OKLAHOMA
Human Services

VOL.24

CHILD CARE SERVICES

July 2023

COVID RELIEF FUNDING UPDATES

CHILD CARE *Services*

CHILD CARE SUPPORTS







Ending September 30th, 2023

100% covered copays (Beginning October 1st, 2023 50% of copays will be covered.)
Kith Care
Free child care for essential workers (Except for child care employees.)

Continuing through September 30th, 2024

$5 per day added to the subsidy rate
Additional absent days
50% covered copays
Free child care for Child Care employees

Additional funded supports

Child Care Desert Grant (closed)
Workforce Bonus (closed)
Workforce Campaign (completed)
Exceptional Needs Grant (closed)
Technology Grant/Support for ECC Connect (coming soon)

GRANTS UPDATES

The Quality & Stabilization Grant

WHAT: Cycle 9 Quality & Stabilization Grant
the LAST cycle
WHEN: Opened July 1st and closes July 31st.
WHY: Quality & Stabilization Support
WHO: ALL PROVIDERS!

Additional Information

Cycles 9 continues to offer a doubled payment amount and an additional percentage increase based on the program's new star rating on January 1, 2023.

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

DON'T DELAY - THIS IS THE LAST CYCLE!

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



QRIS

MASTER TEACHERS



The level of quality found in child care largely depends on the knowledge and skills of the adults who work with children. All children are ready to learn from birth and what caregivers do or do not do can help or hinder a child's success in life. Caregivers need to understand child development and implement developmentally appropriate practices so they can meet children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical needs. Classrooms and children benefit when teachers understand and use Early Learning Guidelines, including lower behavior guidance problems and increased school-readiness.

Master Teacher Qualifications:

- A current Oklahoma Professional Development Ladder (OPDL) certificate of Level 4 or higher
- Completed training in Oklahoma's Early Learning Guidelines (ELG); however, new master teachers or probationary master teachers hired or assuming the responsibilities after certification are trained within 90-calendar days
- Employment on-site, full-time; however, out-of-school time master teachers are on-site at least 50 percent of weekly-operating hours.

2, 3, 4, 5 Star Master Teacher Responsibilities:

- Direct care of children
- Supporting other teaching personnel and program management with:
  - planning and implementing lesson plans
  - classroom arrangement & planning
  - implementing family communication and engagement
  - providing program development and evaluation feedback.

Master Teacher Learning and Development:

3, 4 & 5 Star:

- Master Teachers (or other program personnel trained in Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines (ELG)) review lesson plans, including ensuring that ELG standards are identified on each plan.

4 & 5 Star:

- Master Teacher and other teaching personnel evaluate lesson plans for effectiveness after implementation.



Resources links:

- https://bit.ly/MasterTeacherRatios
- https://bit.ly/EducationOptionsforMT
- https://www.okhighered.org/scholars/

Subsidy Spotlight

Audits and Investigations

The DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts child care audits. Audits are held to make sure providers have been correctly paid by DHS, that proper documentation of attendance is on file at a facility, Access Oklahoma EBT cards and the ECC Connect App are used properly, and all terms of the contract are maintained.

You may or may not be notified ahead of time that you are going to be audited or investigated. You and your staff must cooperate with OIG staff if your facility is selected for an audit or investigation.

When OIG employees arrive at your facility to conduct an audit, they will notify you of the nature of the audit and the process that will be followed. You must fully cooperate with OIG staff if your facility is involved in an audit or risk having your contract canceled.

You can find more information about audits and investigations in our Handbook at: https://childcarehandbook.oucpm.org/section-h/

New Scholars Database Launches on August 14, 2023!

- Starting August 4, 2023 the Scholars program will no longer be accepting paper applications.
- August 4 - 13th they will "go dark" and will not be accepting any applications. During this time they will be working to transfer the data from the current database to the new database.
- After August 14, 2023 any child care provider or family child care home provider that is interested in applying for a scholarship can either:
  - Log into their OPDR record and navigate to the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care application or
  - log into the Scholars database by going to https://www.scholars.okhighered.org and use their OPDR log in and password. This link will not be live until August 14, 2023.

Preparing Children for Change

With back to school right around the corner, now is a great time to think about transitions and preparing children for change. Planning children for transitions helps reduce challenging behaviors and sets them up for success in their new environment.

Often, welcoming new children into your program starts well before the child's first day. Communicating with families early on, can set a tone for a positive child care experience. Creating "All About Me" books or posters is one way to get to know a new child and their family.

Preparing children for a new classroom or teacher takes planning. Communication between current and new teachers, having the new teacher meet the child in their current classroom, gradually introducing the child to the new environment are some ways to set the child up for success.

As children prepare to go to school, they may be experiencing many emotions. Reading books about school, talking about school, or showing children pictures of their new school are a few ways to prepare them. Social and emotional books, such as The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn, may help smooth the transition to school. The Book Nook provides examples of activities that can be used while reading The Kissing Hand.

Coaches are available to support child care providers who would like assistance in improving quality practices. For more information on coaching email ccs.coaches@okdhs.org.



Resources:
CECPD Transitions: https://bit.ly/Transitions-CECPD
Book Nook: https://bit.ly/BookNookTheKIssingHand
Request a coach https://bit.ly/QRIScoach

¡Ahora en español!

The Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD) and Oklahoma Child Care Services has been working to make more courses available in the Spanish language with the most recent addition being the Pyramid Birth-5 course and the Pyramid Overview, Building Positive Social emotional skills for All Children: Introducing the Pyramid Model Framework.

The courses are available on the Oklahoma portal at www.prosolutionstraining.com/cecpd and on our regular Oklahoma Professional Development Registry menu https://okregistry.org/v7/trainings/search.

The Spanish courses will display when the customer has indicated Spanish as their language preference or they may list the Spanish enter the Spanish language title. As always, the Pyramid Model are provided as free training! We look forward to providing additional Spanish language training courses in the near future!



Searchable course titles:

Course	Title
109962	Pirámide del nacimiento a los cinco años - módulo 1
109963	Pirámide del nacimiento a los cinco años - módulo 2
109964	Pirámide - módulo 3
109982	Desarrollo de habilidades socioemocionales positivas para todos los niños: Introducción del marco del modelo de la pirámide