Early Care and Education Partners Weekly Update Webinar

Reuniones Web Semanales para Socios de Educación y Cuidado Temprano

September 2, 2020
Important Dates

### Board of Directors Meeting
- Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- [https://zoom.us/j/94313303566](https://zoom.us/j/94313303566)

### VPK Flex Assurances
- Due by September 17, 2020

### Provider Services Committee Meeting
- Thursday, September 24, 2020
- [https://zoom.us/j/96812047506](https://zoom.us/j/96812047506)
Provider Representatives

- Ms. Loreen Chant
  - President/CEO of Easter Seals South Florida

- Ms. Jennifer Roig
  - President/Founder of the Roig Academy

- Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez
  - Executive Director of Centro Mater Child Care Services
What’s New?

¿Qué hay de nuevo?
Join our Facebook Group for Early Learning Partners

Únase a nuestro grupo de Facebook para Compañeros de Aprendizaje Temprano

https://www.facebook.com/groups/EarlyLearningPartners/
∙ Visit the Provider’s Corner page on our website

∙ Visite la página de la Esquina del Proveedor en nuestro sitio web

∙ https://www.elcmdm.org/providers/providers-corner
CareerSource South Florida (CSSF) announces the COVID-19 Layoff Aversion Fund, which is designed to provide support to small businesses and/or community based organizations (CBOs) within Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, facing financial impacts and potential layoffs from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The fund will provide grants to small businesses and/or CBOs experiencing economic distress. The goals of the fund are to prevent potential layoffs or minimize the duration of unemployment resulting from layoffs due COVID-19.

**How can it help me?**

- Purchasing remote access equipment or software that allows employees to work from home (e.g. computers, printers, telephones, headsets, video conferencing software, etc.).
- Paying for services or tools for restaurants or retail establishments to convert to online sales or delivery during Shelter in Place orders.
- Purchasing cleaning/sanitation supplies and/or services that will allow an essential small business to maintain an on-site workforce by reducing exposure to COVID-19.
- Supporting businesses and/or CBOs that take advantage of the Short-Time Compensation Program also known as Work Sharing by supplementing the employee’s income and benefits.
- Other creative approaches and strategies to reduce or eliminate the need for layoffs.
How much money is available to help my business and/or CBOs?

Eligible businesses and/or CBOs may receive up to $10,000.00 in COVID-19 Layoff Aversion Fund grant funds. CSSF will utilize the following scale to award grants:

- 3–10 employees up to $5,000.00
- 11–25 employees up to $7,500.00
- 26–50 employees up to $10,000.00

Payment is provided to your business to reimburse for cost.

How do I know if I am eligible and how do I apply?

Please see our CSSF COVID-19 Layoff Aversion Fund Policy for eligibility requirements at: http://www.careersourcesfl.com/layoffaversion

Apply through your local chamber as shown below. Applications will be processed within three business days of receipt. Upon approval and receipt of signed agreement, payment will be processed.

Submit your application for a COVID-19 Layoff Aversion Fund grant through your local chamber. Select an entity from the list below to be directed to the application.

- Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce: http://www.careersourcesfl.com/layoffaversion_KWCC/
- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce: http://www.careersourcesfl.com/layoffaversion_GMiamiCC/
- Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce: http://www.careersourcesfl.com/layoffaversion_GMCC/

About CareerSource South Florida
CareerSource South Florida is a public-private partnership that establishes state and federally funded workforce development and training policies for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. CareerSource South Florida’s services and resources are available to everyone at no cost through a network of centers located throughout the region.
Virtual Children First Conference 2020

Register at: http://trainings.elcmdm.org/
Tri-County Webinar - Phase 1 (VPK Flex)

- Date
  - Friday, September 4, 2020,
  - 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Registration URL

  https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6626651436826412304


**VPK Flexible Innovative Options (VPK Flex)**

- **Goals**
  - To allow VPK parents to have the same choice as the K-12 district plan and to allow parents to rejoin the workforce.
  - Structure safeguards that will encourage and shift families to in-person learning.

- **Participation Requirements**
  - Miami-Dade and Monroe public schools and private VPK providers may deliver their VPK program *consistent* with their school district’s approved K-12 reopening plan. Miami-Dade and Monroe’s District Flex plans have been approved.
  - Must be in good standing with the Statewide VPK Provider Contract, have NO Class 1 violations within the past two years and not have a contract with the ELC terminated for cause within the past five years.

