

Provider Services Committee Meeting - 5/18/2020

Questions and Answers

For the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) children that are currently enrolled. Is summer VPK for those students who have not completed 70% of their hours?

Summer VPK is for any student, but those who were enrolled in the school year program and who did not complete 70% of their hours are eligible to attend a Summer VPK program to complete their hours.

Can we teach VPK in two groups, morning and afternoon? Groups of four of course.

The Summer VPK Program is 300 hours. Most programs offer six (6) hours of class each day in order to meet the maximum required hours. A program would need to determine if it can do the 300 hours with a morning and afternoon class. More than six (6) hours a day is probably excessive for four-year olds.

What is going to happen with VPK Fall are the classes going to be nine kids only?

No decision has been made about fall VPK. We will keep you advised as we receive new information.

What are the hours for the summer program?

The Summer VPK Program is 300 hours.

For the kids to complete their hours during the summer do we have to hire a certified teacher?

This is currently still a requirement.

The providers will need additional teacher can the Early Learning Coalition assist?

The Early Learning Coalition, Professional Development Institute has an Employment Posting Request Form where providers may post available positions, <http://trainings.elcmdm.org/ArticleView.aspx?ID=150640>.

Can Providers apply for the Mini Grants and teacher supplemental salary increase?

Yes, this information will be sent to you shortly.

Where do you apply for \$2000.00 grant for providers?

This information will be sent to you.

Do you have a time line when you are going to ask for the program enrollees to physically attend?

We currently have authorization to pay for children enrolled until June 30. We are waiting to hear if there will be an extension to that date.

Can you please explain the \$750 bonus for teachers completing the online courses?

Teachers will receive \$75.00 each for 10 online courses completed, for a total of \$750 per teacher.

Maximum allowable payments - Stipends

- Each eligible early learning/child care staff member may earn the following stipend amounts:
- Up to ten (10) stipends for qualifying training events, up to a maximum of \$750 (\$75 x 10 events), per each declared disaster/emergency;
- \$75 maximum for each training session/event.

- Training events/sessions completed before the effective date of the declared emergency event do not qualify.
- Training events/sessions will only be reimbursed once per applicant, with a properly completed application form.

What online courses do the teachers need to take? Where do they take these courses?

These stipends are only available for the following types of training events.

- Department of Children and Families (DCF)-sponsored trainings and selected MyTeachstone modules.
- For a list of approved Office of Early Learning (OEL) trainings visit: <https://bit.ly/3e117eK>.

Is there is a deadline or due date for the teacher's online course grant?

These stipends are only available while the disaster or emergency declaration remains in effect. Qualifying training events should be completed before the emergency declaration period expires.

I have parents that have the government program but their childcare center is closed and cannot obtain transfer?

Transfers are being completed regardless of whether the sending childcare center is open.

I have children who are considered part-time and they are attending all day at my center and we hired someone to work with the children for their distance learning but we are not being paid for full-time care.

We requested a status report on the modification of data system to add the function to code school age children as full-time. Will provide the follow-up from the Department of Education (FLDOE) once received.

Is there a deadline for payments being made on school readiness children that are not attending? Will there be an extension?

We currently have authorization to pay through June 30, 2020. Have not heard yet if there will be an extension to that date.

For the first responders and medical staff grant, is there an application parents need to fill out? Where can they find this application?

Yes, there is an application. They can email info@elcmdm.org to get an application.

Are there any programs/grants for private pay centers?

There is the Paycheck Protection Program, that provides small business loans. There has been some discussion at the state-level on providing funding for private pay children. Waiting on the decision.

What about our parents that were laid off and are waiting on the funds will they lose the program?

Parents who have the School Readiness program will not lose their services because they are laid off. We are not terminating any families at this time. Parents who apply to the waitlist can use job search as their purpose for care for eligibility consideration.

When parents apply looking for work, if there are two parents, one parent working and the other one looking, does the working parent have to meet the 20-hour working minimum requirement?

The 20 hour a week work requirement has been waived until August 1, 2020. If the parents are receiving services, they will continue to receive services. If applying for services, the job search will serve as the reason for services. if you encounter any issues with eligibility email Sandra Gonzalez at spgonzalez@elcmdm.org or Isabel Afanador at iafandador@elcmdm.org.

Will there be another drive for the PPEs? How can I find out about it?

Yes, we will be doing additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distributions. We do not currently have a distribution date scheduled, but it will be soon. We will notify programs when we set a date. The priority is for those programs that are open. However, the goal is to provide supplies to all providers at some point.

In the case of a teacher that during closure tested positive for COVID. How many negative test results would be required before him/her is able to return to work? In the case of a parent who had tested positive during closure, would the child need negative test results as well as the parent? If a parent tested positive does their child need to be tested prior to returning to center?

For information on positive COVID-19 tests, please visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/>. Additional information is also available from the CDC at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>.

What help is given to providers who have 90% private pay. It looks like everything is going to providers with SR.

There is the Paycheck Protection Program, that provides small business loans. There has been some discussion at the state-level on providing funding for private pay children. Waiting on the decision.

Is there currently a waiting list for Miami Dade, or all families who qualify if they meet criteria accepted?

There is currently no wait list in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

"I have parents with over income for the Coronavirus and they terminated her, who does she need to call?"

For any issues with eligibility email Sandra Gonzalez at spgonzalez@elcmdm.org or Isabel Afanador at iafandador@elcmdm.org.

What will OEL do with the survey that was just required from programs that were closed for any period? Will there be re-calculations of reimbursements?

The survey information is used by OEL to provide information to the federal government on how funding was utilized. Providers who were closed in April are required to submit the survey in order to receive future payments.

If I open my childcare center but the children do not attend, will I be receiving the same amounts that I was receiving?

Yes, you will be paid on the number of children enrolled in your program, not on actual attendance, but you are required to submit your attendance information as usual.

Are applications available on the website?

Yes, those applying for School Readiness may fill out an application at <https://familyservices.floridaeearlylearning.com/Account/Login>. Those applying for the first responder/healthcare worker assistance can get an application here or via email at info@elcmdm.org.

Where do we find the contact info to all the legislators?

You may visit the following website to find your local legislators, <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/recreation/state-legislators.page>.