OKLAHOMA Human Services

VOL.10

CHILD CARE SERVICES

May 2022

STABILIZATION GRANTS UPDATE

Wrapping up Cycle 4

The application process for Cycle 4 of the Stabilization Grant has closed and our Grants Specialists are now reviewing applications. As our finance department works to process the payments, be sure to check your emails (and spam folder) for communication from the Oklahoma Human Services Child Care Services Team. You may also check the status of your application here: http://okdhs.org/childcaregrants



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



hot off the press!

QRIS Orientation Video

Just released is the newly created QRIS Orientation video. This training is intended for child care center directors and family child care home primary caregivers, but is available to anyone that would like more information about Oklahoma's Stars program. The recorded orientation is 23 minutes, has been approved as informal professional development, and is **now available on the CECPD website.**

This training will meet the requirement for child care center directors and family child care home primary caregivers to complete QRIS orientation prior to Star certification. Upon completion you will be able to print verification to provide to CECPD to add to your Oklahoma Professional Development Registry (OPDR) account or share with your DHS licensing and SOS staff.

The orientation provides a broad overview of the Stars program and includes:

- *The history of QRIS in Oklahoma;*
- *Reasons why quality care matters for children;*
- *A look at the structure and criteria of QRIS; and*
- *An introduction to resources that are available to help support child care programs that are committed to providing quality care for children.*

Link to the training video and Declaration of Completion form:

https://cecpd.org/en/resources/qris-video-training/

Scholars for Excellence

There have been exciting changes made to the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care program! In an effort to increase the number of master teachers available, effective immediately through June 2024, Child Care Services through the Scholars program will be funding 100% of tuition and books for personnel pursuing their CDA through Pathways at technology centers or Certificate of Mastery. During this time, for these two programs there is no wait time for participation! The other degrees and credentials offered through the program will stay at 90%.

SECC have been reaching out to programs. In the short time this has been available, there has been huge interest in this as it allows many individuals who previously could not afford the 10% to fully participate! Soon you will begin seeing media related to working in child care and becoming a master teacher.

Some additional changes recently made to the scholars program include:

- Head Start programs qualifying.
- Programs no longer have to participate in QRIS to qualify.
- The six month employment wait to qualify has been reduced to three months.



Link to a current list of all scholar coordinators and contact information. Please reach out to them!

https://adobe.ly/3wcjVRv

SUBSIDY SPOTLIGHT

ACCURATE ATTENDANCE RECORDS FOR ABSENT DAY PAYMENTS

With Covid initiatives in place through December 2022, it is important that parents swipe correctly in order to receive accurate payment for school aged children and avoid possible over-payments. As school aged children transition to summer break, children may be in your care for Full Time day payment more often.

Full Time attendance days recorded count towards eligible absent day payments; Part Time attendance days do not count towards absent day payments. If an incorrect Full Time attendance (more than 4 hours swiped in and out) is recorded and you receive an absent day payment in error, this causes a possibility of an overpayment. The child MUST attend the minimum number of 11 full-time days before OKDHS pays an absent day payment. When the child does not attend the minimum number of full-time days for that calendar month, OKDHS pays only for the days the child attended. Correct recorded attendance through swipes or the ECC Connect mobile app is important.

BOTH PARENTS AND PROVIDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE IN ENSURING SWIPES MATCH ATTENDANCE AND ARE RECORDED CORRECTLY FOR BOTH FULL TIME AND PART TIME ATTENDANCE PAYMENTS.



LINK FOR CHILD CARE HANDBOOK SECTION S: COVID-19 EMERGENCY SUBSIDY CHANGES FOR FULL INFORMATION:

https://childcarehandbook.oucpm.org/section-s/

Attention!



FREE COVID TESTS FOR SUMMER CAMPS & PROVIDERS!

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is providing **FREE** over-the-counter COVID test kits to summer camps (day and overnight) and any organization providing programming to K-12 aged children and youth this summer. This would include any kind of after school program, child care program, etc!

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is assisting by coordinating the orders to the CDC. All orders are due by June 21, 2022. Currently, the CDC has a good supply of tests and are encouraging child care programs and organizations to ask for what they need for the entire summer. Keep in mind each kit contains two tests, and the kits are not meant to be split between two people.

Once the order is submitted and approved, the tests will be shipped directly to the program/organization.

OSDH can order tests for summer camps/organizations through June 21, 2022. DO NOT DELAY, ORDER TODAY!

https://arcg.is/1jrWaX

Struggling with Transitions?

HELP IS HERE!



Whether a child is transitioning into your program, between activities, or to a new classroom or teacher, children spend the majority of their day in transitions. Transitions require a lot of effort from young children, not only physically, but also socially, emotionally, and cognitively. With all the skills children need, no wonder transitions can be challenging!

Transitions can be stressful, time consuming, and can spark challenging behaviors. Here are some things to consider:

- ***How many transitions occur during your day?***
- ***How can you support and prepare children for the transition?***
- ***How can you keep children engaged during the transition?***

Coaches will soon be offering training on how to plan, prepare, evaluate and implement successful transitions in daily activities, changes in caregivers or classrooms, and moving to a new program or school.

To enroll in the course visit: https://okregistry.org/v7/trainings/search

Resources:

https://bit.ly/naeycAug2019 https://bit.ly/supportingtransitions
https://bit.ly/Earlychildhoodtransitions https://bit.ly/understandingtransitionstips

For more information on coaching or to contact the Coach in your area email Vikki.Dobbins@okdhs.org.

OK Shared Services

OK Shared Services is your one-stop, online platform for all things early care and education. From policies, forms, regulations, to classroom templates and discounts, this site will save you time, reduce costs & improve quality! Access to the site is FREE for all licensed child care programs in Oklahoma.

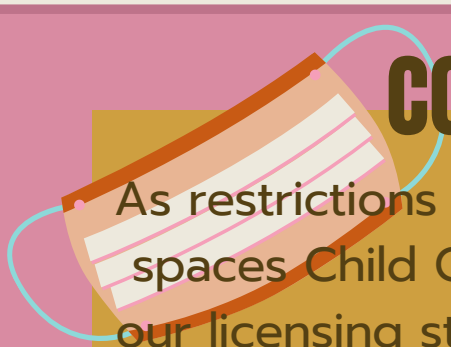
One of the many cost saving programs available to program staff is **DOCs BY PHONE / TELEMEDICINE.**

For Employers:
For Telemedicine services, a group rate of $8 per month, per employee. (Including spouses and dependents)

For Individuals:
Individuals can purchase this on their own for $10 per month.
(Retail cost is $29.99 a month)

Sign up today and start saving time and money!

www.oksharedservices.org



COVID-19 & Masks

As restrictions and requirements are lifted in many spaces Child Care Services is no longer requiring our licensing staff to wear a mask. If your program would feel more comfortable with our staff wearing a mask in your program simply let our staff know.