OKLAHOMA Human Services

Vol.18

CHILD CARE SERVICES

January 2023

The Stars Program

QRIS Quality Rating and Improvement System

WOW... we've all made it through the QRIS re-launch period! In this new year, we look forward to our statewide partnerships among Child Care Services, child care programs, coaches, Scholars, CECPD, Warmline, OPSR, R&Rs, OPEL, tech centers, colleges, and all groups and individuals committed to ensuring quality care for every Oklahoma child! We hope this year will be one of learning and growing together toward our common goals.

Speaking of common goals, remember we want to ensure all programs are successful. Therefore, the Star monitoring reviews throughout 2023 will be discussion visits only, any criteria violations will not be documented. This will allow you time to learn and properly implement the Stars criteria. Full monitoring is expected to resume in January 2024. However, please be aware that the last 24 months of licensing monitoring reports will continue to be reviewed and numerous, repeated or serious non-compliances with minimum licensing requirements will be documented and may result in stars reduction.

If you did not get your Stars application or request for certification submitted during the re-application period, you can still submit a request for a higher Star level at any time. Please note your request may not be processed or reviewed until March 1, 2023. This will allow us time to finish processing all requests received during the re-application period.

Here is the link to apply and submit your request:
https://bit.ly/OKDHSChildCareServicesQRISApplicationPortal

REMEMBER!

QRIS Lakeshore® voucher funds expire January 31st, 2023. Email cshepard@lakeshorelearning.com if you have questions or go to https://eproservices.lakeshorelearning.com/login to to spend your voucher.

GRANT UPDATES
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The Quality & Stabilization Grant

WHAT: Cycles 7 - 9 Quality & Stabilization Grant
WHEN: Cycle 7 opened Jan 1 and closes Jan 31st
WHY: Quality & Stabilization Support
WHO: **ALL PROVIDERS!**

New Star Level % Increase
One Star 0%
Two Star 100%
Three Star 125%
Four Star 150%
Five Star 175%

Additional Information

Cycles 7-9 offers a doubled payment amount and an **additional percentage increase** based on the program's new star rating on January 1, 2023.

Examples:

- *A Five Star Home with a capacity of 7 will receive the doubled base amount of $6,000 + 175% increase = $16,500.*
- *A Five Star Center with a capacity of 50 will receive the doubled base amount of $22,000 + 175% increase = $60,500.*

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 Workforce debit cards will be mailed directly to the child care employee in envelopes like this

The Workforce Support Grant

WHAT: Cycle 3 Bonus Payment for Child Care Staff
WHEN: Cycle 3 January 1, 2023 & Cycle 4 April 1, 2023 **(Last Cycle)**
WHY: Child Care Staff Retention & Recruitment Support
WHO: Child care employees working in a permitted or licensed program

Additional Information

Please remember that staff only qualify for one $1,000 bonus.

All staff MUST have a registry ID to receive the bonus payment. OKDHS will be working with the CECPD to make sure payments go directly to the child care staff. All the required qualifications and information will be listed on the OKDHS grants website.

Step 1- CECPD emailed a spreadsheet with instructions to programs that qualified for the Workforce Support Grant incentive to collect information on your staff. If you did not receive your spreadsheet please contact CECPD.

Step 2-Go to the OKDHS Child Care grants website and complete the workforce grant application.

Got questions? Call our dedicated
Grant Support Child Care Services Call Center
Monday-Friday, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm
Phone #(405) 521-6177
ChildCareGrantsHelp@okdhs.org

Exceptional Needs Grants



WHAT: Exceptional Needs Grants
WHEN: Launched August 10, 2022 - open through July 2024 **(or when funds deplete)**
WHY: Promote the economic and social well-being of special needs children and families
WHO: For providers who currently serve or are looking to expand and serve exceptional needs children.

Additional Information
The exceptional needs grant is specifically designed for providers who are looking to expand their services to be able to serve exceptional needs children, as well as for providers who currently serve this population who are looking to expand their programs.

It will consist of a single facility application and an open window to submit proposals for approval. Once approved and purchases are made, they will be able to upload receipts to their approved plans in order to seek reimbursement.

Exceptional Needs Grants Application Video: https://youtu.be/DEjovvjU-hU

Child Care Desert Grants



WHAT: Desert Grants
WHEN: Launched August 10, 2022 - open through July 2023 **(or when funds deplete)**
WHY: Increase accessibility to quality child care in identified child care desert counties.
WHO: New programs and existing programs in identified desert counties.

