

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

- * ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MUTED.
- * PLEASE SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS IN THE CHAT BOX.
- * THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED & AVAILABLE AT: <https://www.firstup.org/sepecc/>



SEPECC Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025



Meeting will begin at 12:30pm

Agenda:

- 12:30 Welcome
- 12:40 Federal, State & Local Budget/Policy Updates
- 12:55 ECE Advocacy in Action
- 1:15 Special Presentation: Calculating the True Cost of Care
- 1:35 Community Partner Resources
- 1:55 OCDEL, DHS & ELRC Announcements
- 2:15 Wrap Up / Q&A Time

Language Interpretation is available during this presentation.
Interpretación de idiomas está disponible durante esta presentación.

- Select this icon🌐 at the bottom of your screen AND choose your preferred language.
- Seleccione este ícono 🌐 en la parte inferior de su pantalla y elija su idioma preferido.

Please Note - Tenga en cuenta

1. The Interpretation Feature can only be used on mobile phone using the zoom app.
En los teléfonos móviles, solamente se puede acceder a la función de Interpretación utilizando la aplicación de zoom.
2. Select "mute original audio" if you do NOT want to hear other languages at a lower volume.
Seleccione "mute original audio" (silenciar el audio original) si prefiere NO escuchar otros idiomas a un volumen más bajo.
3. Please mute your sound to minimize interference.
Por favor, apague su micrófono para disminuir las interferencias.
4. **ALL** participants **MUST** select one language, English or Spanish, for the feature to work properly.
TODOS los participantes **DEBEN** seleccionar un idioma, inglés o español, para que la función trabaje apropiadamente.



SEPECC OBJECTIVES & PQAS

Sign in Sheet for SEPECC Meeting-
PQAS Credit



Sign in Sheet for SEPECC Meeting- PQAS Credit

Thank you for joining the SEPECC Meeting. If you have attended the meeting and would like to receive PQAS credit, please fill out the information. Your credit will be on your PD Registry transcript. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy at nancy@sepecc.org. Please fill out this survey within 24 hours of the end of the meeting. If you do not need PQAS credit, please do not fill out this form.

* Required

1. First and Last Name as it is on the PD Registry *

Enter your answer

2. Email that links to your PD Registry account *

Enter your answer

3. PD Registry Number

Enter your answer

4. Please comment if you know

OBJECTIVES

- NAEYC standard 6a- Identify as a committed professional in the early childhood education field.
- NAEYC standard 8b- Describe supports and resources to develop highly effective staff.

Please complete sign in

within 24 hours of the meeting end if you would like to receive PQAS credit.

Scan QR code or click on link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/RfzSg97k7j>

BUDGET & POLICY UPDATES

- LOCAL -



<https://www.inquirer.com/politics/philadelphia/philadelphia-soda-tax-council-jimmy-harrity-20251027.html>



MARY GRAHAM
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

**BUDGET & POLICY
UPDATES**
- FEDERAL -



**Child care isn't a luxury - it's essential
to the health and strength of our nation.**

Congress must act now to protect the programs that keep America's families and future strong. Tell your Members of Congress -- End the shutdown today.

<https://www.ffyf.org/actions/2025/email-congress-end-the-shutdown/>

For real-time updates, check out the [FFYF State Of Play](#) on the federal shutdown.



TYRONE SCOTT,
FIRST UP

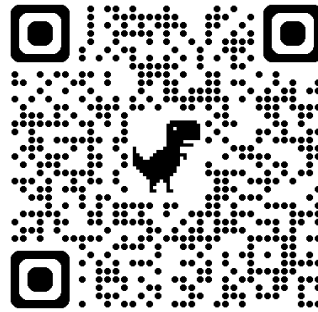
**BUDGET &
POLICY UPDATES**
- STATE -

First Up

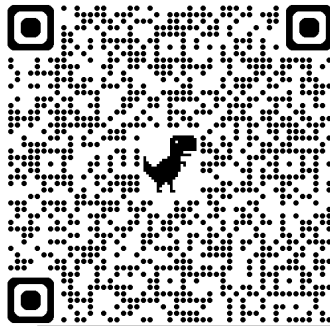


Champions for Early Education

Email your
legislators NOW!



Be An Advocate!



