

News from the Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration
July 18, 2022

NH Early Childhood Professional Development System changes are coming! Do you have an Early Childhood credential awarded through the NH Early Childhood Professional Development System (NHECPDS)? If not, have you considered applying for a credential?

The Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration (BCDHSC) administers the NHECPDS credentialing system. The time has come for a revision of the system. A task force of early childhood professionals has worked diligently with the BCDHSC on the revision over the last few years. The Guidebook is currently being updated to reflect the changes.

What does this mean for individuals who currently have an unexpired credential?

- **Individuals whose credential is expiring between August 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022** will automatically have an extension of their credential to March 31, 2023. These individuals have been contacted directly by the Credentialing Specialist and must apply for and be awarded a credential in the revised system by March 31st to hold a valid credential
- **If your credential expires after December 31, 2022**, your current credential will remain valid until the expiration date printed on your credential certificate. You will not be renewing that credential when it expires. You will apply for a credential in the revised system based on your experience and education. You don't have to wait until the expiration date to apply for a credential under the revised system.

What does this mean for individuals who would like to apply for their first early childhood credential or held a credential that has expired?

- If you are applying for a credential for the first time or your credential expired prior to August 1, 2022 and the revised system is not yet available, you will apply for a credential using the current system.
- If you are applying for a credential for the first time or your credential expired prior to August 1, 2022 and the revised system has been available for three months, you will apply using the revised system.

What information and support will be available regarding the revised system?

- BCDHSC anticipates releasing the revised NHECPDS Guidebook on or around September 1, 2022. An announcement will be made when the Guidebook is available, which will be posted on NH Connections.
- Trainings will soon be available through the BCDHSC Credentialing Specialist.
- Technical assistance will be provided by Child Care Aware of NH staff for individuals who have questions about the revisions or the application process.
- More information will be forthcoming about these opportunities in August 2022.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact AnnMarie Censullo, the Credentialing Specialist, at 603-271-4684 or annmarie.s.censullo@dhhs.nh.gov