

Hi everyone,

I hope you had a great weekend and are ready for another busy and exciting week!

Quick ELRC 18 updates:

October attendance invoices are due this Friday, November 5th. For any questions about your attendance invoice, please contact the finance team at (215) 382-4762 ext. 2206 or by e-mail at elrc18invs@caringpeoplealliance.org.

- ELRC 18 continues have no waiting list for funding, though it can take up to 30 days to process an application. Please encourage parents who might be eligible to visit our webpage for additional information: <https://philadelphiaelrc18.org/for-parents/paying-child-care/>.
- There are two provider networking meetings this week. No need to pre-register, just click on the link when it's time for the meeting. Hope to see you there!
- Northeast Directors – **Thursday, November 4th at 1p** - [Click here to join the Teams meeting](#)
- Night Owl Networking – **Thursday, November 4th at 7p** - [Click here to join the Teams meeting](#)

ARPA Stabilization Grant Update

ELRC Region 18 has processed over 900 applications from licensed center, group and family child care providers. You will receive your initial payment within 30 days of application. Once you receive your first payment, you can expect remaining payments before or by the end of each month until your grant is paid in full. If you have any questions about payment of your approved grant, please contact our finance team at (215) 382-4762 ext. 2206.

- **Can't figure out how to apply?**
 - When you log in to the PD Registry, next to the My Cart icon in the upper right hand corner is a drop down box with your name in it. If you do not also see your organization name and ID number listed (with a purple background), then you cannot yet apply for the grant. The next step is to Claim your Organization. Please review the tip sheet for instructions on how to do this: <https://s35729.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/How-to-Claim-an-Unregistered-Organization-Profile-final.pdf>. After you submit this request you will have to wait for the PA Key to confirm your request before you can access your grant application.
 - If you DO see your organization name and ID number listed on the drop down menu. Please review the following tip sheet on applying for your ARPA Stabilization Grant: <https://s35729.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/How-to-Apply-For-The-ARPA-Stabilization-Grant-09.2021-1.pdf>
- The resources available to you on the PA Keys website are excellent. Please be sure to review them: <https://www.pakeys.org/arpastabilizationgrants/>

- ELRC 18 sponsored Children’s Village to present a webinar to help providers maximize their grant, think about potential uses, tax consequences, and reporting/tracking In case you missed it, links to the recording and slides are listed below. (NOTE: To view the webinar, you must download it from our Dropbox. Otherwise the webinar will cut off after 15 minutes.)
 - Webinar recording:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/rawgbl9xdx5ygz0/video1095716501.mp4?dl=0>
 - Slide deck:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/penqc9wvpy62n9t/ARPA%20slide%20deck.pdf?dl=0>
- If you still have questions, please contact me directly (dgetzinger@caringspeoplealliance.org or 267-504-4179).

COVID Reminders and Resources

- ELRC can pay you for 14 consecutive COVID-related absences or closures as long as you report to both Certification and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. The easiest way to do that is to use “[the link](#).” This will trigger follow-up from the COVID Schools Team; please be sure to respond timely!
- Resources from the COVID School Team at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health:
 1. This is the link to register for Townhalls that will discuss 5-11 yr/old vaccinations. This may answer many questions: <https://vax.phila.gov/index.php/events/>
 2. John Hopkins Contract Tracing Training [Link](#).
 3. The following training is an overview of the virus and mitigation measures in schools for students of school-aged children. Link to PDPH Training <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8mEwvI4FW8>
 4. Federally funded testing support for schools, childcare centers, and community orgs. This testing is for "pool" testing. The academic institution can set up testing, 1-3 times a week. If a person/s within the "pool" test positive, then everyone within that pool that test positive will receive a confirmatory PCR test. This program provides supplies, surveillance/data system, and tech support/guidance/training. They do not, however, provide staffing. Link to register: <https://www.affinitytesting.com/hhs/>
 5. If your school would like to partner with a vaccine provider to host a vaccine clinic, on-site, please complete the RedCap. Link to register: <https://redcap.phila.gov/surveys/?s=LPXLP8RDN7>

OCDEL Announces Impact Project to Re-write Child Care Regulations

During October’s ECE Summit, OCDEL staff announced the kick-off of an Impact Project with the National State Capacity Building Center that will focus on re-writing Pennsylvania’s child care regulations with a lens toward equity, quality and decreasing provider burden. **Watch the**

Session from the Virtual ECE Summit. OCDEL is seeking providers to participate in an Early Learning Council (ELC) Subcommittee that will provide feedback on the draft regulations.