120 Days
WITHOUT
PA Budget



Send artwork // program visit // adopt a legislator //
advocacy display kit // advocacy PD

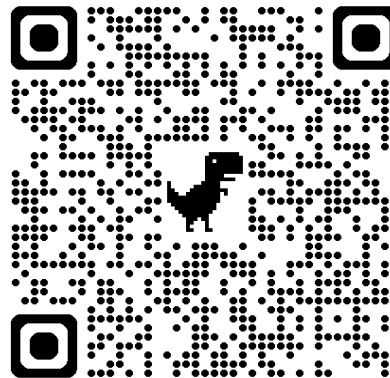
TYRONE SCOTT,
FIRST UP

**BUDGET &
POLICY UPDATES**
- STATE -

First Up



Champions for Early Education



Looking for
new members!

**Provider
Advisory
Board**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScz9mwZ1AB3wzusXNO4DGSyQIVUSmINpWLwpVY_KNbhljAt5w/viewform



ADVOCACY IN ACTION!

GOTV = GET OUT THE VOTE

Eleanor Levie

eleanorlevie@gmail.com

Volunteer advocate

National Council of Jewish Women
(NCJW)



National Council of Jewish Women



And a proud member of the SEPECC Advocacy Work Group!

WHY GET OUT THE VOTE?



A lot of people, young and old are saying, “What election?”



But even though it's not a presidential election or midterm, Nov. 4 IS important.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

In odd-numbered years, the November general election is also called a municipal election because there are no federal or state office races on the ballot.

Who IS on the ballot?

District Attorneys. School boards. Sheriffs. And most of all, judges.



COURTS MATTER!

Judges are on the ballot.

Pennsylvania is one of only 7 states that elects our judges. These are the folks who make decisions that affect every aspect of our lives.

Our votes ensure that our judges are fair, qualified, and independent.



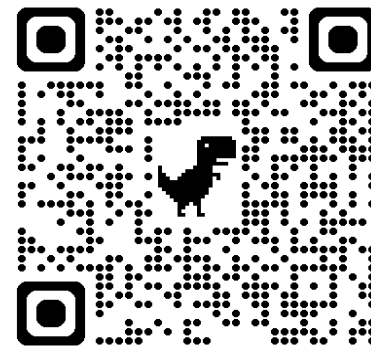
WHO DESERVES YOUR VOTE?

Learn who's on your ballot:

www.vote.pa.gov

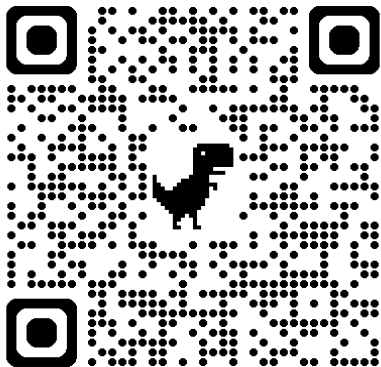
**Committee of Seventy provides
info about the candidates:**


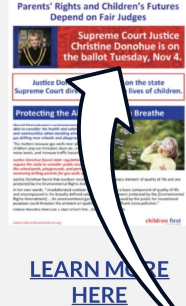


<https://seventy.org/2025-voter-guide>



WHO DESERVES YOUR VOTE?

Most helpful on our issues:
Children First Action Fund's 2025 Judicial Voter Guide.



Candidate Name	Position	Candidate Photo	Party	Review Important Decisions that Impact Children	Protected Children and Families on the Bench?	PA Bar Association Rating LEARN MORE HERE
Justice Christine L. Donohue	Retention		N/A		Y	Recommended for Retention
Justice Kevin M. Dougherty	Retention		N/A		Y	Recommended for Retention

PA Bar Association Rating

Protected children & families on the Bench?

Review important decisions that impact children

WHY VOTE? DECIDE ON OUR JUDGES!

Why do judicial elections matter for children and families?

Courts decide cases on school funding, child welfare, women's health, environmental protections, housing, and public safety. Judges' rulings have real consequences for kids' futures and family well-being.

What is a retention election?

In Pennsylvania, most judges serve 10-year terms. When that term is up, they don't run against an opponent. Instead, voters get to vote "Yes" or "No" on whether the judge should stay on the bench for another term.

What is the Pennsylvania Bar Association and what do its ratings mean?

