

Early Care and Education Provider's Meeting - May 27, 2020

Questions and Answers

Is the PowerPoint presentation available to download and view later?

You can download the presentation at: <https://bit.ly/2XX1OPwQ>.

How are teacher training stipends going to be paid?

The training stipends are \$75 per person, per course completed.

When will providers receive their bonus for serving first responder children?

The bonus payment will be included in the May reimbursements.

Are classroom ratios still 1:9. Does the class size ratio apply to VPK classes?

DCF has not changed their class size ratios. However, the March 19, 2020 order by Miami-Dade County Mayor Gimenez is still in effect and it mandates group sizes of 10 or less.

When they say summer camps without restrictions, does that apply to preschool summer camps as well?

The summer camp guidance applies to all summer camps, including preschool summer camps.

How can first responders apply?

First responder application can be found at: <https://www.elcmdm.org/newsroom/covid-19-updates> click on the **First Responder** tab.

Can I still apply to offer services to the first responders?

All providers that are currently open are eligible to receive First Responder Children. There is no application for Providers to complete. Parents applying for services must complete the application available at: <https://www.elcmdm.org/newsroom/covid-19-updates> .

Are teachers (first responders/ taking care of first responders) going to qualify for first responder grant? Exactly who is listed as a first responder?

At this time, teachers are not included in the list of First Responders. For the list of First Responders and Health Care workers follow this link <https://bit.ly/2AtZPcB>.

Where do we send the applications for First Responders grant?

The referral application for First Responders will need to be sent to info@elcmdm.org for review.

Does Broward County offer the First Responder Program?

Yes, this is a statewide program available for First Responders and Healthcare Workers.

I sent an application for first responder to info@elcmdm.org but was told to send it to the Broward Coalition?

Applications for First Responder and Healthcare Worker funding must be submitted to the coalition in the county in which the family resides.

What is the status of the reconciliation payments?

The reconciliation will be complete by June 3, 2020. Early Learning Coalition staff will contact each provider when complete.

To receive mini-grants must you have a School Readiness contract?

The stipends are from federal funding and are only for School Readiness programs.

Is the \$750 bonus for teachers completing online courses still valid? Where do I find more information including the application?

The stipends are available for those courses that are completed after March 1, 2020. Additional information is available at <https://www.elcmdm.org/providers/providers-corner>

Where are the online courses that pays a total of \$750 bonus to the teachers?

For the list of approved trainings, click here <https://bit.ly/2MSGCnw>

The Emergency Responders Grant is for 3 months, April, May and June...but for example, the cases that we received today are approved until August, which one is the expiration date then?

Funding for the First Responders/Healthcare Workers program is available until July 31, 2020.

Can you help us with Marketing for First Responders Program?

Emails, flyers and/or phone calls have been made to hospitals, police stations, city managers, clinics, etc. We also have a billboard advertising this program. When applications are approved a list of open early learning programs is given to the applicant.

The redeterminations have been extended up until July 15, 2020. Do we know until when they will be extended?

The redetermination was extended from May 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020.

What is the best number to call to get in touch with the Early Learning Coalition?

You can contact us at 305-646-7220 and a call center agent will assist you.

Can the Early Learning Coalition help with hygiene/safety supplies? Such as getting mask, gloves, etc?

The Early Learning Coalition is providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to all contracted programs. This includes gloves and masks. If you have not received it yet, you will in the next few weeks.

Is the Early Learning Coalition mailing these supplies (PPE) to every provider or do we need to request them?

You do not need to be open to receive PPEs, however we are focusing on open programs first. We do not currently have a date to deliver the next round of PPEs. Providers will be notified once the next distribution is scheduled.

Due to the low teacher child ratio, is there any discussion on raising the reimbursement rate for SR?

A provider rate increase has been approved, retroactive to February 1, 2020.

Can you share what the provider payment increase will be?

This is the link for the updated rate schedule <https://bit.ly/3dYbiQf>. The rates reflected are the new reimbursement rates.