Please visit the **Certification Rewrite Page on the Pennsylvania Key's website** to view a video from Deputy Secretary Tracey Campanini, and learn more about the process. The ELC Subcommittee application will be open until **Nov. 19, 2021**.

Upcoming Hunt Institute Webinars

- **Tuesday, November 2 at 2p** – The Long-Term Effects of Early Childhood Interventions – [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Tuesday, November 16 at 2p** – Supporting Positive Ethnic-Racial Identity Formation in Early Childhood – [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **December 7th, 2p-4p** – With the Alliance for Early Success, a special year-old policy wrap-up: **2021's Big Wins for Little Kids.** [REGISTER HERE](#)

Literacy Opportunities from Read by 4th

Dear Early Childhood Educators,

*I'm writing to share these exciting literacy opportunities from our **Read by 4th** partners for early childhood teachers. These opportunities will qualify for Act 48 credits and CEU credits.*

The PA Branch of the International Dyslexia Association is offering scholarships that reduce the cost of their conference down to only \$65 and the Foundation for a Brighter Tomorrow's annual conference is free!

Click the link below to see the full flyer. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Mai Miksic (she/her)
Early Childhood Education Director
maim@childrenfirstpa.org
(215) 563-5848 x18 office
(608) 520-7264 cell*

- [Helen Oakes Literacy Institute](#) – **Saturday, November 6, 9:30a-1p** – LIVE Virtual Programming
- The International Dyslexia Association [43rd Annual Conference on Reading, Literacy and Learning](#) – **Saturday, November 13, 2021**

Opportunity for STAR 2 Programs

First Up's EQUIP program is currently accepting applications. If you are a STAR 2 program interested in moving up to STAR 3 or 4, please consider participating in this outstanding initiative. The deadline for submitting an application is **Friday, November 15, 2021**. The link for the application and recording of the orientation meeting are below:

- Meeting Recording: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/T_ljQ9SzwG-SACsrpkM31X8fg6wnGorG7rwTXP0sSMcTpPZFG0zl8Se9yMYWcMKn.bgyQ19ZhyUywXiM8

Access Passcode: #9fyQz&3

- FAQ Document: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/kgsufzeate60phh/EQUIP%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20.pdf?dl=0>
- Link for application: [EQUIP Provider Application \(jotform.com\)](#) and necessary supporting documents:
 - CQI Plan Template: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/92e2v251yter1z3km08hl/CQI-Plan-Template-1-6-2020-word.docx?dl=0&rlkey=c9ehkfwpc8z2jus7z5ko28hyf>
 - Staff Roster Grid: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/sb5nogpzsm9c60cklapwt/Staff-RosterGrid-EQUIP-1-21-DONE-2.xlsx?dl=0&rlkey=7h93wubblehstso89eh7qh044>

If you have any questions or need support filling out the application, please contact EQUIP Manager Alyssa Cruz, M.Ed. at Alyssa.cruz@firstup.org or by phone at (215) 893-0130 or (215) 900-3757.

Next SEPECC Meeting: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:00 – 11:00am

Join us for updates from OCDEL and local ELRC agencies, funding updates, advocacy opportunities, perspectives from early learning providers and information from community organizations. Register [HERE](#) and email your questions and/or suggested topics to Jackie.Groetsch@FirstUp.org by Thursday, Nov. 11th. View materials from October 12th SEPECC Meeting: [Meeting Recording](#) and [Slides](#).