A legal professional organization that reviews judicial candidates' qualifications and gives voters an independent, nonpartisan rating, i.e., "Recommended" or "Not Recommended" based on legal experience, integrity, fairness, and temperament.

RETENTION ELECTIONS

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court hears direct appeals from lower courts, addresses matters of great public importance. In addition, it supervises the state's entire judicial system

The Pennsylvania Superior Court handles appeals in criminal and civil cases from the Courts of Common Pleas. The Commonwealth Court handles original civil actions brought by and against the Commonwealth and appeals from state agency decisions.

The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court hears cases involving state and local governments, acting as both a trial court and an appellate court. Its cases include original civil actions brought by or against the Commonwealth and appeals from state agency decisions.

PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT



- Chief Justice Debra Todd (D)
 - Sallie Mundy (R)
 - Kevin Brobson (R)
 - Daniel McCaffery (D)

Up for Retention; all recommended by the PA Bar Assoc.

- Christine Donohue (D)*
- Kevin Dougherty (D) *
- David Wecht (D) *

PENNSYLVANIA SUPERIOR COURT

Retention





- **Judge Alice Dubow** repeatedly protected the rights of children and families on the bench

Recommended for Retention" by the PA Bar Assc

Open seat

- **Judge Brandon Neuman (D)**
"Highly Recommended" by PA Bar
- **Maria Battista (R)**
"Not Recommended" by PA Bar

Election 2025 PA Superior Court

	PROTECTED CHILDREN ON THE BENCH?	PA BAR ASSOCIATION RATING
 Judge Dubow		RECOMMENDED FOR RETENTION
 Judge Neuman (D)	N/A	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
 Maria Battista (R)	N/A	NOT RECOMMENDED



PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH COURT

The Commonwealth Court focuses on cases involving state and local government, including education funding, elections, and regulatory matters. Its decisions have a direct impact on public policy and children's access to essential services.

This year, there are two Commonwealth Court races on the ballot.

- Commonwealth Court Judge Michael Wojick is up for retention.
- Judge Stella Tsai (D) and Matt Wolford (R) are competing for an open seat.

Election 2025 Commonwealth Court

	CFAF INTERVIEW	PA BAR ASSOCIATION RATING
 Judge Wojick	✗	RECOMMENDED FOR RETENTION
 Judge Tsai (D)	✓	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
 Matt Wolford (R)	✗	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

CAN'T COME OUT TO VOTE? No problem!

TODAY by 5 p.m.!
LAST CHANCE!
APPLY FOR AN
ABSENTEE BALLOT



- ☐ A mail-in ballot or absentee ballot works!
- ☐ Go to vote.pa.gov for all the info, in English and Spanish, on how to get one--also, where's your polling place for voting in person, who's on the ballot, and more.
- ☐ Your voted BALLOT must be received by 8:00 PM on 11/04/2025.
- ☐ If you decide to vote in person, just bring your absentee ballot with you to surrender it.

MAKE IT EASY TO VOTE!

After you apply for a mail-in ballot, it gets mailed to you.

