 12-16** [Annual Head Start Conference](#) Stay tuned for registration information.
- **April 15** [Meet the Advocates: Home-Based Provider Advocacy Panel](#) (presented by PennAEYC, First Up: Champions for Early Education and Trying Together)
- **April 21** The Learning Lamp and PennAEYC present [Communication and language development including dual language learners – ages birth to 5 years](#)
- **April 29** First Up: Champions for Early Education presents [Calculating Your Cost of Care During COVID-19](#)

If you are in need of a professional development session and do not see on this list or PennAEYC's [website](#), contact [Rose Snyder](#) to discuss options.

From PHMC PDO

- **Community College of Philadelphia**
CCP is offering two TUITION FREE Child Development Associate courses and two TUITION FREE Credit-bearing courses: ED 105- Foundations of Early Childhood Education; and ED 204- Engaging Young Children. All courses are fully online and each has a weekly synchronous Zoom meeting. Classes start in Mid-February and registration is now open.
For Credit course information and registration materials please contact cda@ccp.edu. [CLICK HERE](#) for CDA registration.
- **La Salle University**
Make an Impact! Please join us for a virtual information session to learn more about our **new** Early Elementary Pre-K- 4 part-time, evening BA degree completion program. If you have an AA in Early Childhood/PreK-4, you can complete your BA degree with certification (PreK-4). Our new program is a cohort model designed with the early childhood working professional in mind. Please register for one of our upcoming interest sessions. We are currently accepting applications. Become an Explorer!

Specifically for School-Age Care Providers

- The link to the video recording of the session around Planning for Summer (Summer Learning and Funding Opportunities) is here: <https://youtu.be/MhqONs1cbuc>
- [2021 Out-of-School Time Professionals Survey](#)
Deadline: Monday, March 1, 2021
At PSAYDN, we want to better understand the afterschool workforce to support professional growth, improve representation in advocacy efforts, and help to advance equity within the field. With only five minutes of your time, you will help uncover trends and identify opportunities and gaps in the OST field that will inform new strategies. This

survey should be completed by anyone who works with or on behalf of youth in OST. Contact [PSAYDN](#) for additional questions regarding the survey.

- [NAA Professional Learning Communities - Spring 2021 Registration](#)

6-8 Weeks Starting Mid-March | Virtual

During this unique time in history, afterschool professionals and leaders must meet the moment by finding new ways to connect, learn and grow. NAA Professional Learning Communities are designed to inspire meaningful connections where participants join expert facilitators for collaborative guided learning experiences focused on the most important topics in afterschool.

From STEMfinity

- Win a "Fall in Love with STEM" Bundle! **\$229.96 value!** [ENTER TO WIN](#)

- [GEOMAG Panels Pink 66pc](#)
- [XDrone Spy](#)
- [Makers Studio: Winches Set](#)
- [Math Learning Games, Grade 2](#)
- [Advanced Ping-Pong Ball Launcher Activity - 10 Pac](#)

- **Earn An Extra Entry In The STEM Giveaway!**

Complete a short survey and make your voice heard.

As much as you want to learn new and fun ways to integrate STEM, we want to learn about you. Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey so we can enhance your webinar experience going forward. By completing the survey, you will receive an additional entry into our monthly giveaway.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Dual Language Learner Celebration Week

A Virtual Celebration to Honor Language and Strengthen Practice

Feb. 22–26, 2021

This annual week-long celebration is all about building cooperation, emphasizing growth, and fostering belonging for children who are dual language learners (DLLs) and their families. This year, we're reviewing [culture and language](#) resources on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) to find new ideas and inspiration.

Join us **Feb. 22–26, 2021**, across Office of Head Start (OHS) virtual platforms to celebrate children who are DLLs and their families. Each day at 3 p.m. ET, we'll go live on the [Head Start Facebook page](#). Chat with experts and colleagues to find new strategies you can use right away. Discover hidden gems from our favorite resources about working with children who are DLLs and their families. We will also be celebrating in [MyPeers](#)! Check your community to continue the conversation.

