

ELRC 18 Updates

Increase to Child Care Works Base Rates

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), Bureau of Early Learning Policy and Professional Development has released [Announcement ELRC 21-11 Increase to Child Care Works Base Payment Rates](#). This Announcement shares information regarding an increase to base rates paid by DHS to certified child care providers participating in Child Care Works (CCW). Effective Jan. 1, 2022, OCDEL will implement another increase to CCW subsidy base rates. The initiative includes both an increase to the 60th percentile for subsidy base rates paid to DHS certified child care providers and an increase of \$1 per day for Relative Providers. This change brings Pennsylvania closer to the federal government's recommendation of reimbursing child care providers at the 75th percentile. For details, please see the [Announcement ELRC 21-11 Increase to Child Care Works Base Payment Rates](#)

What this means....

- If your private pay rates are above the [current Maximum Child Care Allowance \(MCCA\)](#), you will automatically receive an increase up to the [new MCCA rates](#).

- If you would like to update your private pay rates
 - DO NOT worry about updating PELICAN Provider Self Service. Even if you update PSS, you must still submit an Appendix C1 and published rates, so it is really just additional work for both you and ELRC staff.
 - DO complete and submit an Appendix C1 (attached both as a [Word document](#) and [PDF file](#)). Send the completed Appendix C1 with a signed/dated copy of your published rates (typically a flyer or page from your handbook). We must have both documents in order to update your rates. Please send only ONE copy of your Appendix C1/published rates. Sending multiple copies creates significant additional work for ELRC18 staff and significantly slows our ability to accurately process updates for all providers. Please pick one of the following ways to submit your updated rates.
 - Email to ELRC18providers@caringpeoplealliance.org, or
 - Fax to (215) 940-0226, or
 - Hand deliver to any ELRC18 location Monday-Friday between the hours of 8a and 5p, or
 - Northeast Philadelphia: 2361-2373 Welsh Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114
 - North Philadelphia: 2816 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19133
 - West Philadelphia: 5548 Chestnut Street, Second Floor, Philadelphia, PA, 19139

- Mail to ELRC 18, 2361-2372 Welsh Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114.
 - If we receive your Appendix C1 and published rates by January 31, 2021, they will be effective 1/1/2022.
- The new MCCAs will not be uploaded into PELICAN until January 8th. Although we will confirm receipt and process your updated private pay rates when you submit them, we cannot new Appendix C2 forms until these rates are entered into PELICAN.
- **PHMC ECE Business Supports Free Webinar**
Setting Rates for Centers: Why, When, and How
Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 1-3 PM
 Presented by Mary Graham, Executive Director, Children’s Village
 Why is setting tuition rates important to your child care business? Why is now the time? In this training you’ll learn strategies for rate setting, how to determine if now is the time to increase your current rates, how to calculate the cost of care by age group, and what to do next. This content is most relative to centers. A separate webinar will be scheduled for family providers in January. [CLICK HERE](#) to register. Registration is required. The first 100 people to log in to the webinar will be able to join. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. **A follow up Q & A session for participants needing further assistance is scheduled for Monday, December 20, 1-2:30 PM.** The registration link will be made available during the webinar

Non-Traditional Care Add-on Rates

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), Bureau of Early Learning Policy and Professional Development, has released the [Announcement ELRC 21 #10, Non-Traditional Care Add-on Rates](#). This Announcement shares that DHS certified child care providers who provide care to children receiving Child Care Works (CCW) during non-traditional hours will be eligible for a non-traditional care add-on rate effective Jan. 1, 2022. Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, DHS certified child care providers that provide care to children receiving CCW for at least two hours during the hours of 6:00 pm and 6:00 am on weekdays or any amount of time on weekends will receive a non-traditional care add-on rate. The non-traditional care add-on only applies to the days that the non-traditional care takes place and not to any days the child only receives care during typical hours. The add-on rate will be 25 percent above the established subsidy base rate for each CCW child served during non-traditional hours. Keystone STAR designation does not impact this add-on. For additional details, please see the [Announcement ELRC 21 #10, Non-Traditional Care Add-on Rates](#).