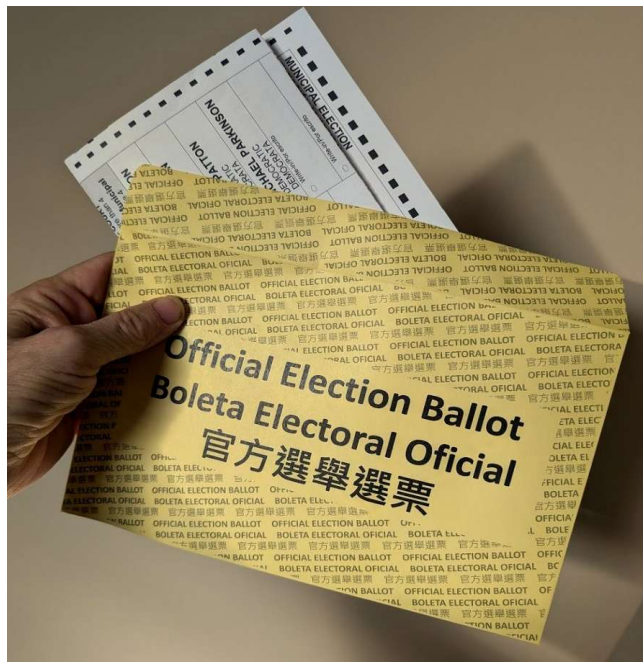


First, fill out both sides of the ballot to make your choices

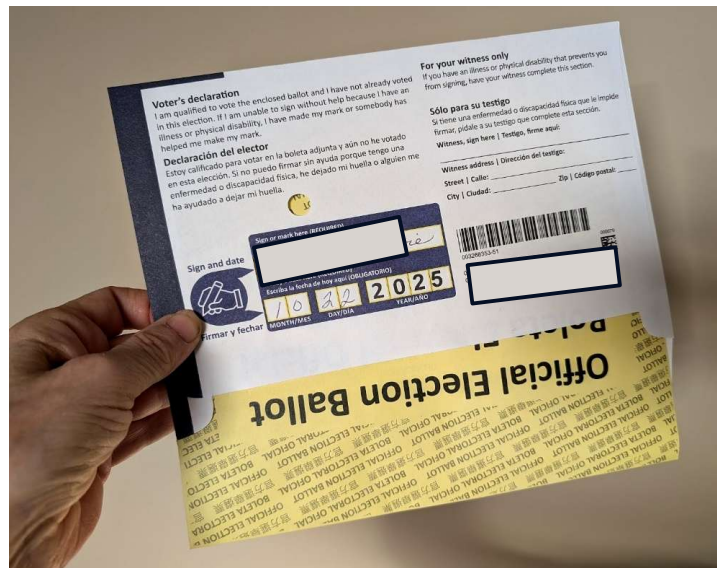
The image shows the front of a mail-in ballot for the Philadelphia County Board of Elections. It contains a list of candidates for various positions, including Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Judge of the Superior Court, Judge of the Municipal Court, and Judge of the Commonwealth Court. Each candidate's name is followed by a "YES" or "NO" option for voting.The image shows the back of a mail-in ballot for the Philadelphia County Board of Elections. It contains a list of candidates for various positions, including District Attorney, City Controller, and various judges. Each candidate's name is followed by a "YES" or "NO" option for voting.

EASY AS 1, 2, 3 TO VOTE BY MAIL

1. Put your filled-out ballot in the yellow envelope.



2. Put the yellow envelope in the white envelope. Sign and date it!!!



3. Mail it in so it gets to your county's election office by Nov. 4!

WHY GET OUT THE VOTE? WHY US?

Why should WE, in SEPECC work to get out the vote?

- We are influencers!
- Young people 18 to 25 aren't used to voting and need a little push.
- Working families who are busy, stressed, and stretched too thin need voting made easier and more convenient, and need to know their vote is their voice.
- Friends, family, and colleagues look up to us and need inspiration, wisdom, and role-modeling from us.
- We know how to encourage little ones and families to be their best.

GOTV = GET OUT THE VOTE!





LifeSpan

Day Care You Can Trust For Children.

NICOLE FETHERMAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NFETHERMAN@LQ.ORG

215-536-9036

GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV)

Non-partisan!

- **Child Care Voter**
<https://childrenfirstactionfund.org/2025-election-center/>
- **Judicial Voter Guide 2025**
- **Voter 411 guide**
- **Check out the Get Out the Vote Toolkit** for early educators including election calendar, children's books about voting, flyers and links to share.
- [GOTV Toolkit Fall 2025 English.pdf](#)
- [GOTV Toolkit Fall 2025 Spanish.pdf](#)
- **Pre-K for Pa : Advocate Toolkit**



- **Important Dates: 10/28 last day to apply for mail-in or civilian absentee ballot**
- **Election Day: November 4th 11/4 last day to return mail-in/ absentee ballots**
- **All ballots must be received by 8 pm**



