Provider Webinar 2023 Q&A

Q: Where can providers report vacancies.
A: Here is the link to the provider vacancy survey:  https://tinyurl.com/childvacancy

Q: Do you know what the VPK wrap rate will be for 23-24 VPK year?
A: VPK wrap rate for 23-24 will be determined once the budget is signed by the Governor

Q: If any VPK children fall under the 80% attendance will the remainder of the funding, go? Will they have a balance? Are they removed from VPK? How would the money be handled?
A: Is it 11 or 12 students per instructor for VPK.
For the summer VPK instructors can have 12 students. During the school year 11 students per instructor.

Q: Do we have to do cost of care survey?
A: All providers that are in the system must complete the survey.

Q: We have some employees that have completed some of the classes that promise stipends upon completion, but they have not been reimbursed. Who do they contact?
A: Payments are in the process of being sent out now Please reach out to Finance if you have questions.

Q: If any VPK children fall under the 80% attendance requirement will the remaining of their fund leave? Will they have a balance to owe? Are they removed from VPK? How would the money be handled?
A: EFS will reconcile the 80/20 attendance monthly based on each child’s attendance to absence ratio for that month based on hours not days. For example, if a child exceeds the allowable 20% absences for the month of September, EFS will create an adjustment to back out payment for that portion of absences that causes the child to exceed 20% for that month. At the end of the provider’s program, EFS will look at each child’s attendance to absence ratio across the class’s VPK program. If the child’s attendance to absence ratio complies with the 80/20 requirement, the provider will be reimbursed for any absences deducted during the monthly attendance reconciliation process.

Q: Will providers receive two rounds of ARPA 2 or just 1.
A: Round 2 of ARPA was a onetime payment.
Q: Where is the ARPA 3 application?
A: Currently there is no ARPA 3, Only ARPA 1 & 2.

Q: Will there be any more ARPA funding offered?
A: Not at this current time.

Q: So this only applies to staff hired on or after 7/1/22? Not existing staff?
A: Building a World Class Workforce Grant funding is for all Early Learning Educators/Directors. There are three overall funding opportunities.
Recruit- For all staff hired on/after July 01, 2022. VPK/SR contract not required.
Upskill- For Early Learning Educators/Directors of contracted providers.
Retain- For Early Learning Educators/Directors of contracted providers. New and tenured Early Learning Educators/Directors will be eligible for this funding. Regardless of the number of trainings completed under upskilling, ELEs may qualify for a tiered longevity stipend ranging from $100 - $1,000 based on tenure

Q: Does this money got to the school or the staff for “Building A World Class Workforce”? 
A: All payments are issued to the staff directly through Direct Deposit. Please advise staff that they will be required to enter their direct deposit information as they complete their Early Learning Educator Participation Form.

Q: If staff has already completed these CLASS training, can they take them again or get credit for past classes?
A: Any previous training would be subject to the same criteria as the new employee. Acceptable courses are those taken on/after July 01, 2022.

Q: Health and Safety Bonus- Could you repeat the two requirements? We have to have the DCF Health and Safety Part 1 complete and what is the second requirement?
A: Hired on/after July 01, 2022 & ongoing up to 120 verifiable work hours
   New Educator/Director Bonus $500
   Eligibility Requirement:
   • VPK/SR contract NOT required
   • Complete Background Screening
   • Completed 120 hours of Employment
   Health and Safety Bonus $700
   Eligibility Requirements:
   • VPK/SR Contract NOT Required
• Hired on/after July 01, 2022
• Completion Date after July 01, 2022 (including competency exams)
• Must submit DCF Transcript

Q: When is the deadline to complete these classes and get paid for “Building A World Class Workforce”?
A: All trainings and documentation proof must be submitted before 06/15/2023. The final day for all payments are 06/30/2023.

Q: The first aid has to be done Before 7/01/2022?
A: To be reimbursed for the recruitment bonuses, First Aid training should be completed on/after July 01, 2022.

Q: So if you got a 5 or above, keeps us from getting the Upskill bonus?
A: If you are a provider with a CLASS Composite score of 5 below and you wish to participate in the Child Success Grant the Early Learning Director can NOT participate in the Upskill Director bonus.

Q: Are bonus payments going directly to employees or through the W9 and direct deposit of the school/center?
A: All payments are issued to the staff directly through Direct Deposit. Please advise staff that they will be required to enter their direct deposit information as they complete their Early Learning Educator Participation Form.

Q: This applies to Home Daycare as well
A: Yes, including Home Daycare.

Q: How does it work with the employees uploading their own W9? Do they each create their own account through the ELC website? Does the provider upload one for each employee on our account?
A: Early Learning Educators/Directors will need to complete the “Staff Participation Form” by visiting our website. They can also use the link below to register.

https://elcbigbend.webauthor.com/go/frx_provider_staff/

Q: Can teachers retake the health and safety course to be eligible for bonus? How do teachers sign up for CLASS courses?
A: The recruitment bonuses are specific to staff that was hired on/after July 01, 2022. The course requirement is for staff that took the course after that date. Retakes are not permitted.
Teachers can sign up for CLASS bonuses by visiting our website or by following the link below:

https://elcbigbend.webauthor.com/go/frx_sign_up_for_class_training/default.cfm

Q: so, considering there’s not a new Health & Safety Course provided by DCF, would the suggestion be to take the HSN course as a refresher after July 1, 2022. Are there other options for HSN or is it strictly the DCF course under PART 1 of the requirements?

A: The recruitment bonus is specifically for new Early Learning Educators/Directors hired on/after July 01, 2022. Therefore, the Health & Safety training will be part of the Childcare Facility Training Part I. The requirement is for the DCF first 40 hours that are required for preservice.

Q: Where can teachers obtain CPR & First Aid Certification.

A: ELC offers First Aid and CPR Certifications please register online ELCBigbend.org.

Q: If the end of the school year is May 25. When should we start with assessment 3?

A: 30 days before the last day of school.

Q: Will ELC be offering CLASS in person classes again?

A: Some classes are being offered in person. Please contact resources@elcbigbend.org.

Q: Are there any ceu’s or points given for going to the conference?

A: 0.55 ceu’s

Q: Is there a handbook that details each of the areas for Building a world Class Workforce? Something we could refer to - to help clarify.

A: Please visit our website for more information regarding the Build a World Class Workforce Grant Opportunities. As we have updates and resources, we add them to our website.

Q: Does all staff qualify such as kitchen staff and drivers or only education staff?

A: Only early learning education staff such as teachers, subs, teacher’s assistants, and directors.