What this means....

- You should begin to see the non-traditional enrollment indicator on your enrollment summaries and invoicing now. Instead of FT or PT, if the enrollment is considered non-traditional (based on the definition above), it will appear as NFT or NPT. If you have enrollments you believe should be reflected as non-traditional, but are not, please send the child's name and record number in an e-mail to ELRC18providers@caringpeoplealliance.org.
- If you will be expanding your operating hours to offer non-traditional care, please be sure to update both the Service Schedule and General Operating Schedules sections of your Provider Profile on PELICAN Provider Self Service. If you do not use PELICAN PSS, please e-mail your requested changes (including your PELICAN provider number) to ELRC18providers@caringpeoplealliance.org.

ARPA Stabilization Grant Update

To date, 1,164 of Philadelphia's 1,545 eligibility providers have submitted applications for the American Rescue Plan Act Stabilization Grant. That's approximately 75% of all eligible providers. ELRC18 has concluded our first round of follow-up calls to providers who have not yet applied. Although you have until January 31, 2022 to apply, if you are waiting until later (for whatever reason), please take a minute to make sure you can access your application in the PD Registry and that there are no problems with the data in your application. If you have any questions or run into any problems, please let me know – (267) 504-4179 or dgetzinger@caringpeoplealliance.org.

If you have already started receiving your ARPA payments and have questions about upcoming payments, please contact the ELRC 18 finance team at (215) 382-4762 ext. 2206.

Upcoming Provider Networking Meetings

- **Wednesday, 12/15/2021 at 1p** – Northwest Directors Networking Meeting hosted by Childspace. To receive the meeting link, please e-mail Janet Filante at jfilante@childspacecenters.org
- **Thursday, 12/16/2021 at 1p** – North Philadelphia Networking Meeting hosted by ELRC 18. Join us at 1p on Microsoft Teams by using the following link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YjZiNmFmNTctZWM3ZC00ZDjILTIIYjItNDQ5MjQ5NmVkMGU1%40hread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2212b3abd7-e406-4fb3-b3f4-d04f7eee2472%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2289e21239-e245-4969-9709-6886ebe85734%22%7d
- **Thursday, 12/23/2021 at 1p** – South and West Philadelphia Networking Meeting hosted by ELRC 18. Join us at 1p on Microsoft Teams by using the following link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_N2E00TU0MGEtZWUzNi00YjA2LWlxMTQtZThmMmM0ZDNI0GI1%40hread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2212b3abd7-e406-4fb3-b3f4-d04f7eee2472%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2289e21239-e245-4969-9709-6886ebe85734%22%7d

COVID Reminders and Resources

If you have COVID-related questions, please visit the updated [PDPH guidance for schools](#) or e-mail COVID.schools@phila.gov.

Reporting COVID Cases

Remember that OCDEL requires you to report all cases of COVID-19 in your program to both Certification and the Department of Public Health. In Philadelphia, the easiest way to do this is to use the following link: https://phillyhs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1NWgJ7yfK46dXMi

How to reflect COVID-related closures/absences on your CCW invoice

If you close due to COVID-19, do not enter closure (paid or unpaid) through PELICAN Provider Self Service. Instead, all COVID-related closures/absences should be recorded on your invoicing as follows. As long as you report as required (see above), ELRC can pay you for up to 14 consecutive business days of COVID-related closure or absence.

ONLINE:

Mark the children absent and enter the “COVID-related absence” comment by clicking on the hyperlink under each child’s name. The comment is very important to make sure you are paid correctly and that the absences aren’t counted toward the children’s annual cap.

PAPER:

Mark the children absent using the code CA. This is very important to make sure you are paid correctly and that the absences aren’t counted toward the children’s annual cap.

Ask the Doctors: What We Have Learned About COVID Vaccinations for Pregnant Women and Children

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021, 3–4 p.m. [Register Online Now!](#)

In this webinar, the [Rapid Response-Virtual Home Visiting Collaborative](#) will provide frontline staff with accurate information about vaccinations for pregnant people and children. There is a continued need to provide accurate information about the COVID-19 Vaccination for pregnant people, especially for members of historically marginalized racial groups. Join us for a conversation with Dr. Haywood Brown, obstetrician, and Dr. Mishelle Nace, pediatrician, as they answer your questions. This webinar will also provide resources for information on vaccinations and speaking to families that you serve.