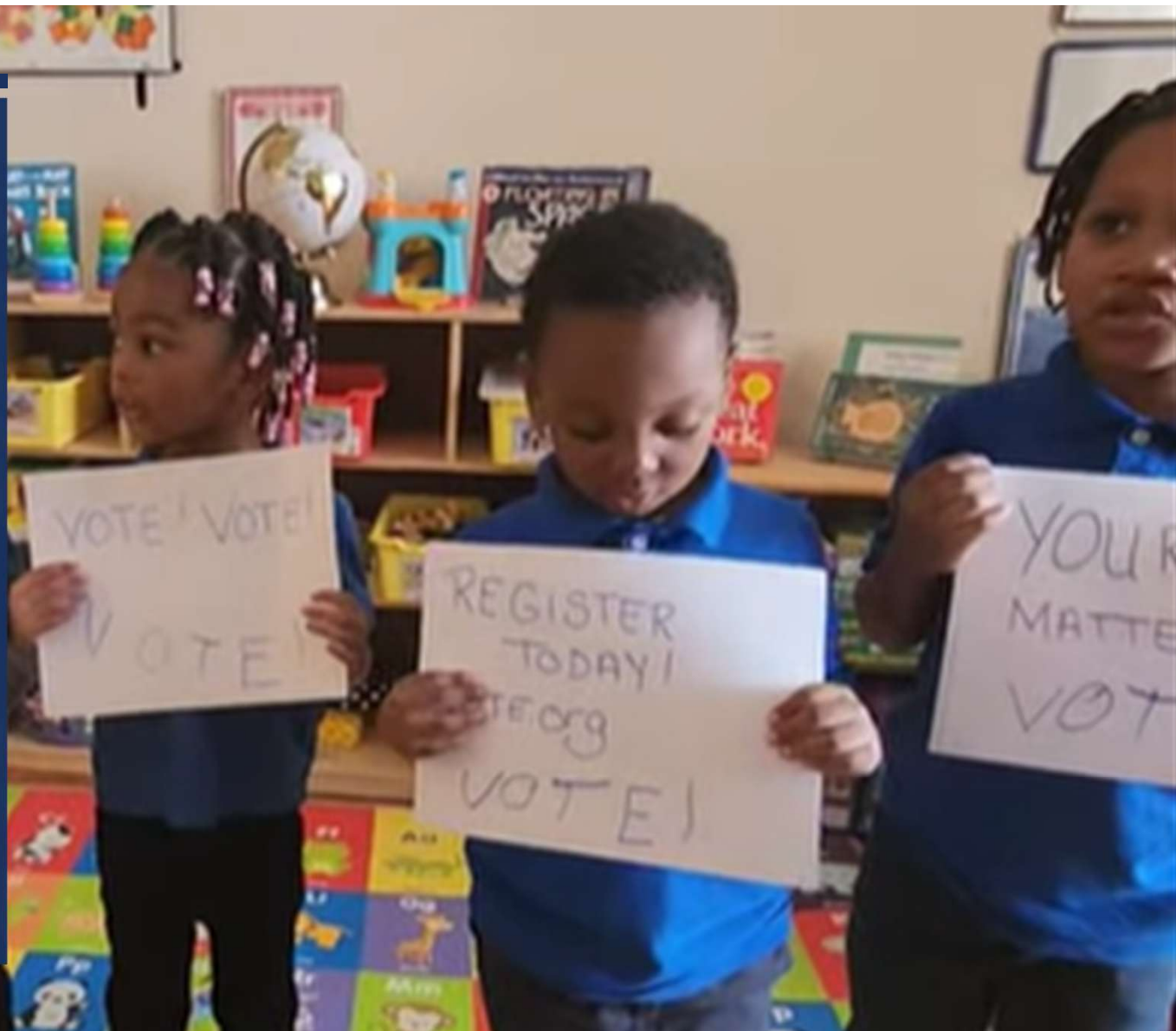


LAVERNE CHEESEBORO,
OWNER/DIRECTOR
HEAVENLY MADE CREATIONS

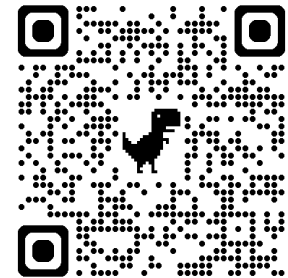
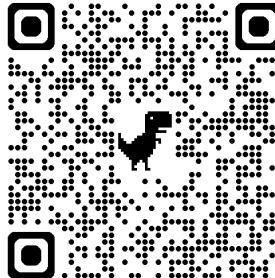
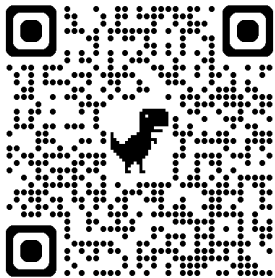
HEAVENLYMADECREATIONS@GMAIL.COM

GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV)

WHAT CAN
PROGRAMS DO
TO GOTV?



