



OKLAHOMA
Human Services

Vol.15

CHILD CARE SERVICES

October 2022



**The Stars Program
Application period
ends November 30, 2022**

QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) officially relaunched on June 1st. As a reminder to be eligible for the Lakeshore and financial incentives you must complete the **Stars Request for Certification** prior to November 30, 2022.

We are encouraging **EVERY** provider in Oklahoma to apply!

NEED HELP?!



- Learn more:
<https://bit.ly/QRISIncentives>
- Call the hotline: (405) 521-6177 (M-F, 9-4)
- If you need assistance meeting the QRIS criteria, you may request a coach using this link:
<https://bit.ly/QRIScoach>

FIVE YEAR FINGERPRINT RECHECKS DUE



The time to begin 5 Year Reassessments has arrived. All staff members of Head Start and licensed child care center based programs, as well as all caregivers and adult household members of licensed family child care home programs are now required to submit a background check reassessment for individuals who have worked the last 5 years at the same child care program without a break in employment. This requirement also applies to all staff and personnel employed at facilities licensed as Residential Programs and Child Placing Agency Programs. The 5 year reassessments are required beginning November 1, 2022.

One of the requirements of the reassessment is to review the individual's federal criminal history. Because Oklahoma does not yet have federal RAP Back, new fingerprinting is required for each 5 year reassessment.

In addition, the Office of Background Investigations (OBI) has created a new provisional process for 5 year reassessments that require out-of-state information. Provisionals are only issued when out-of-state information is required for an individual who currently lives, or has lived, outside of Oklahoma in the previous 5 years. Contact OBI at OBICC@okdhs.org with any questions.

To help with the cost of reassessments, the cycle 6 Stabilization grant payment will be increased by 5%! Cycle 6 closes on October 31 so don't miss out on this opportunity!

Below are several documents that we hope will explain the reassessment processes and answer any questions. OBI will follow up with further information as needed.

- [https:// bit.ly/ 5YrReassessmentProcess10-3-22](https://bit.ly/5YrReassessmentProcess10-3-22)
- [https:// bit.ly/ ChildCareEmploymentFingerprintingInstructions8-25-2022](https://bit.ly/ChildCareEmploymentFingerprintingInstructions8-25-2022)
- [https:// bit.ly/ InformationonProvisionalProcess10-3-22](https://bit.ly/InformationonProvisionalProcess10-3-22)
- [https:// bit.ly/ 5YearReassessmentFAQs10-3-22](https://bit.ly/5YearReassessmentFAQs10-3-22)

The Stabilization Grant

WHAT: Cycle 6 Stabilization Grant

WHEN: October 1 - 31, 2022

WHY: Quality & Stabilization Support

WHO: **ALL PROVIDERS!**

REMEMBER!
For Cycle 6 **ONLY!!** To help with the cost of 5 year fingerprint reassessments, the cycle 6 Stabilization grant payment will be increased by 5%! So, that is double + 5%!

Additional Information

Like Cycle 5, Cycle 6 offers a **DOUBLE** payment! Not only will this provide continued stabilization support, it will promote quality programming for Oklahoma children.

All child care programs that were licensed after March 11, 2021 and have a subsidy contract with Oklahoma Human Services are eligible for a stabilization grant.

As our finance department works to process the payments, be sure to check your emails (and spam folder) for communication from the Oklahoma Human Services Child Care Services Team. You may also check the status of your application here: <http://okdhs.org/childcaregrants>

The Workforce checks will be mailed directly to the child care employee in envelopes like this

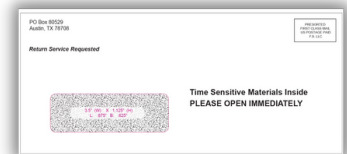
The Workforce Support Grant

WHAT: Cycle 2 Bonus Payment for Child Care Staff

WHEN: October 1 - 31, 2022

WHY: Child Care Staff Retention & Recruitment Support

WHO: Child care employees working in a permitted or licensed program



Additional Information

This grant will be open for four quarters to ensure programs are able to include staff working in their facility. All staff **MUST** have a registry ID to receive the bonus payment. OKDHS will be working with the CECPD to make sure payments go directly to the child care staff. All the required qualifications and information will be listed on the OKDHS grants website.

Please remember that staff only qualify for one \$1,000 bonus. If you submitted an employee's name in the first cycle, please do not submit that employee's name again.

CECPD will email easy-to-follow instructions to each Child Care Center and FCCH that qualifies for the Workforce Support Grant incentive to collect additional information on your staff. Please follow the instructions that will be included in the email. This is a 2-step process, programs must also complete the workforce grant application.

