

Early Care and Education Provider's Meeting - July, 2020

Questions and Answers

Professional Development Institute

Where can I request the certificates for courses taken online and have not received certificates of CEUs?

Please call the Professional Development Institute (PDI) at 305-646-7220, ext. 2350 or 2511. Or send an email to professionaldevelopment@elcmdm.org -- in the Subject write: Certificates. PDI is working with our Web Developer to make changes and adjustments to the PDI Website to make the access to certificates easier for all participants. In the weekly PDI Newsletter (sent to all on Fridays), we have added the CEUs to each training and a step-by-step on how to download certificates. A webinar on how to access certificates is currently being developed and will be posted to the PDI calendar. Reminder: Trainings that are not offered directly from PDI are not certificate-bearing.

When was the start day for the FCCPC? What is required to start it?

The current FCCPC trainings began on Monday, July 20. Reminder, these FCCPC trainings are for renewal of existing credentials that are expiring between 6 months and 1 year from now. Applicants were required to submit: (1) Proof of an active Infant and child First Aid and CPR Certificate based on the date the application was received, (2) Copy of the Birth Through Five FCCPC certificate (formerly know as CDEA) that is being renewed, and (3) Proof of individual membership in a national, state or local early childhood professional organization.

Sometimes we can't download the surveys on the website. What should we do?

Any time you have difficulty with downloading the Gains Surveys contact your trainer and the PDI Department at 305-646-7220, ext. 2350 or 2511. Or send an email to professionaldevelopment@elcmdm.org. In the Subject write: Gains Survey, name of the training and date.

What is the process to request subscription to teaching strategies?

For Teaching Strategies Gold Subscriptions, send an email to: professionaldevelopment@elcmdm.org In the Subject add: GOLD Subscription and the Provider Name. In the email include: (1) Provider Name (2) Provider Street Address (3) Provider DCF License Number (4) Provider ID (5) Site Administrator (designated person in charge of the subscription) (6) Site Administrator's email address (7) Site Administrator's phone number. For MyTeachstone Subscriptions, send an email to: professionaldevelopment@elcmdm.org In the "Subject" add: MyTeachstone. In the email tell us the name of teachers and their personal email address.

I have sent request for PDI free subscriptions via email and phone call and haven't gotten a reply.

Please call the PDI Department at 305-646-7220, ext. 2350 or 2511 for any questions regarding free subscriptions. In the response to the previous question we outline the steps to take by sending PDI an email.

Missing six evaluations, but unable to download them. What should I do? Can the evaluation be downloaded directly from the website?

Yes, you can download your evaluations and gains surveys from the PDI Website. If you need help, please call the PDI Department at 305-646-7220, ext. 2350 or 2511.

What about the mini grants for teacher? We never receives that the deadline was June 23 and we sent on June 30th.

Several Early Learning Coalition Provider News Blasts were sent to Providers with information related to the PD Teacher/Staff Member Stipends. The deadlines were communicated there. Providers were invited to multiple Step-by-Step guidance sessions, in English and Spanish, where deadlines were stated throughout.

I have a question on why are teachers denied the mini grants?

Please call Ana Sejeck with the PDI Department at 305-646-7220, ext. 2511 for any questions regarding the PD Teacher Stipends.

Reconciliation

We are concerned about the overpayments email we recently got. Why would you guys offer that help to take it right back?

We understand that receiving this news, at the worst time possible, is going to create a hardship for all providers. Unfortunately, we have an obligation to our federal funders to commence the collections process at this time. However, we will be working with providers to reach a payment plan that will hopefully help alleviate some of the burden. Please email ProviderRecon@elcmdm.org or call 305-359-5551 to discuss your options.

Please update us on the Reconciliation and Repayment. When should we expect to receive that email of our reconciliation?

If you have not received a letter, you should be receiving your letter/report by the end of August. If you were underpaid and have received a letter, your payment will be processed as soon as you accept the amount calculated.

The reconciliation notice that went out is this for 2018-2019?

The reconciliation completed is for the 18-19 Fiscal Year.

What if you have not received a reconciliation report?

If you have not received a letter/report yet, you should be receiving one by the end of August.

Who do we contact to request the full breakdown of the reconciliation report?

Please email ProviderRecon@elcmdm.org or call 305-359-5551 to request your full report.

We sent a discrepancy email to the reconciliation department last week, but have not heard back from them. Are the responses taking longer than a week?

The organization as a whole is adjusting to this new collections process. We are currently experiencing some workflow issues as we train staff to assist providers inquiring about their reconciliation. Please excuse any delays in our responses. We aim to answer all communications within 24 hours of receipt.

Will everyone get a reconciliation letter regardless or are you only sending letters for providers that owe?

