



Local Leadership Council

Welcome

***Early Learning Resource Center
Region 17***

Local Leadership Council

August 12, 2020



In partnership with Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Serving Montgomery County
P.O. Box 311 | 1430 DeKalb St. | Norristown, PA 19404 | (610) 278-3707 | montcopa.org/elrc



Local Leadership Council

What is the Local Leadership Council?

The formation of the Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) Region 17 Local Leadership Council (LLC) is one strategy being utilized to ensure that ELRC Region 17 is working in an integrated and collaborative way within the local early learning service community. We enjoy working with you and your agency to enhance the visibility of ELRC Region 17 as a hub for early learning resources. We are excited to have a diverse group of community stakeholders including early childhood programs, providers, families, school districts, higher education, businesses, and funders.

ELRC Region 17 has assembled and strengthened strong, clear and shared leadership at the local level by engaging a wide range of community stakeholders in the early learning agenda.



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ELRC Region 17 Office Updates

- The ELRC office continues to be fully operational
- Staff are working remotely to every extent possible
- The HSC building remains closed to the public
- Information will continue to be released as it becomes available
- View our [monthly Newsletter](#)
- Visit our website for the latest information, montcopa.org/elrc
- Email questions and concerns to elrcregion17@pa.gov

Thank you for your continued support



Local Leadership Council

Contacting Us

An [Employee Directory](#) is available on our website, montcopa.org/elrc.

Email: ELRCRegion17@pa.gov

Phone: 610-278-3707 (return calls may be placed from a private number)

Fax: 610-278-5161

Mail: ELRC Region 17
PO Box 311
1430 DeKalb Street
Norristown, PA 19404-0311



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CARES Funding Update

OCDEL approved three rounds of CARES funding for ECE programs:

Round 1 was released in June

Round 2 was released in July

Round 3 is anticipated to be released in August

Information on CARES funding (Round 3) will be coming soon.

Information will be posted on the PA Keys website: pakeys.org/

CARES Funding Update: Round 3

All ECE programs will be required to submit a new Attestation Form.

For providers who have not yet reopened since the mandated shutdown, a Temporary Closure Letter will also be required. This letter must also indicate a reopening date. Programs must reopen for at least 60 business days.

Updates to Child Care Works & subsidy payments

Child Care Works Payment Modifications Due to Impacts related to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) through August 31, 2020

[Announcement: ELRC-20 #09](#)

Restoring Child Care Works Payment Practices Based on Attendance and Invoicing for All Children effective September 1, 2020

[Announcement: ELRC-20 #11](#)

Updates to Child Care Works & subsidy payments

The ELRC will be generating Adverse Actions that were temporarily on hold due to COVID19 to families beginning 8/18/20 through 8/25/20.

**Child Care Works Payment for Child Care Providers Closed
Due to a Positive COVID-19 Case**
[Announcement: ELRC-20 #10](#)



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Other CCW updates

The ELRC has a very short waiting list at this time. Please encourage families who think they may be eligible to apply.

The ELRC is awaiting information from OCDEL regarding concerns for school-aged children needing care while attending virtual learning as parents/caretakers are at work. At this time, final decisions have not been made.



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Certification Announcements:

Interim Guidance for Certified Child Care Facilities operating during the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic

[Announcement: C-20-06 Revised](#)
Effective July 8, 2020

[Announcement: C-20-08](#)
Effective July 10, 2020

Updates for Keystone STARS

The updated 2020 Keystone STARS Performance Standards went into effect on August 1, 2020. Here are some of the updates that were made:

- Improve the readability of the STARS quality indicators through adding bullet points and wording changes
- Further clarify the intent behind the STARS quality indicators by including additional information to certain indicators
- Provide greater detail as to how quality indicators can be applied to specific provider types such as school age child care, group child care homes, and family child care homes
- Provide thoughtful questions for self-assessment by providers and to guide discussions between programs and their quality coach
- Further define Professional Development (PD) Registry participation requirements (SQ 2.2)

- Further clarify the role of PD Plans in a program's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Plan (SQ 3.4.1)
- Integrate the PA Early Childhood Education (ECE) Career Pathway into the staff qualifications quality indicator (SQ 3.4.2)
- Provide clear definitions of commonly used terms through the addition of a Glossary of Terms (page 7)
- Retract previously defined timelines for implementing higher staff qualifications by removing the previous Appendix A
- Provide Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education (PA ECE) Career Pathway for easy reference (page 39)

The COVID-19 epidemic has required temporary changes be made to the role an external Program Quality Assessment (PQA) has in the Keystone STARS Performance Standards.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following changes have been made for the 20/21 Fiscal Year:

- Replace “self-assessment” with the term “internal assessment”
- Remove PQA minimum threshold scores for STAR 3 and 4 programs
- Integrate a program’s Child Care Facility COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan into CQI activities (EC 2.1 and EC 3.4.5)
- Transition from the use of a formal external PQA to an Internal Assessment Process that will guide programs in their CQI activities (EC 3.4.5)
- Provide programs the opportunity to consult with a Program Quality Assessor at the completion of their internal assessment process (EC 3.4.6)

A more detailed crosswalk between the 2018 Keystone STARS Performance Standards and this current version has been developed and is available for discussion with your quality coach.

Fiscal updates

CARES Act Payments for providers are being processed by the ELRC per OCDEL's Directive.

The ELRC's new Fiscal Year 2020/2021 began on 7/1/20.

Subsidy Invoicing and Payments continue as usual.

For September 2020 Invoices (due by 10/5/20):

Providers **MUST** mark absences accurately, including month-long absences for children who have not yet returned to care.

Marking "No Change" for all children may result in the ELRC requesting additional information which could then result in a delay to processing payment.

Resource and Referral updates

The Resource and Referral unit is available to support families as they:

- Apply for Child Care Works (CCW, subsidized child care)
- Request subsidized childcare services in partnership with the County Assistance Office
- Search to locate a high-quality early learning program
- Navigate other community resources as needed

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Temporary Child Care Assistance

The ELRC is working to launch a program designed to temporarily assist families experiencing immediate crisis who would not qualify for subsidized child care services.

Possible examples:

- Respite care for older caretakers (over 62 years of age)
- Single parents who are unable to work due to a temporary disability
- Parent/caretakers that need care while attending a treatment or therapy program
- Parent/caretakers who are unable to work due to mental health illness
- Families who are experiencing homelessness and do not qualify for CCW
- Families experiencing a recent traumatic event
- Families experiencing grief and loss due to a death within their immediate family

Temporary Child Care Assistance

- The ELRC is working to finalize eligibility criteria for the TCCA program
- The ELRC has drafted the TCCA Application
- The ELRC is working to develop a network of TCCA providers
- Providers must be willing to accept the terms & conditions of funding

LLC Subcommittees: Updates

- Knowledge, Networking & Advocating
- Early Intervention & Behavioral Health
- Early Learning Partnerships
 - Building collaborations amongst Infant Toddler Contracted Slots, Early Head Start, Pre-K Counts, and Head Start
- ECE Quality Staffing – Hosting job fairs and other supports for ECE programs
- Alternative Funding Sources & Services – Developing the TCCA program

Supporting Programs and Engaging Families during a Pandemic

What successes and challenges have you experienced with your staff?

What successes and challenges have you experienced with the families that you serve?

What supports does your agency need?

Would ECE programs like the ELRC to host a Provider Forum?

What defines Quality Service during a pandemic?

Questions?

**Next Local Leadership Council
meeting will be held on:**

**Wednesday, October 21st
1 - 3 pm**



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