GET READY TO VOTE



COACHING TO SUCCESS

PRESENTED BY



REINVESTMENT
FUND



SHARON NEILSON
MAOL
ECE Program Manager
Reinvestment Fund, Inc.
sharon.neilson@reinvestment.com



DESMOND HUDSON
Enrolled Agent
Owner
Hudson Tax Services,
LLC
DHudson@Hudsonntaxservices.com



WHAT IS COACHING TO SUCCESS?

The Coaching to Success program offers assistance to Philadelphia-based early childhood education (ECE) providers of all size, structure, and quality level as they seek to navigate and sustain a delicate business model. Monthly community learning and sharing meetings will be designed and administered based upon feedback from you – the provider. Through consultation with a coach who knows the industry, ECE providers may access customized support to help them achieve stabilization and longer-term business goals.

SHARON MULLINGS-NEILSON

ECE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

- Director of Woodland Academy Child Development Center
- PENNAEYC's The Voice Award
- Keystone Stars emergent leader of the year-in 2009
- Forty years and has experience as a sole proprietor child development provider
- Member of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)
- Co-chair of PECE Philadelphia for Early Childhood Education



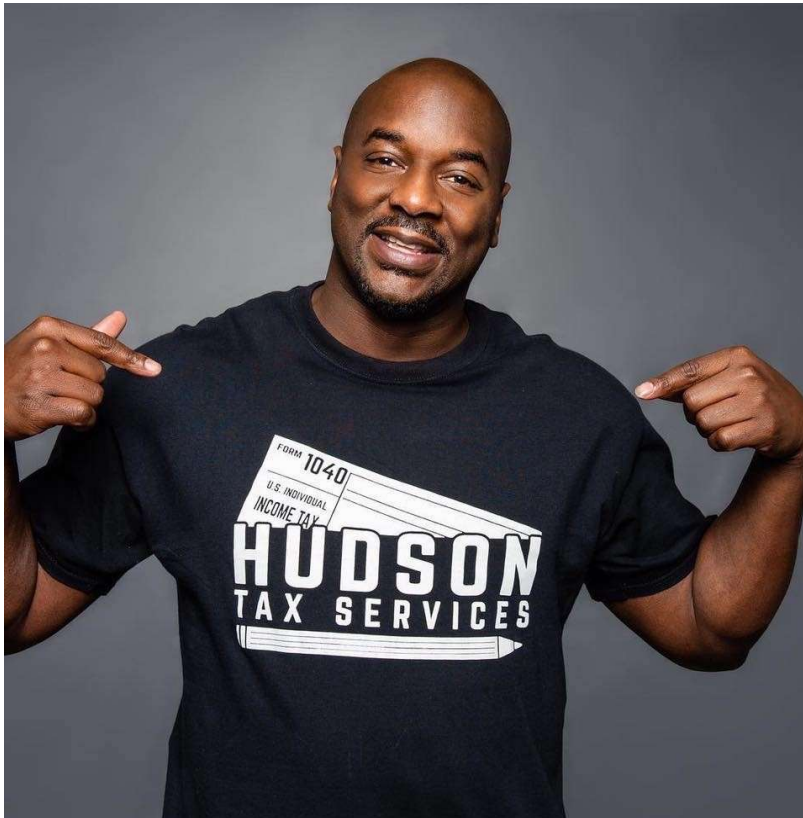
PROGRAM SUPPORT



- Marketing
- Shared Services
- Staffing
- Enrollment strategies
- Community Engagement
- Licensing and Regulatory Compliance
- Professional Development
- Communication with Parents and Families
- Creating a Stimulating Learning Environment
- Behavior Management and Positive Discipline Strategies
- Curriculum Development
- And more...