COVID Vaccines for Children in Early Care and Education

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Join Penn State Better Kid Care and Dr. Timothy Shope, MD, MPH for the latest update on COVID vaccines for children in early care and education settings. Questions about mandating the vaccine, how the Omicron variant might affect vaccines and how to support vaccine confidence for families will be among the many topics discussed during this free 1-hour webinar. Register at <https://bit.ly/ECEVax>

#ScoreTheShotPhilly campaign

Philly Teen Vaxx Ambassadors launched an exciting campaign on Sunday. It doesn't end on Sunday, though, so please read below to get your students' creative juices flowing! The person with the most creative content promoting COVID 19 Vaccination with the hologram wins the opportunity to create a hologram of themselves!

Hello and Welcome to the Philadelphia Metaverse!

Philadelphia teens like you are taking matters into their own hands with the launch of an initiative uniquely designed to help you influence your GenZ peers to get vaccinated and get back to the things they love. The Philly Teen VAXX Ambassadors invite you to check out the **#ScoreTheShotPhilly** campaign, which promotes the message that by protecting your own health, you are also contributing to the health of the entire community!

On **Sunday, December 12, between 1-5pm** be on the lookout for and join the Philly Teen VAXX Ambassadors to create and post your photos and videos with Dawn Staley's hologram at iconic Philadelphia locations including Chinatown, the LOVE Statue, Fashion District, Ben Franklin Bridge, River Rink, Amalgam Comics and Max's Steaks! **Check this out!**

To participate, you and your friends should download the augmented reality hologram QR code [here](#) or add this URL to your phone <https://xr.senseofspace.io/avatardimension/ad-covid-project>.

The **hologram features Hall of Fame basketball coach @DawnStaley (Philly native) and star player Aliyah Boston (#1 college player in the nation)** as they talk about stepping up for the "team" to win against their toughest opponents in a "must win" situation like we're facing with COVID-19. Once the hologram is on your phone, it's time to get creative! Visit fun or iconic Philly locations and photograph your friends into the hologram, then add clever slogans about getting vaccinated. The hologram works in camera mode but not in selfie mode. Try it! You will understand once you use it.

Then, personalize your hologram in whatever creative ways you can think of, and post it on social media (Instagram, Twitter or TikTok) to share your message and convince your peers to get the shot! Make sure to include hashtags **#ScoreTheShotPhilly, #PhillyTeenVAXX, #PHLed**. Oh, and make sure to tag **@PhillyTeenVaxx** and **@PhillySchools**.

Here's the other fun part -- this is also a contest! You can submit your masterpieces to win great prizes like iPhones • Earbuds • Cash prizes • and more! Send them to Pgilreath@sportsmediachallenge.com any way that works including via google doc, Dropbox or WeTransfer. Be sure to include your name, age, school, phone number,

email and your user name and the social media platforms on which you have posted. The **most creative, sharable and engaging** content will be showcased citywide on digital billboards throughout the holiday season. You'll also have a shot at the GRAND PRIZE -- the development of a hologram made of you!

To get your hologram on Philly billboards, and for a shot at the grand prize, your entries must be submitted by 5pm on Dec 15th. Smaller prizes will still be available after December 15th. You are encouraged to create and submit multiple solo or team entries, **so start today!**

If you have questions about #SCORETHESHOTPHILLY, take a look at the slides attached for more detail. Send additional questions to khessert@sportsmediachallenge.com or call or text 704-906-3600!

To join us on Sunday either on the bus or by appearing at individual hologram spots, contact me at Dianna.coleman@phila.gov or 267-734-6364.

Come out and have some fun!