Is the rate increase for VPK as well?

No, the rate increase only applies to School Readiness.

Are virtual Study Buddies sessions mandatory for centers on probation?

Virtual Study Buddies is not mandatory for centers on probation.

It is my understanding the total enrollment will be decreased due to smaller group sizes, will we be reimbursed?

Currently, providers are being reimbursed on the number of children enrolled in their program, not on actual attendance.

I have after school aged children attending full time will they change their fee from part time to full time?

Once Miami-Dade County Public Schools are no longer in session for distance learning, all school age children will be potentially eligible for full-time care based on the family's eligibility.

Teachers need to finish their CEUs by the end of June. Most teachers have already finished the minimum amount. Will these trainings go past that date?

For the Professional Development stipends, the courses must be completed by June 30, 2020 to qualify.

Are The Children's Trust parents still responsible for the \$70 co-pay?

Yes, parents of children receiving the Trust scholarship are responsible for paying the parent co-payment. For additional information please email thriveby5@thechildrenstrust.org.

Are masks a requirement for children 3-5 year olds while inside a childcare center?

Miami-Dade County guidelines state that children older than 2 years of age are expected to wear face coverings, unless engaged in strenuous activities. For more information on the guidelines visit: <https://www.miamidade.gov/information/library/new-normal.pdf>.

When are we going to be able to sign School Readiness contracts for 2020-2021?

An extension of the current Provider Contracts being discussed with the Office of Early Learning.

Are there any plans to help centers that have more private pay students?

At the state level, the Office of Early Learning is looking at ways to provide assistance for providers who serve children not participating in the School Readiness program.

Will we be able to adjust our rates if we already submitted our rate increase for new contract?

Yes, you may make an amendment to your contract.

Our center cannot open until Miami-Dade County Public Schools allows us to because we are inside their property. If that does not happen, until schools reopen, is there any chance we still receive School Readiness payments after June?

A decision has not been made on whether programs that remain closed will receive continued payment after June 30, 2020.

Can the Early Learning Coalition offer loans to provider in order to pay rent and utilities from the past month?

Unfortunately, the Early Learning Coalition cannot offer loans.

Does the rate increase of rate for School Readiness, have anything to do with what we charge our private clients?

The provider's market rate, what private clients are charged, was taken into consideration when the provider rate increase was calculated.

Will parents be paying co-payments?

Parent's Copay (parents' fees) are being automatically waived starting 4/1/2020. The Early Learning Coalition is reimbursing providers at 100% (without any deductions for parent's copays). During the waived period, providers are not be permitted to collect these fees from parents. However, parents would still be responsible to pay for the provider's rate differential.

If the parents qualify for School Readiness, how long does it take for them to be approved?

Parents are approved relatively quickly if all required supporting documentation is submitted with their initial application. Incomplete applications and those missing supporting documentation are delayed and take longer to approve.

How do you apply for School Readiness services?

Please visit <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com/> to apply for School Readiness services.

How should we deal with the ASQs for so many children that are not attending?

The requirement for the remaining child screenings/assessments or provider program assessments for the 2019-20 program year has been eliminated.

When are we going to know if we have been approved for the Thrive by 5 if we just applied last week?

Please email thriveby5@thechildrenstrust.org for information regarding your application.

If I submitted an exemption for the Quality improvement System (QIS) due to low SR last year, do I need to do it again?

Please email classinfo@elcmdm.org regarding your questions on CLASS.

When will the amounts for the QIS be paid? Are they combined with the regular School Readiness payments?

Please email us at classinfo@elcmdm.org to discuss your question regarding your tier and QIS participation.

With VPK contracts for 2019-2020 and considering the pandemic that started mid-year and lasted through the end of the school year, will children be tested once in kindergarten when classes resume for the next school year?

Awaiting guidance from the Office of Early Learning related to the testing of children in kindergarten. However, providers will not receive a readiness rate score for 2019-2020.