

**2020 MINI-GRANTS (CARES ACT)**  
**SCHOOL READINESS (SR) & VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN (VPK)**

Dear Providers,

**Good news! Help is available!**

To support early learning/childcare providers during the COVID-19 state of emergency, Early Learning Coalitions have been given the authority to award mini-grants to be used by providers for the following purposes:

- a. Purchase of supplies that help meet health and safety needs related to COVID-19 -- up to \$1,000
- b. Payment of infrastructure/operating costs – up to \$1,000
- c. Professional Development Stipends for early learning practitioners -- \$750/staff *\*See additional details below*

***Please note, we will distribute while funding lasts.***

Basic criteria for eligibility include:

- Have a current School Readiness or Voluntary Prekindergarten contract
- Be open for business **OR** working to re-open no later than June 30, 2020
- The provider does not have a pending/open contract-related corrective action plan or probation in effect (does not include VPK readiness rate improvement plans or Quality improvement plans).

To apply for the grants, a mini grant application must be filled out.

**\* Mini Grant Application\***

***Professional Development Stipends*** – All staff for providers, regardless of whether currently open or closed or planning to open, may be eligible for these stipends. Sponsored staff are

eligible for up to 10 stipends, of \$75 each for qualifying training sessions. Only sessions, per the attached *Early Childhood Online Professional Development May 2020* list, qualify for the stipend. Training must be completed between March 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020. Certificates MUST be provided. Staff and Providers MUST complete the *Provider Mini-Grant – Professional Development Staff Member Eligibility Form* for each individual staff. Upon completion, all payments will be made directly to the staff.

**\*Professional Development Staff Member Eligibility Form\***

**\*Classes that qualify for the stipend\***

*Applications are to be submitted by email to  
Bronwyn.Gogia@elcofswfl.org.*

***ELC of Southwest Florida Provider Mini-Grant Applications***  
are due *No later than Monday June 22, 2020.*

***Professional Development Staff member eligibility forms*** and  
*certificates must also be submitted by Monday June 22, 2020.*

We encourage every contracted provider to apply for all three of these mini-grants. If you have further questions about these opportunities, please reach out to Gayla.thompson@elcofswfl.org; Bronwyn.Gogia@elcofswfl.org or Cheryl.Carpenter@elcofswfl.org.