Sincerely,
Philly Teen Vaxx Ambassadors
Dianna Coleman, MPH, MA

The CDC Foundation offers the following key resources with science-based guidance to read and share:

- The Surgeon General released [a step-by-step toolkit](#) that provides specific guidance and resources for health care providers, educators, librarians, faith leaders and trusted community members to understand, identify and stop the spread of health misinformation in their communities.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a factsheet in multiple languages with critical information to help stop [common myths and rumors](#) about COVID-19 vaccines.
- The Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) tracks misinformation that is circulating across various media platforms and [provides insights to help communities generate effective messaging](#) to counter false claims.
- Now that everyone ages 18 and up is eligible for a booster shot, [CDC](#) and [the PHCC](#) have revised their toolkits and FAQs to reflect the latest guidance. The PHCC also has [new shareable graphics](#) on the Omicron variant.
- The CDC has updated its [social media toolkit](#) to encourage Latino/a/x communities to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before traveling to visit friends and family for the holidays. The messages—for use on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram—are provided in both Spanish and English.
- The Health Action Alliance has a collection of [free tools and resources for the business community](#) that can also be of use and interest to CBOs.

- The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants (NRC-RIM) has updated resources on COVID-19 vaccines for children, with [fact sheets, a conversation guide, videos and more](#) in multiple languages.
- The National Hispanic Medical Association has developed [The Vaccinate For All Toolkit](#) (also [in Spanish](#)) to help community leaders share trustworthy messages with Latino/a/x community members.
- The team at Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL) has launched the [“Voices of Long COVID” campaign](#) to increase public awareness of Long COVID and promote vaccine uptake—particularly among people ages 18–29. The initiative features video testimonials from a diverse group of young adults, as well as [a full suite of royalty-free, customizable resources](#) for TV, radio, digital and social media ads.
- The CDC Foundation’s [Vaccine Resource Hub](#) provides diverse and culturally relevant materials that CBOs and the general public can use to support COVID-19 and flu vaccination in their communities.

Elwyn Follow-up

Representatives from Elwyn attended the December meeting of the ELRC18 Northeast Directors Networking Meeting. For those who attended, Ashlee Brown sent this follow-up:

As promised, kindly see attached for the [PBIS Resource Guide](#) and the [EI Principles document](#). I am re-sending the [ELS ECE PD opportunities flyer](#), as well.

In addition, your team can access the main Elwyn ELS website here: <https://www.elwyn.org/services/early-learning>. Providers can access the *ECE Provider Information* page directly from the main ELS website or they can use this direct link: <https://www.elwyn.org/services/early-learning-services-early-childhood-education-provider-information>.

In follow up from the last two inquiries:

- As we discussed during the session, we are functioning under the same guidance that proof of vaccination is not required and should not be requested of EI providers. If the team has concerns with that guidance, we would defer them to their certification specialist.
- In regard to EI providers supporting children in a separate space, we would reiterate that all EI providers are fully credentialed and have all necessary clearances to work with young children in Pennsylvania. We would also refer to the concepts embedded into the EI Principles document as to how EI services should be delivered. We expect that services are embedded into naturalistic activities and routines within the ECE program context and alongside the ECE professionals that work with the child. If there is a very specific reason for a child to receive a service in a separate space, which should be rare, then it should be clearly documented in the IEP. We would then defer to individual ECE program policies and procedures from there.

Kindly let me know if anything else is needed. We appreciated spending time with your group!

Special Announcement: Message from Acting Secretary Meg Snead - Mask Guidance

Issued Friday, 12/10/2021

Good afternoon,

Today, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a ruling that ends the Secretary of Health's order that masks must be worn by children over two and educators and staff at child care settings. Please note that this decision does not impact the Federal directive requiring all Head Start and Early Head Start programs or passengers and drivers to wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems; these requirements remain in effect.

While we are disappointed by the Court's ruling, this ruling does not prevent providers from setting their own health and safety policies for their staff and children in care in line with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC's [guidance for child care facilities](#) at this time still recommends universal masking for children age 2 and older and staff regardless of vaccination status, specifically:

- **“Indoors:** CDC recommends universal masking in ECE programs for everyone two years of age and older, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Outdoors:** In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. CDC recommends that people age 2 and older who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained [close contact](#) with other people.”