DESMOND HUDSON, EA

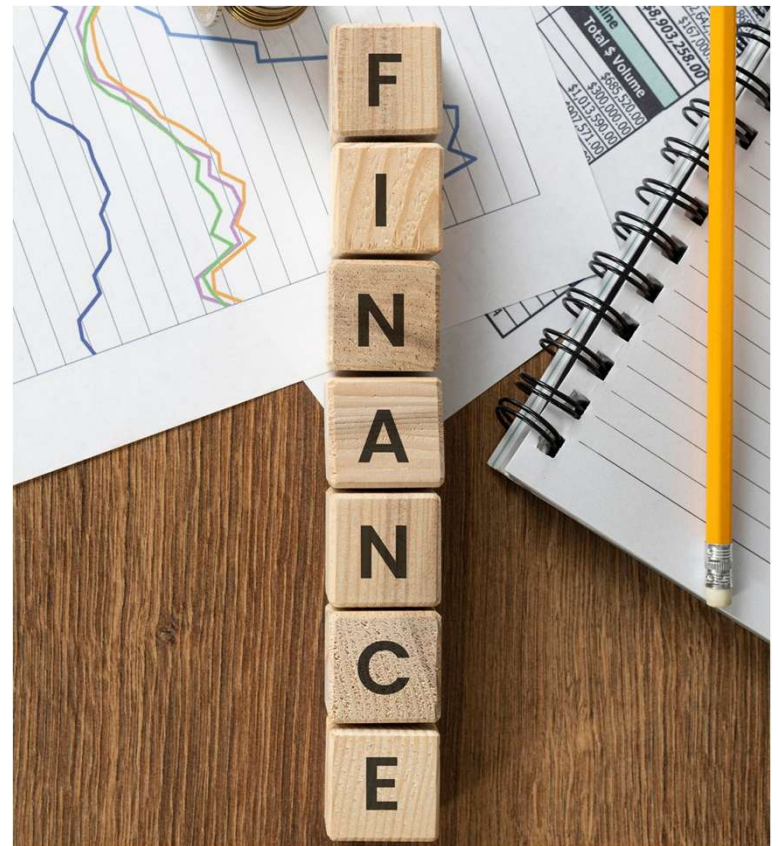
OWNER, HUDSON TAX SERVICES, LLC



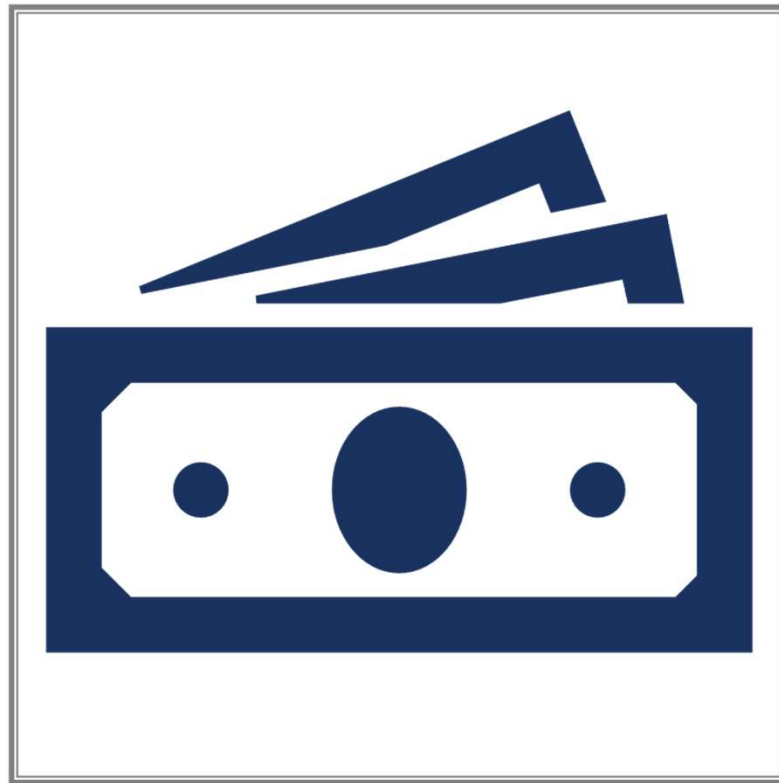
- Worked for 21+ years at Reinvestment Fund
 - Credit and Financial Analyst
 - Portfolio Manager
 - Dir. of Community Engagement and Technical Assistance
- Enrolled Agent, federally-licensed
- NAEA Journal Board Member and Author
- Dobbins Occupational Advisory Council
- Graduate of National Tax Practice Institute
- Campaign For Working Families
 - Design Tax Curriculum for VITA
 - Train Volunteers, College Students, Lawyers
- Voted 2024 & 2025 Philly's Favorite Tax Preparer
- Proud Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Budgeting and Financial Planning
- Tracking Income and Expenses
- Tax Planning
- Managing Cash Flow
- Business Structure
- Retirement
- Debt Management
- Financial Reporting
- Chart of Accounts
- Financial Systems Support
- One on One TA
- And more..