Topics for DLL Celebration Week

- **Monday, Feb. 22: Honoring Home** – Build on children’s and families’ strengths in their homes and communities.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 23: Innovation** – Share strategies from science and technology that help you connect, teach, and learn in many languages.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 24: Indigenous Ingenuity** – Shine a light on Indigenous knowledge, heritage, language, and culture. Share stories about the creative ways you strengthen practices in Indigenous programs.
- **Thursday, Feb. 25: Activating Virtual Interactions** – Celebrate high-quality language and learning interactions for all children.
- **Friday, Feb. 26: Building Belonging in a Virtual World** – Create and try new ways to nurture equity and belonging for children, families, and the Head Start

How to Participate

Join us on [Facebook LIVE](#) each day at 3 p.m. ET. Listen as OHS and National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning (NCECDTL) staff talk with special guests on a variety of topics. Tell us how you are celebrating children who are DLLs and their families and look for the resources we share in the chat.

Keep the conversation going on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) by tagging your posts with **#brilliantduallanguagelearners**.

If you haven’t already, sign up for [MyPeers](#). It’s a virtual learning network where you can brainstorm, exchange ideas, and share resources with early childhood colleagues from across the country. Join us in the [Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Practices](#), [Home Visiting](#), [AIAN Language and Culture](#), and other communities for DLL resources and more.

Looking for More?

Check out our courses on the [Individualized Professional Development \(iPD\) Portfolio](#). Last year’s DLL Celebration Week course, “Celebrating DLLs: Spring into Practice,” is still available and offers continuing education units.

Target Audience

- Head Start and Early Head Start program staff, home visitors, directors, and managers
- Child care and administrators

Share This Opportunity

Please share this message with colleagues who may be interested in this topic. Did someone forward you this invitation? Stay up to date by subscribing: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/subscribe>

Questions

Contact NCECDTL at ecdtl@ecetta.info or (toll-free) 844-261-3752.

Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Scholarships Available Now!

First Up is excited to announce that we have full-tuition preschool scholarship funding for families of young children experiencing financial hardships, especially due to COVID-19. STAR 3 and 4 providers, if you know of families who are unable to send their children to preschool due to a loss of jobs, income, or being on a subsidy waiting list, you may be eligible to receive EITC Pre-K scholarship funding to support those families. [Click to watch](#) this video. [Click here to apply](#) or email [Tyrone Scott](#) if you have additional questions.

Mental Health Grant

The Cigna Healthier Kids for Our Future mental health grant funds programs that address loneliness, anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention for children. [Click here to apply now.](#)

A Running Start Health presents

Social Media Campaign Toolkit: *Maternal Behavioral Health & Parenting Support*

[A Running Start—Health](#) (ARS-H) is a citywide initiative—operated by the Health Department’s Division of Maternal, Child, and Family Health—that focuses on improving the health of children from birth to 5 years of age. We’re launching a social media campaign toolkit to link Philly families and providers to available resources related to **maternal behavioral health** and **abuse prevention/parenting support**. We’ll be sending social media posts on a regular basis highlighting community resources in Philadelphia and we’re asking partners to share these posts on your organization's social media platforms. If you would like to receive these materials directly, you can sign up for the listserv [here](#).

- Week #1 - The Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence, WOAR, provides FREE virtual victim and trauma therapy services to children and adults who have experienced sexual violence. Call or text their 24-hour Hotline to access services at 215-985-3333 #PhillyLovesFamilies
- Week #2 - Congreso’s Family Social Services program provides short-term case management to ensure that Philadelphia families receive the necessary services and support. Call 215-763-8870 (ext. 1417) for more information #PhillyLovesFamilies

Free Telelactation App

Pacify is a **FREE** mobile app that provides on-demand lactation and feeding support. Lactation consultants are available 24/7, via video, to offer breastfeeding support and answer feeding-related questions. There are no appointments required and users can call as often as they need to. Please share the attached [enrollment flyer](#) with your families and staff. And check out the [Pacify website](#) for more information.

Celebrating Early Educators: Say Thank You!

PennAEYC is proud to join NAEYC in giving a special **“Thank You!”** to early childhood educators for the hard work they’ve done during the COVID-19 crisis. Being adaptable, resilient, and welcoming is at the core of who you are as an educator. Over the past year, you’ve gone above and beyond to make sure the young children in your care continue to safely receive the attention and direction they need to excel no matter where they are. We know how important community is to each of you, so we invite you to share the thanks with a peer or coworker who has made a difference, no matter how big or small, to help in this unprecedented time. From staying late for extra cleaning to sharing virtual meeting tips, mirroring proper mask use for students to making time for professional development, it has all had a positive impact on the young children, families, and the communities they serve. Visit the [Celebrating Educators](#) webpage to let them know how appreciative you are of the extra effort they’ve given. Be sure to share this message with your friends, family and the community! Start [HERE](#) to say thank you to an Educator!