COVID-19 is still a threat, and I strongly urge all providers to continue requiring mask use for children age 2 and older and educators and staff. Consistent and proper mask usage can limit transmission, protect individuals inside the facility and their families, and reduce the need to quarantine or consolidate entire classrooms due to exposures. Masking can help us continue some level of consistent and normal operations that provides stability to children, their families, and educators and staff. Especially in light of new variants, we must all continue to do our part to keep the children and families we serve as well as educators and staff safe in child care settings. Encouraging and supporting staff to get vaccinated and sharing resources about vaccination for children 5 and older is also important, especially while a vaccine is not available to our youngest children.

Thank you for your support,

Meg Snead

Acting Secretary, Department of Human Services

From Certification: Announcement C-21-09 Reinstating and Extensions of Child Care Certification Regulation Suspensions Due to Act 73

Pursuant to Act 73 of 2021, the suspensions of various regulatory provisions under the state disaster emergency declaration were extended until March 31, 2022, unless sooner reinstated by the Department. Effective December 6, 2021, the Department has reinstated a number of suspended regulations, in whole or in part. A list of suspended regulations and their current status is available [here](#). This [Announcement](#) explains what regulations will remain suspended, and what regulations will be reinstated effective January 6, 2022.

In addition, the following guidance issued by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) has been updated or rendered obsolete as a result of the reinstatements:

- This announcement replaces [Announcement C-20-04 Revised Suspension of Regulatory Requirements for Certified Child Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) in its entirety.
- OCDEL also issued [Frequently Asked Questions: Guidance for Tuberculin Skin Testing \(TST\) and COVID-19 Vaccinations](#) on June 24, 2021, which will also be obsolete with the release of this announcement.
- As a reminder [Announcement C-21-06: Ending of Child Care Certification Regulations Suspensions Under the State Disaster Emergency Declaration](#) was obsolete effective Oct. 18, 2021.

Pennvest Lead Testing Program

Pennvest Lead Testing Program (<https://www.pennvestleadtestingprogram.com/>) is a federally funded program providing voluntary drinking water testing and expert support to childcare facilities and schools in Pennsylvania (funding was just extended into 2023!). It is a great opportunity for childcare providers to meet the city water testing requirement. There will be a 30-minute webinar on **12/14/2021 at 11a** to learn more. To register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8276148686172989453>

Child Care Providers: Enrollment is Happening NOW for Pennie

Join PennAEYC on **Tuesday, December 14, 2021 from 3-4p** for an informational webinar about insurance coverage options on the open marketplace. Click [HERE](#) to join the webinar. (**This webinar will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. It will be available following the webinar on the [PennAEYC website](#).*) The 2022 Open Enrollment Period for Pennie is happening now! Pennie is PA's official health & dental insurance marketplace and the only link to financial assistance to help reduce the cost of coverage and care. Pennie's Open Enrollment Period for 2022 Coverage Runs until **Jan. 15, 2022**. Visit pennie.com to shop and compare health coverage

plans. Pennie's plan comparison tool allows you to answer questions about your health status, preferred providers, and even prescription drug needs. The tool will then display coverage options for you to see your total costs for care, including premium, deductible, and total out-of-pocket costs. Print and share the information flyer in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) and share with your staff and families.

Early Learning PA: Three Campaigns and YOU!

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 6:00-8:00PM

Join the First Up Public Policy Team to learn about the coalition's three campaigns- Pre-K for PA, Start Strong PA, and Childhood Begins at Home. Learn more about the gains made over the years in public policy and how childcare professionals play a crucial role in this ongoing work. For PQAS credit, Register on the PD Registry [here](#).