Additional Information

There are two options:
1) New programs wishing to start a CCC or FCCH/LFCCH in desert areas or
2) Existing programs currently serving children that would like to expand their capacity in the identified counties.

An example of this would be a FCCH provider that meets LFCCH qualifications or a child care center that has the space to increase their capacity. Per federal guidelines, funding may not be used for purchase of land, structures or major renovations.

- To learn more about the specifications such as what is consider 'major renovations' please visit: https://bit.ly/ChildCareDesertFAQs

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TRAINING

Virtual & In-Person Options!

Courses will be Virtual via Microsoft Teams or In-Person at Bethany Children's Hospital, located at 6800 NW 39th Expy, Bethany, OK 73008

Required for Virtual Training: car seat, video-capable device, & email for Teams link.

JANUARY (In Person)
Saturday, January 25
8:00am - 2:00pm

FEBRUARY (Virtual)
Saturday, February 25
8:00am - 2:00pm

MARCH (Virtual)
Wednesday, March 29
8:00am - 2:00pm



APRIL (In Person)
Saturday, April 29
9:00am - 3:00pm

MAY (Virtual)
Wednesday, May 17
8:00am - 2:00pm

JUNE (virtual)
Saturday, June 17
9:00am - 3:00pm

For registration info, visit the QR code below, or the link. You can also call the University of Oklahoma Records and Registration at (405) 325-6808.

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

https://events.oucpm.org/safekids/

The following are required for virtual training:
car seat | video-capable device | email for Teams

This training opportunity is offered by Safe Kids Oklahoma in partnership with Oklahoma DHS Child Care Services.
For information on class content, visit www.safekidsok.org or call Safe Kids Oklahoma at (405) 945-6709.
Cost: $15 (must be paid at time of registration)

SAFE KIDS OKLAHOMA

Led by bethany children's HEALTH CENTER

OKLAHOMA Human Services

Subsidy Spotlight

1099 Tax Forms

Child Care Subsidy payment 1099 tax forms will soon be available to download on the Provider Web https://bit.ly/connectebt. You will also receive one by mail from Conduent.

For questions about your Child Care Subsidy payments 1099, contact Conduent at: 1-866-528-1127. These 1099s are separate from 1099s you may receive from DHS grant payments. For questions about the DHS grant 1099s, please contact: DHS1099@okdhs.org

Scholarship Opportunity

Starting January 2023 the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care scholarship is providing 50 scholarships for assistant directors or directors of child care facilities to apply for the National Administrators Credential (NAC) administered by NECPA.

The scholarship will cover 100% of the 40 clock hour online course for the NAC credential ($620) and upon attainment a $200 stipend to the child care staff member. Please contact the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care program for an application and more information at: scholars_for_excellence@osrhe.edu



https://bit.ly/2023ProviderPaymentCalendar

NEWS TODAY

for The Certified Healthy Oklahoma

Submit Applications:

Change your environment, change your health! Does your employer, church, school, favorite restaurant or childcare center provide healthier options for you? Ask them to become Certified Healthy.
Applications for the Certified Healthy Oklahoma program must be received by close of business on February 10, 2023 to be considered. Learn More: https://bit.ly/EarlyChildhoodProgram



The scoop of the day

The latest updates to get you through the day:

GO NAPSACC is now Available!

The Oklahoma Go NAPSACC focuses on seven modules: Nutrition, Physical Activity, Farm to ECE, Breastfeeding, Screen time, Outdoor and Indoor physical activity, and Oral Health.

GO NAPSACC (Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care) is an online tool to assist childcare providers with coordinating best practices and is one of the QRIS health and safety criteria options for 4- and 5-star childcare centers. GO NAPSACC meets the State standards while cultivating healthy habits among children in daily activities.

To be considered, please complete the registration by clicking the link: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/004503b6b7fb4e459ab9235d741bf922

Childcare participants that participate in this program will receive FREE:

- Access to unlimited online resources; policies, food menus, daily activities, educational materials, and trainings
- Environment support items upon completion of the initial assessment, goals and objectives of your action plan, and there-assessment (see attachment for complete list of items)
- Technical assistance from the Certified Healthy Oklahoma team to help you every step of the way (It is estimated that the childcare facility will spend approximately 1-2 hours per month to complete the formal process for this project).

Businesses, Schools, Congregations, and Restaurants
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