Facilities Fund Applications will be available soon!

The City of Philadelphia Child Care Facilities Fund (CCFF) FY22 grant application will be released soon. Application materials and supporting resources will be available by **November 15, 2021** at www.philafacilityfund.org. Eligible providers interested in applying are encouraged to attend the virtual kick-off event on **November 17th at 12p**. Please see the attached [flyer](#) and [overview](#) for details and register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6557115031000125199>.

Social Justice Training from First Up

The histories, stories and voices of Black people should be uplifted in our school curriculum every day. Join us for these engaging professional development sessions where we explore Black history and resources for young children (birth-8 years old).

Black History Month is coming, planning that is grounded in Black intersectional joy and power

Dec.1st: <https://www.papdregistry.org/v7/trainings/334105/detail>

Feb.2nd: <https://www.papdregistry.org/v7/trainings/334106/detail>

There's a Book for That: Using Children's Books to Support Social Justice Education in the Early Years

Jan.5th: <https://www.papdregistry.org/v7/trainings/334107/detail>

May 4th: <https://www.papdregistry.org/v7/trainings/334109/detail>

Love is in the hair, celebrating Black hair in Early Childhood Programs

March 2nd: <https://www.papdregistry.org/v7/trainings/334111/detail>

April 6th: <https://www.papdregistry.org/v7/trainings/334110/detail>

CPR/First Aid for Parents

Olympik Tots Child Care and Dickerson and Associates are partnering to provide a Family CPR, First Aid and AED Training on **Saturday, November 20th at 10:30a**. Please see the attached flyer here for details and registration information:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/2y3r4rspa65j6y4/2021_First%20Aid%20%20CPR%20Information.pdf?dl=0

Newborns & Neighbors Phase 2 Begins!

This program provides practical and emotional support to new moms and birthing people. Eligible participants will be paired with a trained perinatal peer support worker to provide this support. Participants will also receive financial support through bank cards. As this pilot is part of a research study, participants will receive incentives for their participation in the study. To be eligible, participants must:

- Identify as Black and/or Latinx
- Be at least 34 weeks pregnant or have given birth in the last 4 weeks
- Be a Philadelphia resident

Please share the [attached flyer](#) with parents who might be interested!

Hotline to Assist Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Recipients

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has launched a live hotline to assist families with the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program. Pennsylvanians who have not received their child's P-EBT benefits or have an issue with P-EBT can dial 484-363-2137 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LIHEAP Applications Now Open

Pennsylvanians who meet income guidelines can now apply for help with winter heating costs. The **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now accepting applications** online or via a paper application. LIHEAP helps families who meet income guidelines pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat can also qualify for crisis grants. The cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on the bill. These grants range from \$200 to \$1,000 based on household size, income, and fuel type. Please share this information with the families you serve.

Invitation To Participate in ARTIC Survey

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) invites Administrators or Supervisors who provide supervision to early childhood professionals, working with or supporting children ages 0 through 8 and their families, to participate in the Attitudes Towards Trauma-Informed Care (ARTIC) Survey. The ARTIC Survey is a three-year project that will help guide statewide decision making around workforce development and early childhood mental health resources on trauma-informed care.

Link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ARTIC-OCDEL>

Attitudes Related To Trauma-Informed Care (ARTIC) Scale

The ARTIC Scale was co-developed by Dr. Courtney Baker of Tulane University and the Traumatic Stress Institute. It has been administered globally to more than 25,000 professionals in human service agencies, school systems, state agencies and more.

Looking for a cost-effective, validated tool to measure trauma-informed care?

Organizations and schools understand that valid data is critical to advancing trauma-informed care (TIC) in their settings and demonstrating success. That's why the Traumatic Stress Institute co-developed the ARTIC Scale, a psychometrically valid measure of professional and para-professional attitudes toward TIC.