For FCCH, GCCH and School-age Programs: OCDEL Extends Deadline to Apply to Participate on the ELC Subcommittee for Child Care Certification Regulation Rewrites

Application deadline **Dec. 15, 2021**

Because of the critical role family child care (FCC), group child care (GCC) and school age only (SAC) providers play in Pennsylvania's child care system, OCDEL is seeking additional applications from these providers. [FCC, GCC and SAC providers ONLY can apply here \(https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V6DRQXX\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V6DRQXX). Starting in early 2022 through the spring, Subcommittee members will provide direct feedback to OCDEL on a series of draft regulations. Out of respect for participants schedules and safety, meetings will be held virtually with materials shared ahead of time via email. Interested FCC, GCC and SAC providers can apply now through **Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021**. Please contact Karen Grimm-Thomas ([c-kgrimmth@pa.gov](mailto:kgrimmth@pa.gov)) with any questions.

Power Up Your Business Peer Learning

The application deadline is **December 18, 2021** for the next cohort starting **January 19, 2022**. Through this 12 week, 36-hour program, you will gain practical skills that you can immediately put into action and learn how to create a business improvement plan to help grow your business. Learn the foundations of small business management and other tools needed for a successful small business through this FREE training program that provides the following:

- Team of experts that teach marketing, financials, human resource and operations, insurance and legal, and how to develop a tactical improvement plan
- Learn from experienced entrepreneurs through our peer-based learning model
- Coaching support from a business coach and financial coach
- Our training is held in local Philadelphia communities in Northeast, West, Northwest, South, and nearby Center City so local businesses can connect and network easily

For more information, visit <https://www.ccp.edu/business-and-industry/power-your-business/peer-based-learning-experience>

Next SEPECC Meeting

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 9:00 – 11:00am

Tune in for *Show Me the Money Part 2: Build Back Better Act* to learn more about how this framework will transform the early education system and what actions we need to take to help get this historical legislation passed. Other agenda items will include State & Federal Budget Updates, Advocacy Skill Building, OCDEL & ELRC announcements and Community Partner resources. [Register for the December 21st SEPECC Virtual Meeting](#) and email your questions to [Jackie Groetsch](#) by **12/16/21**.

Let's Talk Quality Series

Nature in the Classroom is the topic for December's *Let's Talk Quality Series* from Pennsylvania's Program Quality Assessment (PQA) team. The *Let's Talk Quality Series* includes three-monthly activities – Let's Talk Quality Blog, Let's Talk Quality Webinar, and the newest, Let's Talk Quality Spotlight. Each month the PQA team publishes a blog article, creates a webinar, and offers a spotlight session--all that focus on a monthly topic.

Register to join **Dec. 21, 2021, 1PM or 6PM** for the 1-hour Spotlight session where members of the PQA team will answer your questions and be available for discussion about Nature in the Classroom and other PQA related topics:

- [1:00 PM Let's Talk Quality Spotlight Registration](#)
- [6:00 PM Let's Talk Quality Spotlight Registration](#)

Check out the [Let's Talk Quality Blog](#) on Dec. 8, 2021, for the blog post about Nature in the Classroom. While there, check out all the other great blog posts.

Sharing Books with Infants and Toddlers is the topic for January's *Let's Talk Quality Series*. Be sure to check out the [attached flyer for January dates/times!](#)

CDA Renewal Amnesty - Deadline: December 31, 2021

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education, is a key stepping stone on the way to ECE career advancement. For a limited time, ECE professionals who have previously obtained a CDA® Credential that has now expired can take advantage of The Council for Professional Recognition's CDA® Renewal Amnesty Program. This program allows anyone holding a CDA® certificate with an expiration date as far back as January 1, 2010 to complete the renewal process and make their credential active again. For additional information, [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the program and to register for an upcoming webinar. ECE staff can also learn more about how the CDA credential can matriculate for a range of 6-9 college credits, as well as other funded opportunities, by connecting with the [ECE PDO at PHMC](#). For general inquiries, please email ECEPDO@phmc.org.