Exceptional Needs Grants



WHAT: Exceptional Needs Grants

WHEN: Launched August 10, 2022 - open through July 2024 (or when funds deplete)

WHY: Promote the economic and social well-being of special needs children and families

WHO: For providers who currently serve or are looking to expand and serve exceptional needs children.

Additional Information

The exceptional needs grant is specifically designed for providers who are looking to expand their services to be able to serve exceptional needs children, as well as for providers who currently serve this population who are looking to expand their programs.

It will consist of a single facility application and an open window to submit proposals for approval. Once approved and purchases are made, they will be able to upload receipts to their approved plans in order to seek reimbursement.

Exceptional Needs Grants Videos:

- Applying information - <https://youtu.be/DEjowvjU-hU>
- Uploading receipts after approvals & adding plans- <https://youtu.be/Hq0hrhsVT9>



Child Care Desert Grants



WHAT: Desert Grants

WHEN: Launched August 10, 2022 - open through July 2024 (or when funds deplete)

WHY: Increase accessibility to quality child care in identified child care desert counties.

WHO: New programs and existing programs in identified desert counties.

Additional Information

There have been new exciting developments with the Child Care Desert grant qualifications!!

There are two options:

- 1) New programs wishing to start a CCC or FCCH/LFCCH in desert areas or
- 2) Existing programs currently serving children that would like to expand their capacity in the identified counties.

An example of this would be a FCCH provider that meets LFCCH qualifications or a child care center that has the space to increase their capacity. Per federal guidelines, funding may not be used for purchase of land, structures or major renovations.

WHAT IS TOO SCARY FOR CHILDREN AT DIFFERENT AGES?

As Halloween approaches, Marilou Hyson, PhD, former associate executive director at NAEYC, talks about young children's fears. Much of Marilou's research and writing has focused on early childhood emotional development.

Each child is different, so it's difficult to give hard and fast rules about what may be overwhelming for all children at different ages. The most important thing a grownup can do is to know an individual child and watch for her reactions to potentially scary images and situations. Pay attention to what she seems very worried about, avoids, or talks about, which can be clues that something is scary. Parents are often surprised by what frightens their child.

Pretend play is children's main way of making sense of their world. Through play, children can master fears and difficult experiences by reinventing them in a playful way. If Halloween can be another opportunity for children to engage in well-supported pretend play, then it has the potential to support children's development.

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/whats-too-scary>



Subsidy Spotlight

**HAVE A SUBSIDY RELATED
QUESTION?
WHO TO CALL FOR
ASSISTANCE?**



We have a list of **Who To Contact** with information on what areas of subsidy they can assist you with! Use our online Handbook, Section K, Who to Contact: <https://childcarehandbook.oucpm.org/section-k/>

BEING PREPARED IS THE KEY

Emergencies can happen at any time of year, so being prepared is something that child care providers know is extremely important because they can save the lives of the children and staff that they have in their care. Child Care Licensing Requirements outlines what should be included in emergency plans, and there are numerous resources also available to assist you. Child Care licensing staff are available to review your plans and give suggestions. Many child care providers go a step further and also provide their families with information and resources to assist in keeping families safe at home. A good place to get additional resources is through Shared Services available through Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral. There is no cost to sign up, and you'll find lesson plans, parent resources, discounts on toys and materials, and templates to individualize with your own specific information.

To sign up for OK Shared Services, simply go to <https://www.oksharedservices.org> and click on the "Register" link in the lower right hand side of the page or at the top right hand corner. Fill out the short form on the page, and click "Submit Request." Complete the request form and submit. It take about 2 days to get a response back with a temporary password. If there is any question about your connection to child care in the state of Oklahoma, you will be contacted for additional information.

There are numerous trainings on the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development Center's statewide training calendar related to emergency preparation. Go to <https://okregistry.org/v7/trainings/search> and enter emergency prep under course title.

Enhancements

Wondering what enhancements are? Are you working on enhancements for your classroom but aren't sure where to start?

Enhancement activities are additional learning opportunities that are ongoing and conducted routinely throughout the year. Enhancement activities promote basic skills and encourage higher level thinking. These activities are documented on lesson plans and may be rotated based on the children's needs and interests.

Things to consider when planning enhancements:

- Make enhancements throughout the year.
- What routine schedule is it more suited for? Weekly, monthly, etc.
- When planning activities think of materials you will need to support the enhancement activity, ways you can help children learn new vocabulary, and open-ended questions you can use to encourage critical thinking skills.
- Remember to document all planned enhancements on your weekly lessons plans.

An example Enhancement: Cooking with Children

<https://adobe.ly/3CpAhJy>



Learn more about the many benefits of cooking with children:

- <https://families.naeyc.org/WOYC/children-learn-so-much-cooking>
- <https://practicaloutcomes.edu.au/2017/09/04/cooking-with-kids/>
- <https://rainydaymum.co.uk/stone-soup/>