Q&A Session About ARTIC Survey

Recorded on August 18, 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwfgSKQduzw>

Study Participation Request

My name is Cheneta Yates, and I am a doctoral student at Walden University. I am writing to request your assistance with identifying five early learning childcare centers who have demonstrated successful retention strategies and provide quality childcare services to the children and families they serve.

The title of my research study is: “Successful Staff Retention Strategies within Small Childcare Businesses.” My research focuses on examining the techniques employed by some childcare business owners to improve employee retention. I am looking to speak with childcare **business owners** within the Philadelphia region who have successful retention policies and procedures and a measurable staff retention rate (Preferably 2 to 5 years). I will be asking the owners to share some company information about their employee orientation or training materials, surveys they perform with staff related to employee engagement or improvement, attendance, and turnover reports, retention policies and procedures, and performance review reports. Of course, I will not share company names or identifying information in my study, nor will any visual data (pictures) of any sort be performed. All information will be anonymously coded for privacy, and secured for five years, and destroyed. Once the data is collected and transcribed, I will be sharing the results with you and the owners for accuracy. I ask that interested participants contact me by no later than November 12, 2021.

The implications for positive social change include...

Implementing strategic retention techniques to raise organizational awareness and staff morale may result in lower employee turnover, fewer retention issues, and increased employee morale, corporate and economic growth.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in helping me to identify and connect with candidates for my research purposes.

Enclosed, is the informed consent form explaining more about the study and procedures I will share with participants.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jmwwhp1vw9yzn0v/YatesC%20Consent%20Form.pdf?dl=0>

I would like to thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheneta M. Yates, MSA

Get Out the Vote!

November 2 is Election Day! Support your community by reminding families and staff to vote, helping people to register, teaching children about elections and voting, and building your own ballot.

- Polls are open on election day from **7 A.M. - 8 P.M**
- Learn about municipal elections: [Upcoming Elections \(pa.gov\)](#)
- Learn about who will be on your ballot: [Committee of 70 Voter Guide \(seventy.org\)](#)
- **Explore First Up's Get Out the Vote resources here:** [Advocacy - First Up - Pennsylvania early childhood education advocacy group](#)

Job Openings

- **From the PACCA website:**

Teaching Positions

Full-time positions; High quality child care center in South Philadelphia. Our mission is to provide a diverse and inclusive environment with a holistic approach in meeting the needs of the students and families we serve. We are in search of the right candidate that fits our company's culture!

Organization: Children's Playhouse Early Learning Center, Philadelphia (19148)

View job

listings: https://www.memberleap.com/job_board_detail.php?org_id=PCCA&jid=4262015

Assistant Teachers

Part-time positions; High quality child care center in South Philadelphia. Our mission is to provide a diverse and inclusive environment with a holistic approach in meeting the needs of the students and families we serve. We are in search of the right candidate that fits our company's culture!

Organization: Children's Playhouse Early Learning Center, Philadelphia (19148)

View job

listings: https://www.memberleap.com/job_board_detail.php?org_id=PCCA&jid=4263237

Lead Teacher

Full-time position; Seeking a highly qualified candidate who truly loves working with children and their families. The ideal candidate will be a hard worker, can work with a team, and be able to take the initiative to fulfill a need, and work autonomously without daily direct supervision.

Organization: L & L Discovery & Early Learning Center, Philadelphia (19131)

View job

listings: https://www.memberleap.com/job_board_detail.php?org_id=PCCA&jid=4253461

Sharing Corner

- Thanks to Angela Howard of Woodland Academy for sharing this cute flyer to encourage mask wearing in centers:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/53j5fgu3bm63pxy/104063603_1930219800444322_4306447659743155686_n.png?dl=0
- Friday's issue of Exchange Every Day was titled "Hope and Reassurance for Educators and Administrators." It's short and worth a quick look here:
<http://dimensions.activehosted.com/index.php?action=social&chash=b2f627fff19fda463cb386442eac2b3d.676&s=003153296a805b9d8822d859377c7970>

That's all for now.

Have a great week!

Diane