National Center for School Mental Health Free Webinars

- Cultural Responsiveness, Anti-Racism, and Equity (CARE) Best Practices in School Mental Health - Teaming
Wednesday, January 5, 3-4 PM, [Register](#)
- Cultural Inclusiveness and Equity (CIE) Part 1: Understanding How Social Injustices Impact Student Mental Health
Wednesday, January 19, 3-4 PM, [Register](#)
- Cultural Inclusiveness and Equity (CIE) Part 2: Understanding How Educator Bias Impacts Student Mental Health
Wednesday, February 2, 3-4 PM, [Register](#)
- Cultural Responsiveness, Anti-Racism, and Equity (CARE) Best Practices in School Mental Health - Screening
Wednesday, March 2, 3-4 PM, [Register](#)
- Cultural Inclusiveness and Equity (CIE) Part 3: Engaging in Culturally Inclusive Classroom Actions to Promote Student Mental Health
Wednesday, March 16, 3-4 PM, [Register](#)
- Cultural Inclusiveness and Equity (CIE) Part 4: Supporting Students Experiencing Distress from a Cultural Inclusiveness and Equity Lens
Wednesday, April 6, 3-4 PM, [Register](#)
- Cultural Responsiveness, Anti-Racism, and Equity (CARE) Best Practices in School Mental Health - Universal Mental Health Promotion (Tier 1)
Wednesday, May 4, 3-4 PM, [Register](#)
- Cultural Responsiveness, Anti-Racism, and Equity (CARE) Best Practices in School Mental Health - Early Intervention and Treatment in Schools (Tiers 2 & 3)
Wednesday, June 1, 3-4 PM, [Register](#)

ServSafe Manager Certification

Acclaim Academy (5615 Germantown Ave., 19144) will be hosting another ServSafe Certification session on **January 15, 2022 from 9a-12p**. Cost is \$100 per person. Please see the flyer for additional information and registration details:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/acxemaqp2xi5yje/Serv%20Safe%201-15-2022.pdf?dl=0>

Mental Wellness Series: Helping Others in Distress

Join Penn State Extension for the [Mental Wellness Series: Helping Others in Distress](#) to learn how to help family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors who are expressing the signs and symptoms of distress. Learn the strategies to approach someone in distress and self-care tips to reduce stress in ourselves and others. These challenging times are motivators to reach out a helping hand to those who need it.

WHEN: **Monday, January 17, 2022 (11a-12p)**

FORMAT: Live Online via Zoom

Gain an understanding of helping others in distress during part one of the five-part Mental Wellness Series.

Who is this for?

- Family members
- Social workers
- Mental health workers
- Law enforcement
- Fire\EMS
- Concerned citizens

What will you learn?

- Signs and symptoms of mental distress
- Steps to take to approach someone you're concerned about
- Strategies to manage a possible crisis
- Resources to refer someone to professional or self-help

This event is being offered at no charge to participants.

Registration is required to receive the link to access the webinar. Registrants will also receive access to the webinar recording.

[RSVP by January 16, 2022.](#)

CACFP Community Conversations

Please join the Philadelphia Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Education to explore questions and resources related to CACFP. After a brief break in December, Community Conversations will resume in January on the third Friday of each month from 1:30p-2:30p. To submit questions or topics, send an e-mail to Shannon.Dryden@phila.gov or Matthew.Williams@phila.gov. Use this link to join meetings on the following dates: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/238146989>

- **January 21, 2022**
- **February 18, 2022**
- **March 18, 2022**
- **April 15, 2022**
- **May 20, 2022**
- **June 17, 2022**

Family Child Care Resources for Improving Business Practices

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance has partnered with Tom Copeland to provide essential family child care resources for improving business practices. In each video, Tom Copeland shares tips to make your family child care business a success. [Explore Tom's videos to elevate your business today!](#)

PECO Small Commercial & Industrial Gas Grant

Small businesses affected by the pandemic can now apply to receive a one-time grant of \$500 towards their existing PECO natural gas account. The grant will be applied directly to your bill and will lower current outstanding balances or provide a credit for future charges.

To be eligible, applicants must have an active PECO gas account on or before March 31, 2020, take service under Rate GC (gas commercial service), have fewer than 25 employees, and have experienced financial hardship resulting from the pandemic.

Applications will be considered in the order they are received, while funding lasts – apply today!

Applying is simple.

