



OKLAHOMA  
Human Services

VOL. 8

# CHILD CARE SERVICES

March 2022

## STABILIZATION GRANT UPDATES

The third cycle of the stabilization grants has closed. We are still processing applications and our finance department is continuing to issue payments. You can expect payment up to four weeks after your approval date. Please continue to read the monthly newsletter and check your emails (check your spam folders) for communication from the Oklahoma Human Services Child Care Services Team.

You are able to check the status of your application on the grants website at <http://okdhs.org/childcaregrants>.

The fourth cycle of Stabilization Grants will  
open on April 1st.



The Child Care Services call center for grant support is now available.

The hours are Monday-Friday,  
9:00 am- 4:00 pm.

Phone #(405) 521-6177

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Thank you to all that completed the provider surveys last month. We had an overwhelming response. Please know that we read through each response. We value your input and its positive impact to our work.

**YOU!**

**In case you missed it, you can find the below information in the February 2022 newsletter.**



**-Updated CCS  
Directory  
by County**

**-Weather guidelines  
for programs**

**-Tax information  
- ECC Connect app  
updates**



# ***Subsidy Spotlight***

Child Care Subsidy in Adult and Family Services will spotlight information about subsidy contracts each month to help keep you informed! Remember to keep using our online handbook as a reference tool:  
[HTTPS://CHILD CAREHANDBOOK.OUCPM.ORG/](https://childcarehandbook.oucpm.org/)



## **March Spotlight-OIG Audits:**

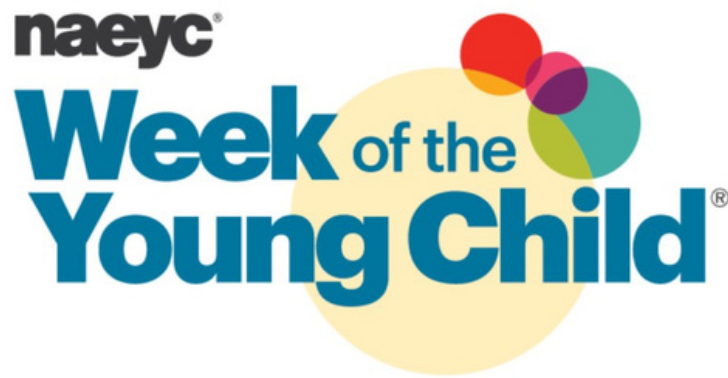


The Office of Inspector General audits of a Child Care Program may be at random or to investigate allegations. Please remember you and your staff must cooperate with OIG staff if your program is selected for audit or investigation.

For a list of major violations to avoid, please click here: <https://adobe.ly/3u2lOOp>

MORE INFORMATION ON AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS  
CAN BE FOUND IN OUR HANDBOOK AT:  
[HTTPS://CHILD CAREHANDBOOK.OUCPM.ORG/SECTION-1/](https://childcarehandbook.oucpm.org/section-1/)

CONTRACT QUESTIONS?  
EMAIL: [CHILD CARECONTRACTS@OKDHS.ORG](mailto:childcarecontracts@okdhs.org)



April 2-8, 2022

**WOYC celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. We want to celebrate YOU and the amazing work you do during this time. OKDHS Child Care Services will be allotting each program \$160 to spend online with Lakeshore Learning. You will be sent an email along with instructions on **April 1st** from **myepro@lakeshorelearning.com**.**

If you have questions or need assistance please call #855.827.5830 and reference ePro acct# 95060 or email [myepro@lakeshorelearning.com](mailto:myepro@lakeshorelearning.com).



# April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Thousands of Oklahoma children suffer abuse and neglect each year. According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, there were 14,466 substantiated child abuse and neglect victims in Oklahoma (SFY 2021). Oklahoma County alone had 2,713 confirmed cases.

Join others in Oklahoma by wearing blue; making a blue ribbon tree, and/or asking children to color a "happy day" picture.

Any organization (or person) can register at [www.fivedaysofaction.org](http://www.fivedaysofaction.org). Once registered, a toolkit is available with promotional materials, all free of use.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

**WEAR BLUE DAY**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1**



**#OKWearsBlue**



Additional ideas to show support can be found at:  
<https://bit.ly/ChildAbusePreventionMonth2022>

# Individualized Curriculum for *Joyful Learning*

An important quality practice that helps children achieve their greatest potential is to individualize the curriculum used in child care settings. When planning learning activities, consider the child's needs, age, ability, developmental stage, social-emotional development, special needs, and interests. Adapting curriculum should be based on careful observation, family input, and knowledge of each child. Adapting learning experiences for each child can allow them to engage in joyful learning!



## **Read Across America**

On Tuesday, April 12th, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries will be hosting their annual Read Across Oklahoma event to celebrate literacy and encourage reading in our youngest learners. This event for Pre-K through 2nd-grade students features Oklahoma author Dennis Mathew reading his book *My Wild First Day of School* and singing songs with the kids, as well as numerous activities and crafts for the children to enjoy.

To learn more visit <https://bit.ly/ELANewsletterRAA>





# **MOVING TO DIGITAL CLAIMS**

Beginning July 1, 2022, OKDHS will no longer accept manual claims by postal mail. In lieu of mail submissions, providers are to digitally send a PDF copy of the manual claim by email; whether an electronic copy of the file, picture, or scanned image. This procedural change enables the agency to process payment faster through automation and electronic submission. We recognize situations may arise and digital claims cannot be submitted. We honor those circumstances and are willing to accommodate those scenarios on a case by case basis.

**Any questions should be directed to  
[EBTCHILDCARE@okdhs.org](mailto:EBTCHILDCARE@okdhs.org)**

For more details see link below:

[HTTPS://ADOBE.LY/3CASRCU](https://adobe.ly/3CASRCU)



**QRIS**  
Quality Rating and  
Improvement System

## Quality Care for Every Child!

**Are you ready for some exciting news?** Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS) has been hard at work making enhancements to the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to support you in offering the highest quality in early childhood experiences! By participating in QRIS, you will receive tools and supports to help you continually improve the care and education you provide, raise the professional development level of your staff and increase your families' awareness of the importance of your quality practices.

### Quality programs deserve quality incentives!

We expect the updated QRIS to launch in summer 2022 with a host of incentives for programs who sign-up to participate!

- **Financial incentives:** Increase in subsidy rates with each star level, a learning manipulatives kit from Lakeshore Learning Company and thousands of dollars for each STAR level!
- **Business incentives:** Business consultants and quality coaches to help you define and reach your STAR and business goals, curriculum and lesson-planning support, alternate pathways to reach four and five star levels without national accreditation and a three-year paid contract for Bright Wheel software (for programs who qualify)!

### You don't want to miss this!

Watch for a future newsletter announcing the opening of the streamlined QRIS application process. Incentives await you at each of the three easy, online applications steps!



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