Providers who were overpaid or underpaid will be receiving a letter. If you would like to inquire about the status of your letter, please email ProviderRecon@elcmdm.org or call 305-359-5551.

Communications

Will you send the power point after the meeting is finished?

Click [here](#) to download this presentation

Contracts

I thought that the contract date for the Early Learning Coalition was set at September 8th?

Each provider's start date will vary depending on the date it was approved. For VPK, the earliest start date is August 24, 2020 and for School Readiness, the earliest start date is July 1, 2020. You can view your start date in the OEL Portal's Manage Contracts page, or you can contact your Contract Manager for more details. Click [here](#) for the Contract Manager's information.

Quality Initiatives

We are a new school, with School Readiness and VPK contracts; however we are still in the process for the Gold Seal Accreditation and we have not had any CLASS assessment. Is there any CARES help for us?

If you received your School Readiness or VPK contract after April 30th, you would need to have Gold Seal or CLASS Composite score of 3.5 or higher to qualify. As of right now there are no additional grants for programs that do not meet the eligibility criteria.

Will there be another phase for schools opening after August 1, 2020?

The Office of Early Learning has indicated that there may be Phase III funding available at a future date. We will provide additional information once a decision has been made.

Will there be any funds for schools that couldn't open or tried to open and did not qualify for the cares?

As of right now there are no additional grants for programs that do not meet the eligibility criteria.

Who can we contact for CARES questions?

Questions related to CARES Act Grant can be sent to: QualityInitiatives@elcmdm.org

When will we get paid for Cares Act Funding?

Payments are made within 15 business days of grant approval.

Does a National Cognia Accreditation qualify for Gold Seal for cares funding?

The National Cognia is an accreditation body. Gold Seal is a separate certificate.

If we only have VPK, and we are open after April 30, it is required to have CLASS score to receive the grant?

Yes, if you opened after April 30th you must have Gold Seal or CLASS Composite score of 3.5 or higher to qualify.

We received materials through quality initiatives, is there a way to receive personal devices for children? At least a few tablets for schools to see who doesn't have one, and be able to do a loan out program.

The Early Learning Coalition is working with community partners to identify resources that may be available to provide some tablets to children in high need neighborhoods.

Our Center is not Gold Seal nor we have the CLASS score program, would we still be eligible for any of the CARES grant?

No, not at this moment.

Have you started doing the class assessments?

No we have not. Due to the pandemic and the Executive Orders we are not allowed to begin assessments.

Inclusion/Assessment

Is Early Steps doing face to face evaluations? I have a student who was scheduled for an appointment right around the one quarantine was mandated, I reached out to Early Steps and was told they are not currently conducting evaluations. Is there a contact number?

Evaluations are being rescheduled to fit the current service delivery precautions. A family who is pending evaluation should continue to call to check availability.

Charelis Santana,

Family Resource Specialist for the Southernmost Coast Local Early Steps Program

Benchmark Human Services

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In regards to the shadow/therapist, I read in the new normal guidelines that in order for the therapist to be inside the classroom, they must only work exclusively with that child and no others outside of the facility?

Pages 70-71 of the New Normal guidelines state that *"One-on-one support professional and their employing agency must attest that he/she works exclusively with the child being served in the program. He/she is not providing service to other children"*. I interpret this to mean any other child in the program.

Are the ASQs required for all the children receiving funds for the first responder grant?

ASQ-3s are required for children receiving funds for the first responder grant.

Eligibility

I received emails stating recently of terminations of services, are those terminations accurate?

Please refer to your SR certificates for last day of service.

Is OEL giving additional extensions after August 15, 2020?

If you are referring to eligibility extensions for existing SR families, no additional extensions have been released by the Office of Early Learning.

Children are being approved by the Early Learning Coalition but they are being placed on waiting list. How long is the waiting list taking?

We are selecting SR families that are eligible every other week.

Why are some of the children being terminated due to absences while they know that it's because of COVID-19 that they are absent?

We are not terminating any School Readiness families during COVID-19. If a parent is requesting a temporary suspension of services, they can. However the form requires provider approval. Please provide an example and send it to info@elcmdm.org.

Is there any way to make the expiration date on the certificate match the portal? It is very confusing having to go back and fourth for 50/60 students.

We can share feedback with the Office of Early Learning.

Will the first responder funds continue?

The funding will remain in place as long as the emergency order is in place.

It is my understanding the families in the First Responder program may REDE for additional services after the 3 months are up, can you please explain this and the process?

Yes, they are eligible to reapply by submitting a new BG1-ESS referral for another 90 days. They can also rollover to BG8 funding but their income will be counted.

How do First Responder parents reapply?

Yes, they are eligible to reapply by submitting a new BG1-ESS referral for another 90 days to info@elcmdm.org.