1. [Download the application](#)
2. Complete the application
3. Save it as "[GG_APP_ BUSINESS NAME]"
4. Email your completed application as an attachment to: PECOSCIGasGrantProgram@exeloncorp.com

Once your application is approved, you will be notified within 7-10 business days. The actual credit will be applied within 60 days of approval. If you have questions, please call 1-800-494-4000.

To view your current energy usage: sign up or log in to My Account [here](#).

To learn more about Energy Efficiency savings opportunities for small businesses, [visit this page](#).

Apply Now for PIDC's Restart PHL Loan

The Restart PHL Loan program provides flexible financing to small businesses (less than \$5 million in annual revenue) to meet the needs related to reopening after COVID-19, and/or adapting business models to new conditions and opportunities. Before you apply, here's what you need to know.

DETAILS

Loan Amount: \$25,000 - \$250,000

Interest rate: 0%

Term: Up to 5 years

<https://www.pidcphila.com/restartPHL>

Free PD Opportunities from Elwyn

Elwyn Early Learning Services (ELS) is pleased to announce a “menu” of professional development opportunities available to Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs in Philadelphia and/or the city of Chester in Delaware County, by program request. These sessions will be free of cost to Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs in the geographical areas supported by Elwyn ELS and will offer Act 48 and/or PQAS continuing education credits. There are four (4) available sessions, detailed below. In order to request a session, the Director or a Supervisor of an ECE program should visit the Elwyn ELS website: <https://www.elwyn.org/services/early-learning-services-early-childhood->

[education-provider-information](#) and click on the “Early Childhood Education Professional Development Opportunities” tab.

- HOW TO MAKE A PRESCHOOL EARLY INTERVENTION REFERRAL - This session will discuss early intervention in PA, the definition of special education and will provide a brief overview on developmental norms. The session will emphasize how to make a local Preschool Early Intervention referral and the subsequent steps and processes that follow once a referral is made. This session is one hour in duration.
- EARLY INTERVENTION IN PENNSYLVANIA, AN OVERVIEW - This session will provide a thorough overview on the structure of early intervention in the state of Pennsylvania. Federal and state early intervention regulations, including Preschool Early Intervention eligibility, will be discussed. This session is one hour in duration.
- WHAT IS AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)? - This session will dissect the Who, What, How, and When of development and implementation of an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This offering is designed to answer all of your IEP related questions, including when ECE programs might request an IEP meeting for Preschool Early Intervention students. This session is one hour in duration.
- POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS): TIER 1 CLASSROOM STRATEGIES - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework that promotes the social, emotional and positive behavioral development of young children by providing tiered interventions rooted in evidence based practices (Fox et al., 2003; Hemmeter, Ostrosky, & Fox, 2006). The model offers three tiers of intervention practice: universal promotion for all children supported by high-quality physical classroom environments; secondary preventions to address the intervention needs for children at risk of social-emotional and/or behavioral delays; and tertiary interventions needed for children with persistent and pervasive behavioral challenges. This PD session will detail Tier 1, or universal positive behavior support, strategies that all ECE programs can implement to effectively support 80-90% of their students! This session is 90 minutes in duration.

Free Monthly Books for Parents!

Please share the attached [Imagination Library flyer](#) (in English and Spanish) with all Philadelphia parents of children under age 5. What a great opportunity!!

SPARK Quality Support Center

Be sure to check out SPARK’s Knowledge Center. It is an online portal that provides easy access to resources, tools, training, and information to support early childhood professionals providing quality care and early learning to the children of Philadelphia. The [Knowledge Center](https://phila.us12.list-center) (<https://phila.us12.list-center>)

[manage.com/track/click?u=48732a6251c09f25e0086d47a&id=00015fbbcf&e=1e0b52a677](https://phila.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=48732a6251c09f25e0086d47a&id=00015fbbcf&e=1e0b52a677)) is now live and will be updated regularly with new additions and content. Also, please visit the [Quality Support Center Website \(https://phila.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=48732a6251c09f25e0086d47a&id=c0e5bd881f&e=1e0b52a677\)](https://phila.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=48732a6251c09f25e0086d47a&id=c0e5bd881f&e=1e0b52a677) to learn more about their work.