- **Assurances**
  - Assurances available now!
  - **REMINDER** – You cannot start VPK Flex until your program has been approved.
Class Size and Classrooms
- A VPK class must be composed of at least **four** children enrolled in the VPK program.
- Face-to-face, VPK Flex, Blended

Program Hours
- VPK Flex is approved until December 31, 2020 and shall **not** exceed a total of 270 hours.

Providers on Probation
- Providers on Probation must continue to implement their approved improvement plan.

Questions/Concerns
- VPKTeam@elcmdm.org
Purpose

The purpose of this document is to support private providers and early learning coalitions (ELCs) in the development, submission and approval of the private provider’s plan for delivering the VPK School Year Program, if opting to use a flexible, innovative delivery option. This is an added feature to in-person instruction, but not a replacement. This option is available through December 31, 2020 for private providers that meet the requirements below.

The following assurances and additional information must be completed and submitted (through EFS Mod) to OEL and the ELC for review and approval.

I. ASSURANCES AND VPK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The VPK provider, and the ELC where appropriate, agree to the following assurances. The provider will describe how each of these assurances will be met.

Assurance 1: The provider and ELC will ensure that flexibility proposed for the fall 2020 VPK School Year Program is consistent with the district’s 2020-21 Optional Innovative Reopening Plan approved by the Department of Education.

Assurance 2: The provider will ensure that participating students will have equal access to the learning and any required materials, including technology.
Assurance 3: The provider will ensure that the 2020-21 School Year program delivers the required 540 hours of instruction by qualified staff (s. 1002.55, F.S.) including daily contact with the enrolled student and their family. The portion of the VPK program implemented through a flexible, innovative model shall not exceed a total of 270 hours. The provider must ensure there is space available to allow students attending the flexible, innovative program in fall 2020 to return to the face-to-face delivery model for the remainder of the school year program.

Assurance 4: The provider will maintain the ability to track daily attendance of both students and staff. (s.1002.71, F.S. and 6M-8.305, F.A.C.)

Assurance 5: The ELC will ensure that tools used in the innovative option are aligned with VPK standards and are developmentally appropriate. (s. 1002.67, F.S) (Describe the tools to be used and upload examples of instructional plans under Documents in the VPK Flex Application folder.)
Assurances

- Assurance 6: The provider will monitor the student’s performance towards meeting the VPK standards using the VPK Assessment. (s. 1002.67, F.S)

- Assurance 7: The provider will ensure that the assigned instructor is appropriately trained and knowledgeable of how the selected system works. (Describe the qualifications and training of the staff.)

- Assurance 8: The provider will ensure that parents are reminded of the opportunity to withdraw and transfer to another VPK program if they choose to do so. (Describe how families will be notified.)

- Assurance 9: The provider will ensure the systems in use are secure and will not allow for the release of protected student or staff information. (s. 1002.72, F.S.) (Describe the technical requirements of the system to be used.)

- Assurance 10: The provider will ensure that the ELC and OEL staff will be provided access to the innovative learning program implementation for monitoring purposes.
Payments

Update on Attendance Processing, Recording of Absences and Parent Co-Payments

- **For School Readiness**, attendance rules for SR children resumed effective September 1, 2020. This means the 10 day absence limit will apply and absences after the first three in a month will require documentation.


- **For VPK**, absences would need to be recorded with an “A” as usual. The 80/20 calculations/adjustments or deductions resumed effective September 1, 2020.
Under the School Readiness Program, the Child enrollment schedule with Care Level and assigned Unit of care drives the Attendance.

For School-Aged Children, we have three different type of enrollment schedules each automatically following the Public School Districts Calendars:

- **1-** Child attends one provider for After School Care and School Breaks & Holidays.
  
  *Child Enrollment Schedule* = Monday – Friday = PT and FT for Breaks & Holidays

- **2-** Child attends a provider for After School Care Only.
  
  *Child Enrollment Schedule* = Monday – Friday = PT

- **3-** Child attends a provider for School Breaks & Holiday Only.
  
  *Child Enrollment Schedule* = FT for School Breaks & Holidays Only
School Readiness providers offering **Full-Time** services for School-Aged children not attending brick and mortar schools, will be reimbursed at the approved **Full-Time** School-Aged rate. Parents will be responsible for the **part-time** parent copayment (DEO EO-20-06).