When does the First Responder need to reapply if the program ending date is September, 15, 2020?

Parent must resubmit a new application 30 days prior to last day of service.

What happens if I have a child from the First Responders grant in my list that was never in the school and he is not even a preschooler?

The decision to keep a child enrolled is really up to the provider. A provider can withdraw a child for non attendance.

I have children who is receiving the First Responder assistance & will be moving on to public school for kindergarten . If they receive the extension - Do we provide a transfer for them if they will no longer be attending the center?

If a child is authorized for care and is moving to public school during that 90 day period, yes, the parent needs to provide a transfer. Send to transfers@elcmdm.org

Do we need to notify anyone if our First Responder children will no longer need services?

Yes, withdraw the child so we can terminate. Parent should call or email us directly. Send an email to info@elcmdm.org to terminate services.

We were told we couldn't have any First Responders, because we don't have School Readiness?

Correct. In order to accept First Responder/Healthcare Worker children, you must have an executed School Readiness contract.

What about if a First Responder child leaves the center?

If the child leaves the center to another center, parent must submit a transfer form to transfers@elcmdm.org. However if they no longer wish to continue, the Early Learning Coalition needs to be notified to terminate services. Providers can withdraw children from attendance.

For the First Responder second referral when do you need to submit a month in advance?

First Responder parents will need to submit 30 days prior to their last day of service.

The second referral for essential workers is basically sending the same application that was submitted the first time ?

Yes, it's the same referral form however with current signatures from employer - HR representative or immediate supervisor.

VPK

How many teachers can be in a VPK classroom?

For information on the Miami-Dade County requirement for 10 children in a group, please see the ELC News Alert at: <https://www.elcmdm.org/newsroom/news-updates/the-new-normal-summer-camps-and-early-learning-programs>

When will we know if the approval for virtual VPK implementations is known?

Virtual VPK has been preliminarily approved by the Office of Early Learning. The requirements and assurances are being finalized and additional information will be provided as soon as the plan is finalized.

New Normal Guidance

If we need to have 10 VPK students per room, that means the ratio is now 10 to one. We would need to add another VPK teacher if we have more students? Or one teacher with an aid in two rooms? How does that work then?

Yes, a separate class would have to be created.

Will a group larger than 10 for VPK be able to be divided into 2 groups where 1 lead is with one group, and the other with the aid?

Providers may split the class into two separate classes as long as both instructors meet the VPK lead instructor requirements.

Can the classroom be split with a 5-6 ft divider to serve two separate groups 10:1 each?

Response from the Department of Children & Families Child Care Licensing Office:

Per child care rule - Child Care Facility Handbook, it defines: "Stable walls or barriers" refer to the boundaries that define a classroom space.

- Walls or barriers must be constructed in a sturdy manner and anchored together, or to the floor or walls.
- Walls or barriers must be stable and secure and must not pose a threat to falling over.
- The material for the barriers or walls must be non-hazardous and may not be made of materials such as see-thru or plastic curtains, fabric or mesh materials.
- The stable walls or barriers must be a minimum of 32 inches in height from the floor in classrooms for children ages birth through 2, and must be a minimum of four (4) feet in height from the floor in classrooms for children ages 3 years and older.
- All classrooms must continue to meet fire code requirements for entrance(s) and exit(s) of the classroom.
- The Fire Marshall must also inspect and approve of the barrier. Right now the Fire Marshall is not doing inspections for child care centers.
- The 10 children plus staff is in the Executive Order of the Mayor and they will determine if the barrier will meet their require of 10 children and 1 staff in a room with barriers.

Want to confirm if the face mask is mandatory to wear for the children from 2 to 4 yrs?

Please refer to the Miami-Dade County “New Normal” document for guidelines on face coverings. You can find the document at: <https://www.elcmdm.org/newsroom/news-updates/the-new-normal-summer-camps-and-early-learning-programs>

Does the 10 include the teacher?

No, the 10 does not include the teacher. There is a maximum of 10 children allowed per group.

Have you heard if the group size has been changed from 10 since one VPK teacher can have 11 kids?

In Miami-Dade County, the maximum number of children allowed in a group is 10, as outlined in the Mayor’s Executive order.

Will there be some flexibility for the 4 student minimum requirement? Its very hard to meet this requirement due to COVID.

According to the Department of Education, the requirement for at least four children to begin a VPK class remains in effect. As of this date, there are no changes to the VPK Program, all the regular requirements are still in place.

Please guide us to where it says 10 children and 1-2 teachers. Everywhere on the county regulations it clearly states group size of 10 or fewer. No more than 10. I can’t find where it separates children and teachers. I am going by emergency order 07-20 that states “Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 10 or fewer (inclusive of childcare providers for the group)”

For information on the Miami-Dade County requirement for 10 children in a group, please see the ELC News Alert at: <https://www.elcmdm.org/newsroom/news-updates/the-new-normal-summer-camps-and-early-learning-programs>

Payments

Are payments be the same regardless of attendance for VPK?

