

# CHILD CARE SERVICES

## Post Pandemic: Parent Access to Programs

During the nationally declared pandemic of the COVID-19 virus, Child Care Services allowed child care programs, both Family Child Care Homes and Center based programs, to limit access of parents to their child care facilities. This was an effort to reduce the exposure, risk, and spread of COVID-19 and its variants, and more importantly, to protect the health and safety of children in care and the employees of child care programs who continued to provide much needed services to families.

President Biden has now declared an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following along with the President's statement, Child Care Services will resume enforcing the licensing requirement that parents are allowed reasonable access to areas of child care facilities that are used by children.

This requirement can be found in Section 89.1(d) of Licensing Requirements for Family Child Care Homes and in Section 293(c) of Licensing Requirements for Child Care Programs.) Programs will need to begin making any necessary changes to current practices to meet these requirements. As always, programs are encouraged to seek guidance from the State Department of Health or from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding any communicable disease or health concern.



We want to ensure all programs are successful. Therefore, the Star monitoring reviews throughout 2023 will be discussion visits only! Criteria violations will not be documented. This will allow you time to learn and properly implement the Stars criteria. Full monitoring is expected to resume in January 2024.

However, the last 24 months of licensing monitoring will continue to be reviewed and numerous, repeated or serious non-compliances with minimum licensing requirements will be documented and may result in stars reduction.

UPDATES  
+ SOME  
EXCITING  
NEWS

We will be sending a ListServ message via email in the near future regarding all Child Care Pandemic supports. This message will include important dates and information for initiatives such as family copayments, free child care for essential workers / child care personnel, absent days, grants and more. If you do not currently receive our emails, send an email to [childcare.OCCS@okdhs.org](mailto:childcare.OCCS@okdhs.org) and request to be added.

*Thank you*



# GRANTS UPDATES

## The Quality & Stabilization Grant

WHAT: Cycles 7 - 9 Quality & Stabilization Grant  
WHEN: Cycle 8 opens April 1st and closes April 30  
WHY: Quality & Stabilization Support  
WHO: ALL PROVIDERS!

### New Star Level % Increase

One Star 0%  
Two Star 100%  
Three Star 125%  
Four Star 150%  
Five Star 175%

### **Additional Information**

Cycles 7-9 offers a doubled payment amount and an additional percentage increase based on the program's new star rating on January 1, 2023.

#### *Examples:*

- A Five Star Home with a capacity of 7 will receive the doubled base amount of \$6,000 + 175% increase = \$16,500.
- A Five Star Center with a capacity of 50 will receive the doubled base amount of \$22,000 + 175% increase = \$60,500.

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>

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## The Workforce Support Grant

WHAT: Bonus Payment for Child Care Staff  
WHEN: **LAST** CYCLE 4 opens April 1, 2023 (Staff qualify for only 1 bonus)  
WHY: Child Care Staff Retention & Recruitment Support  
WHO: Child care employees working in a permitted or licensed program

### **Home Address in the Registry Must be Current!**

Workforce debit cards are mailed to the HOME ADDRESS the participant has listed in their Oklahoma Registry individual account. Participants can update their HOME ADDRESS by logging into their Registry account and updating their Personal Information. If there is a statement in the account that says, READ ONLY, they should complete <https://bit.ly/CECPDParticipantUpdateForm> and email to [cecpd@ou.edu](mailto:cecpd@ou.edu).

Participants who are currently active on the Wage Supplement and/or Stipend program AND need to update their HOME ADDRESS must complete <https://bit.ly/IndividualSupplierRegistrationForm> and email [stipendandwage@ou.edu](mailto:stipendandwage@ou.edu)

Got questions? Call our dedicated  
Grant Support Child Care Services Call Center  
Monday-Friday, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm  
Phone #(405) 521-6177  
[ChildCareGrantsHelp@okdhs.org](mailto:ChildCareGrantsHelp@okdhs.org)



# Subsidy Spotlight

## RECORDING ATTENDANCE FOR SCHOOL AGE

### CHILDREN WHO ATTEND PART-TIME

As you are aware, OKDHS is currently reimbursing providers at a full-time rate for school-age children even when they only attend part-time (four hours or less per day).

**To ensure accurate payment and avoid overpayments, Child Care Providers have the option of either:**

- 1) requiring parents complete a single “in” swipe, or**
- 2) requiring parents complete four swipes (to capture each arrival and departure time to and from school) per day on those days that part-time before and after school care is needed.**

Children who attend school full-time should never be swiped in all day while they are at school (one “in” swipe and one “out” swipe). Although OKDHS is currently reimbursing part time attendance with full time pay as part of our COVID initiatives, these part-time days do not count towards the minimum number of days required for absent day payments. Thus, it is imperative the swiping rules above be followed to ensure you don't incur an overpayment which must be paid back. For further clarification, please review your child care handbook Section C.



Avoid overpayments by verifying the swipe accuracy on the Provider Web:  
<https://bit.ly/connectebt>

For more information, see our online handbook:  
<https://childcarehandbook.oucpm.org/>

Dear Providers,

Spring is right around the corner, and with it comes the excitement of renewal! In this season, Child Care Services is also incredibly excited about the renewal of our Child Care Locator and all the ways this new tool can help support families and your programs.

Oklahoma Human Services has been working to modernize the agency, its processes and services with new technologies to better serve our customers, providers and workforce. The old Child Care Locator was definitively not modern, and lacked functionality to fully paint the picture of the quality work your programs do in the community.