- After School Care providers under **child enrollment Schedules** scenarios 1 and 2 have the functionality to change the **Unit of Care** from **Part Time (PT)** to **Full Time (FT)** before submitting attendance.
Payments
Reimbursement and Attendance Processing for School-Aged Children During COVID-19

Providers under child enrollment Schedule scenario 3 do NOT have the functionality to alter or change the Child enrollment Schedule. Therefore, a transfer request will need to be completed by the parents and submitted to the Coalition’s Transfer Unit.

For instance, if the school-aged child is currently enrolled with MDCPS for after school care, and the district is going virtual learning for the first quarter, the parents have the option to transfer the child to a private provider that is open. If the transfer is processed the child will get enroll with the private provider for after school care (which is PT) and we will be able to reimburse the provider FT during the COVID-19 epidemic. The provider would just need to change the unit of care from PT to FT prior to submitting attendance.
SR20-2, Clause 61:

61. Reconciliation. PROVIDER agrees that, if the reconciliation of services and payments reveals that PROVIDER received payments in excess of the amount owed to PROVIDER, COALITION will offset the overpayment against the final payment owed to PROVIDER for the program year and any future payments issued to PROVIDER for early learning programs.

If PROVIDER ceases to offer early learning programs before the repayment is fully offset, PROVIDER agrees to return the funds. If PROVIDER fails to return the funds it was overpaid, PROVIDER will be subject to collection efforts.

To help ease the financial burden that a repayment plan will create during this most difficult time, we have taken the following steps:

To further alleviate the financial burden on your program during this difficult time, the repayments/withholding of future partial payments will not begin until January 2021. As required by the Department of Education, we will continue to meet with owners/directors to review reconciliation reports, make adjustments as necessary, and execute repayment/withholding of future payment agreements.

As mentioned above, a 10% across the board provider rate increase was approved retroactive to February 1, 2020. Your new provider pay rate amount goes into effect in August 2020 for the July service period. To view the new rate schedule, click here. To help offset the preliminary overpayment amount and to lessen the amount to be withheld from future reimbursements to your program, the retroactive pay rate increase from February to June will be applied toward the total overpayment amount due. Your rate increase will start with the July service period.

School Readiness Families

- Waive required parent School Readiness copayments regardless of income until Aug 31st
- Provide flexibility for eligibility for School Readiness child care (i.e., job search) waiver until Sept 30th for initial eligibility and redetermining families
- Reduced 20 hours per week requirement to meet initial purpose for care for initial and redetermining families until Sept 30th
- Response to first responder/health worker referrals for child care scholarship within 3 days (over 3,125 children enrolled)
Citrus Family Care Network contracted with FL DCF

- Reminder for providers to report all absences of children identified as “at risk” on a daily basis via At Risk Child Unexcused Absence Report
- Providers are encouraged to complete a Transition Checklist prior to the transfer of “at risk” child from one setting to another with copy to case manager, CPI or Prevention provider as applicable.
Should you have any questions for Eligibility staff, please send inquiries to info@elcmdm.org
Familias participando en el programa del Cuidado Infantil de Preparacion Escolar (School Readiness)

- Agosto 31, 2020 es el ultimo día para la excepción de los padres pagar su co-pago. Proveedor debe cobrar el copago a partir de Septiembre 1, 2020.

- Extensión para el uso de búsqueda de empleo para los padres aplicando a cuidado infantil hasta Septiembre 30, 2020

- Eliminar requisito de 20 horas de trabajo semanal minimo, para recibir preparación escolar inicial o redeterminando hasta Septiembre 30, 2020

- Responder en 3 días a los refereridos de socorristas/trabajadores de salud para becas de cuidado infantil (mas de 3,125 niños inscritos en este programa)
Citrus Family Care Network contracted with FL DCF

- Recordatorio para que los proveedores reporten todas las ausencias de niños identificados como "en riesgo" a diario en el Informe de Ausencia Injustificada de Niños en Riesgo
- Se alienta a los proveedores a completar una Lista de verificación de transición antes de la transferencia de niños "en riesgo" de un entorno a otro con copia a administrador de casos, administrador de casos de servicio de protección o proveedor de prevención según corresponda
Si tiene alguna pregunta para el personal de elegibilidad, envíe consultas a info@elcmdm.org
Questions & Answers
Preguntas & Respuestas