The coalition will continue to pay providers for COVID-19 related absences until August 31, 2020. However, providers must submit attendance with recorded absences as usual.

If we are open to assist School Readiness kids with full day care to do virtual learning from MDCPS will we get paid the full time rate or just part time?

If the child is currently enrolled in your center for “after School care service”, the answer is Yes. Otherwise, the child would need to be transferred to center.

In the last Early Learning Coalition email it was stated that for VPK we will only get paid for children’s physical attendance but it isn’t clear will we only get paid for children attendance after they come 1 day and if they don’t come in at all will we be paid for this child because of COVID-19 and after they come in we will only be paid for the days they come?

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) will be providing guidance regarding the first part of this question. As to second part of the question, the coalition will continue to pay providers for COVID-19 related absences until August 31, 2020. However, providers must submit attendance with recorded absences as usual.

Will we continue to get paid for enrollment or attendance?

The coalition will continue to pay providers for COVID-19 related absences until August 31, 2020. However, provider must submit attendance with recorded absences as usual.

I have children that are absent because they have gone to the doctor and to get tested for COVID and have to wait for the results, how do we process those absences ?

Yes, the coalition will continue to pay providers for COVID-19 related absences through August 31, 2020. However, provider must submit attendance with recorded absences as usual.

My center is open, but at the beginning of the month we had to close for 2 weeks due to a student testing positive. My question is are we going to be paid?

Yes, the coalition will continue to pay providers for COVID-19 related closures and absences until August 31, 2020. Providers (whether open or closed) are still required to submit attendance as usual. However, if your center is open, you must submit attendance with recorded absences as usual.

It would be good if with each pay they put a memo of what that payment is, after one calls nobody knows where that money is from?

We are not sure what this question is about. However, if you would like to receive a breakdown of the dollars deposited into your bank account, please contact your Payment Specialist.

If you terminate the child's enrollment when we know the start date of school- will the COVID payments stop for the child on the term date?

Yes, payment for children enrolled in your program will stop upon termination date.

What days of the month is that survey available? For this month I did not complete it. I kept looking for it in the portal but it was not there. However it was available in the previous months?

We have not received any notification from Office of Early Learning regarding any upcoming surveys.

Do we have to submit a physical form of attendance or the online attendance stating that the absent is due to disaster COVID?

Providers are required to submit their attendance via the Office of Early Learning Provider Portal by the 3rd business day of the following month.

Will reimbursement rates be adjusted (increased) to accommodate for the small class sizes we are required to adhere to? Many of our businesses can not survive with the current status?

Reimbursement rates have already been increased, 10% across the board for every child, in every care level. The Early Learning Coalition has awarded almost \$25 Million dollars in grants, a provider rate increase and materials and supplies as a means of offsetting the additional expenses incurred by providers this year.

Have we received payment for the First Responders?

Yes, we have been issuing bonus payments to providers since May, 2020.

The new provider rate increase is it for both Miami Dade and Monroe? it says Monroe effective 2/2020 but top header says Miami Dade and Monroe?

Yes, the School Readiness rate increase was approved for both counties. You can find the new rates at: <https://www.elcmdm.org/providers/provider-services/school-readiness-provider-contracts>

I was informed that there will be a School Readiness rate increase. How will it work or when will they be posted in order to make the changes in our contracts.

Yes, the School Readiness rate increase was approved for both counties. The rate increase is being implemented as of July 1, 2020 with retro adjustments to the effective date of February 1, 2020.

When can we expect to get the back pay for the rate increase for SR that was approved by the Early Learning Coalition Board of Directors?

We are working to get these out the end of August 2020.

How can we access our reimbursement reports? I've attempted many times on the portal and it comes back as an error.

The reimbursement reports can be accessed at the Office of Early Learning Provider Portal after the reimbursement period is closed. If you are receiving a system error, please email me at jhernandez@elcmdm.org.

We received the results of the reconciliation, and we were underpaid during that amount of period. When are we going to receive those funds from Early Learning Coalition?

Please email your inquiries for the reconciliation team to ProviderRecon@elcmdm.org.

For the VPK program, if they are absent due to COVID for two weeks how should we put it on the long form and sign in and out?

Please leave both forms blank for those days.

Regarding the VPK 80/20 attendance rule. How will this affect the families who are enrolled in VPK for the fall but are fearful to send the children to class? Will this be considered a normal absence or be classified as something different?

COVID-19 related absences will contribute to "hours paid," there will be no 80/20 calculations/adjustments or deductions during the effective period until August 31, 2020.