Our new Child Care Locator is much more user-friendly and has a whole host of features to better serve Oklahoma's families and meet federal requirements:

- Advanced search and mapping tools allow users to find child care programs within a certain radius of desired locations. This functionality will even map programs that exist along a route if families are searching for a child care program between their home and work locations, for example.
- New monitoring visit summaries show the entirety of compliance checks instead of only items that are out-of-compliance.
  - **This new functionality is a federal requirement**, but it also better demonstrates the depth and breadth of your program's compliance with health and safety standards rather than only focusing on areas of non-compliance. The new monitoring checklist shows families the many ways you are working to keep their child safe and healthy in a quality learning environment!
- A refreshed look and feel makes the Child Care Locator look as modern as its new functionality.

Like the previous Child Care Locator, this one still offers search filters like facility type, Star level and subsidy acceptance, to name a few, along with details about your program like capacity, hours and program features.

Future updates to this new Child Care Locator will also include a provider portal, so stay tuned for more exciting information about enhanced functionality!

Thank you for the work you do every day to provide safe, quality early childhood learning environments for Oklahoma's families! We are excited for the many ways this new Child Care Locator will highlight your important work and improve the accuracy and ease for families searching for your programs.

Happy spring,

*Brittany Lee*

Brittany Lee  
Director of Child Care Services





# OKLAHOMA WARMLINE

The Oklahoma Warmline is a program for families, child care providers, and other caregivers where callers can receive consultation and support around the difficult job of caring for and nurturing infants, toddlers, and school-aged children birth to 13 as they grow and develop.

Trained Consultants are available to help you by phone Monday through Friday from 8am to 6pm. A team of consultants trained in child health, child development, and behavioral health are here to take your calls, help to generate ideas and solutions for the challenges you face daily as you are caring for kids, to offer support, and to help you find additional resources and referrals if you are needing them.

Click on the link to go straight to the website, or use the QR code on the flyer and take advantage of the services that the Oklahoma Warmline can offer you.



For parents, caregivers  
and child care providers

**<https://okwarmline.org>**  
**[warmline@health.ok.gov](mailto:warmline@health.ok.gov)**

**Telephone Consultations M-F, 8am - 6pm**  
**<https://bit.ly/WarmLineFlyer>**



# Pyramid Model Peer Learning Communities

Oklahoma Clearinghouse  
for EARLY CHILDHOOD SUCCESS



The **ePyramid** courses and **Peer Learning Communities (PLC)** are designed to add a human touch point and help participants implement Pyramid Model practices. Facilitators will lead participants through reflections and action planning that are structured and inspired by the ePyramid content. More specifically, the sessions are designed to help participants discuss the lessons, provide reflection and ask questions while implementing the practices.

We are offering a variety of courses and meeting times to choose from. First, decide which topic is the best fit for you, Infant/Toddler, Preschool, or Birth to 5. Then select only one of the options in that topic. Once registered participants are expected to attend all the sessions in their selected series.

## Infant/Toddler

### Option 1

Starts March 8th  
Every Other Wednesday  
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm CT  
6-sessions

[Register  
Here!](#)

### Option 2

Starts March 28th  
Every Tuesday  
8:00 am to 9:00 am CT  
9-sessions

[Register  
Here!](#)

### Option 3

Starts March 31st  
Every Friday  
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm CT  
9-sessions

[Register  
Here!](#)

## Preschool

### Option 1

Starts March 21st  
Every Other Tuesday  
9:00 am to 10:30 am  
CT 6-sessions

[Register  
Here!](#)

### Option 2

Starts March 31st  
Every Friday  
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm CT  
9-sessions

[Register  
Here!](#)

### Option 3

Starts April 3rd  
Every Monday  
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm CT  
9-sessions

[Register  
Here!](#)

### Option 4

Starts April 21st  
Every Friday  
11:00 am to 12:00 pm CT  
9-sessions

[Register  
Here!](#)

## Birth to 5

### Option 1

Starts March 8th  
Every Other Wednesday  
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm CT  
6-sessions

[Register  
Here!](#)

### Option 2

Starts March 14th  
Every Other Tuesday  
9:00 am to 10:30 am CT  
6-sessions

[Register  
Here!](#)

### Option 3

Starts April 29th  
Every Other Saturday  
10:00 am to 11:30 am CT  
6-sessions

[Register  
Here!](#)



**THE PYRAMID MODEL CONSORTIUM**  
Supporting Early Childhood PBIS

For additional information please contact  
Kimberly Jumper-Brown at [pyramid@okacaa.org](mailto:pyramid@okacaa.org)



# SAVE THE DATE

April 3rd is

# INK DAY



## Join Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness for Invest N' Kids (INK) Day

Calling all Early Childhood Advocates! If you are an early childhood educator, parent, and/or an individual involved in a child-serving organization, YOU are invited to join the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness on Monday, April 3, 2023, for our second annual Invest N' Kids Day (INK Day). We collectively use our voice to let legislators know the importance of investing early, prenatal to six years old, for school readiness and the future success for all Oklahoma citizens. Event will start in the morning at the Capitol Event Center for training and lunch, then travel by bus to the Capitol for meetings and gallery viewing, and back to Capitol Event Center mid- afternoon.

**Register TODAY!**

You'll get an overview of the legislative process, update on early childhood legislation, lunch, meetings with legislators, and a T-shirt!

Let's #InvestNKids

Register here:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/OPSR1/JoinOklahomaPartnershipForSchoolReadinessForInvestNKidsINKDay>