NAEYC Accreditation Updates

- [Provisional Accreditation is here!](#)
[Provisional Accreditation](#) is a new way that programs can engage in the accreditation process during this time if an onsite observation visit is not possible. It is an opportunity for you to share your program’s portfolios with NAEYC assessors digitally for review.
- [Accreditation Visit Options](#)
NAEYC staff will begin contacting programs beginning in February that are currently due, or overdue, for a site visit. Staff will walk you through [your options](#) and help you make a decision on which option you wish to choose.
- [Provisional Accreditation Resources](#)
To learn more about how to digitize your portfolio, review [these resources](#) on Provisional Accreditation. Programs can choose to use the free resources provided at their own discretion.

Are You the Next Exchange Leader?

Dear Exchange Community,

Is it time for you or someone you know to be recognized as an Exchange Leader? Each year we search for the most powerful leaders in the field of early care and education to join the Exchange Leadership Initiative. The opportunity to become part of this group of inspiring individuals is profound. [Apply for yourself or nominate someone else.](#) Standing forward in your own leadership or encouraging someone else to do the same is an act of empowerment. I invite you to seriously consider taking this life-enhancing step.

With gratitude for acts of courageous leadership I witness in our community every day,
Nancy Rosenow, Exchange Publisher, on behalf of our entire team

Get Certified

Are you a Woman-owned childcare center?

Are you a Minority-owned childcare center?

It is time to get certified. Being certified can qualify you for additional funding, grants, additional resources, higher standing in competitive applications and so much more.

Please email Ellen for Special Childcare Rates: Ellen Russell: evrpp@yahoo.com

Sprayer Safety Recall

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports a recall for the [Victory Innovations and Protexus Electrostatic Sprayers](#), as the sprayer's rechargeable lithium-ion battery pack can overheat and melt, posing a risk of the product catching fire and/or exploding. Early childhood educators should check if these sprayers were purchased for use in disinfectant procedures.

Job Openings

- **ECE Learning Specialist/Early Headstart/Quality Improvement Coach**
First Up is hiring! We are looking for someone well versed in the ECE field, has knowledge of State-wide early childhood systems and has practical early childhood experience. This person will coach, train and there may also be opportunities for some project management. [Click here for the full job announcement.](#)

From Certification: Monitoring Coordination Across Dually Licensed Programs and Programs with PA Pre-K Counts and Head State Supplemental Assistance Programs

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) has released the [Announcement DS 21-01 Monitoring Coordination Across Dually Licensed Programs and Programs with PA Pre-K Counts and Head State Supplemental Assistance Programs](#). The Announcement clarifies the distinction of and interaction between Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) licensed programs, PDE funded programs, and Department of Human Services (DHS) licensed child care as it relates to program monitoring and or complaint investigation. The Announcement provides information on DHS licensed (certified) programs, PDE private licensed school (also referred to as Private Academic School (PAS), PDE-funded programs, DHS Certificate of Compliance (COC) and PDE PAS licenses, as well as next steps. For details, please read the [Announcement DS 21-01 Monitoring Coordination Across Dually Licensed Programs and Programs with PA Pre-K Counts and Head State Supplemental Assistance Programs](#).

That's all, except to share a few important reminders:

- **To report positive COVID exposure in child care**, use the centralized reporting form: <https://form.jotform.com/203145664181149>. If you have questions, please contact the Philadelphia Department of Public Health either by e-mail at COVID.schools@phila.gov or by phone at (215) 685-5488. Do not enter COVID-related closures as closed days on

your PELICAN Provider Profile. Instead, you must mark the children absent and enter a comment "COVID-related closure."

- **For questions about your Year 2020 Form 1099 or your attendance invoice**, e-mail ELRC18's finance team at ELRC18invs@caringpeoplealliance.org.
- **To submit documents to our eligibility department on behalf of parents**, e-mail eligibility@caringpeoplealliance.org.
- **To report snow closures:**
 - **If you use PELICAN Provider Self Service** – enter the closures in PSS. Navigate to Provider Profile > Manage Closed Days. You have until the 5th of the following month to update your closures.
 - **If you do not use PELICAN Provider Self Service** – You must notify ELRC within three business days of reopening after an emergency closure in order for the closures to be entered as paid closures. E-mail ELRC18providers@caringpeoplealliance.org (and be sure to include your PELICAN provider number).