

OCDEL Early Head Start Child
Care Partnership
Request for Applications
Q & A

Thursday, March 2, 2023
11:00



History and Purpose:

- Head Start is a free preschool age program that was created in 1965, Early Head Start followed in 1995. Early Head Start is a research-based program that emphasizes the importance of responsive and caring relationships to support the optimal development of infants and toddlers.
- Early Head Start provides comprehensive family-centered services that adhere to the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS). Integrating Early Head Start comprehensive services and resources into the array of traditional childcare and family childcare settings creates new opportunities to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, and their families.
- The office of Head Start created the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHSCCP) grant in 2015.
- The intention of the grant is to increase access to high-quality, full-day, full-year childcare, for low-income working families or families who are in school or training.
- The EHS-CCP program brings together the strengths of childcare and EHS programs. Childcare centers and family childcare providers respond to the needs of working families by offering flexible and convenient full-day/full-year services.



Benefits of EHSCCP:

- The EHSCCP grant brings together the best of EHS and childcare through layering of funding maximizing resources, utilizing multiple funding streams.
 - Layer 1 Subsidy funds
 - Layer 2 EHS funds for program services directly to children
 - Layer 3 EHS funds provided to support staff working to provide EHS comprehensive services
- All infants and toddlers attending an EHSCCP program benefit from facilities and homes that are licensed and meet safety requirements.
- Non EHS children in classrooms with EHSCCP enrolled children also benefit from qualified teachers receiving ongoing supervision and coaching to support implementation of curriculum and responsive caregiving.
- EHSCCP children are eligible for direct family-specific benefits such as home visits, health tracking and follow-up, and individualized family support services.



EHSCCP Operating requirements:

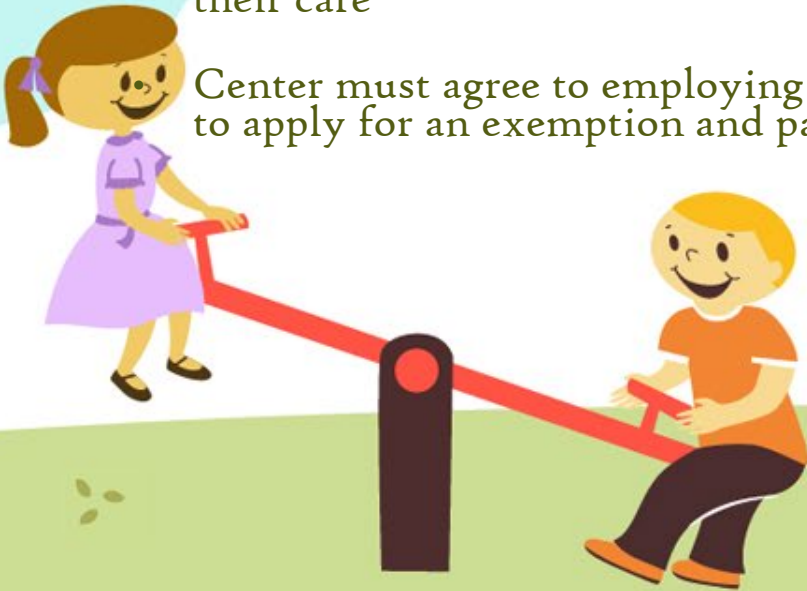
- STAR 3 or STAR 4 provider with current DHS license
- Full time, full year: Full time is a minimum of 10 hours of care per day, 12 months a year
- Ratio of 1:4, no matter the age of the children AND two qualified staff at all times, no matter the number of children. Group size is 8 children no matter the age. Maximum group size is 9 children no matter the age, which would require three staff.
- Implement a research-based curriculum, preferably the Creative Curriculum, and research-based assessment tool, preferably GOLD.
- Staff who are considered “unqualified” may cover brief bathroom breaks (of 5 minutes or less) and breaks during naptime. “Unqualified” staff must still have mandatory trainings.
- Completion of annual required trainings for ALL staff providing care in an EHS classroom, in addition to all other DHS and STARs required trainings
- Completion of two home-visits per year and two parent-teacher conferences per year for enrolled families
- Completion of developmental screenings and regular assessments of each EHS enrolled child
- A commitment to enrolling families with subsidy, and continuing enrollment in the event that the family loses subsidy, using subsidy replacement funds as available



EHSCCP Operating requirements:

- Waiving all associated fees for EHS families (Application fees, registration fees, etc.) with the exception of subsidy co-pays
- Completion of all required monitoring and reporting documents (fiscal and program) and contribution of non-federal share documentation.
- Participation in coaching with a designated OCDEL EHS coach
- Participation in regularly scheduled calls and meetings
- Participation in CACFP and provision of meals (or formula), diapers, and wipes to infants and toddlers during their care

Center must agree to employing staff who have a COVID vaccination as required by the HSPPS or are willing to apply for an exemption and participate in weekly testing.



Benefits to families:

- Access to high quality care
- Priority placement on subsidy waiting list if one exists
- Subsidy reimbursement for EHSCCP families is full-time, despite families' work schedule, to ensure continuity of care
- No subsidy redetermination until the child ages out of the program
- Support from Family Service Staff, Health Staff, and Mental Health Staff who assist in the collection of health screenings and health records as well as assist in referrals as needed.



Program delivery:

- Applicants should have the capacity to deliver comprehensive services that include:
 - Family and Community Engagement
 - Health
 - Mental Health
 - Disabilities
 - Child Development and Education
- If the applicant doesn't have the capacity to provide comprehensive services, a contract or an agreement would have to be established with a partner(s) who can.
- Specific information regarding expectations from the Office of Head Start can be found in the Head Start Program Performance Standards
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii>



Your turn.
What questions can we
answer for you?



Parting thoughts:

- The OCDEL EHSCCP grant is in Designated Renewal System status. Next year, when the full grant application is submitted, we will be competing with other entities for the slots and areas in which we currently provide services.
- Application reminders:
 - The application and scoring rubric can be found on the Pa Keys website. (add website link)
 - The due date for applications is close of business, 5:00 pm, March 20, 2023.
 - Technical or logistical questions can be directed to ehsteam@pakeys.org. We will not be able to answer specific questions related to the application itself.
 - Applications must be submitted to: ehsteam@pakeys.org . Applicants will not receive confirmation of their submission, nor any follow up for incomplete applications.
 - We will complete our review process by April 20, 2023. Applicants can anticipate communication within a week of this date.