TRUE COST OF CARE



TRUE COST OF CARE

Pennsylvania's Maximum Child Care Allowance (MCCA) Daily Rates

(to be effective January 1, 2025)

Region	Provider Type	Full-Time Care					Part-Time Care				
		INFANT	YOUNG TODDLER	OLD TODDLER	PRE-SCHOOL	SCHOOL-AGE	INFANT	YOUNG TODDLER	OLD TODDLER	PRE-SCHOOL	SCHOOL-AGE
18	CENTER	\$67.83	\$63.49	\$59.54	\$56.23	\$45.55	\$55.72	\$52.27	\$49.58	\$46.90	\$39.36
	GROUP	\$60.11	\$57.09	\$53.88	\$51.22	\$41.29	\$52.59	\$46.38	\$42.46	\$40.39	\$37.95
	FAMILY	\$60.02	\$58.15	\$55.34	\$52.59	\$48.86	\$52.44	\$51.03	\$49.20	\$47.05	\$43.38
	R/N	\$16.07	\$16.07	\$15.51	\$14.59	\$16.63	\$13.24	\$13.24	\$13.24	\$12.68	\$13.24

WHY IT MATTERS



Can you cover costs if enrollment drops?



Are you making money in every classroom?



Which classrooms are draining your business?



Know what funding or tuition level sustains your work.



Set rates with confidence and fairness.



Avoid underpricing and financial strain.



Make smarter decision on rates and staffing

WHAT IS THE TRUE COST OF CARE?

- The true cost of care is the actual cost to provide quality care per child.
- Includes all operating expenses, not about tuition or subsidy payments.
- Helps ensure your rates cover costs and sustain your business

Major Cost Categories:

Indirect/Fixed

- ✓ Staff wages & benefits
- ✓ Rent or mortgage
- ✓ Professional Services (Legal, Accounting, etc)
- ✓ RE Taxes
- ✓ Utilities
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ Repairs/Maintenance

Direct/Variable

- ✓ Food, Program Supplies, and Education Material
- ✓ Educational Consultants
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Field Trips
- ✓ Equipment

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

-
- **Adding a Classroom:**
What extra costs come with opening another classroom — like furniture, toys, supplies, or new equipment?
 - **Changing Enrollment:**
If more (or fewer) children enroll, how does that affect the number of teachers or staff you need?
 - *Understanding Full Time Equivalent*
 - **Working Smarter with What You Have:**
How can you fill your classrooms and make the most of your current staff without stretching anyone too thin?
 - **Staffing Quality & Retention**
 - **Admin and Compliance Time**
 - **Facility & Space Planning**
 - **Program Quality and Curriculum Costs**
 - **Parent Communication and Reputation**

BREAK-EVEN VS. BURNOUT

FORMULA: $TOTAL\ COST \div AVG.\ TUITION\ PER\ CHILD$



- **Breakeven = No profit, no loss**
- Do you know how many children you need to break even?
- Break-even = the minimum enrollment you need to cover costs.
- **Burnout = Operating at a loss**
- Undercharging = Subsidizing the program with your own time and money
- Operating at a loss too long leads to burnout — emotionally and financially.
- ✓ Break-even data helps you plan smarter, not work harder.
- ✓ Knowing this protects you from undercharging.

THE PER-CHILD COST FORMULA

$$\text{TOTAL MONTHLY COSTS} \div \text{CHILDREN} = \text{COST PER CHILD}$$

- **Costs vary by classroom**

- The cost to run an **Infant Room** looks very different from a **Preschool Room**.
- Younger classrooms need more teachers, smaller ratios, and more supplies per child.

- **It's not what you charge — it's what it costs**

- Many programs lose money on certain age groups without realizing it.
- You can't price from emotion — price from your numbers.

- **You can't fix your budget if you don't know your numbers**

- Start with your **actual expenses** — rent, payroll, food, supplies, admin, everything.
- Know your **break-even point** (how many children you need to cover costs).

- **Update regularly — costs change!**

- Recheck your numbers at least **once per quarter**—**Your budget should evolve with you**
- Track trends: rising food prices, new staff pay rates, insurance costs, etc.

TRUE COST VERSUS MARKET RATE



Market rate is what others charge. True cost is your actual expense.



Don't base tuition solely on market. Start with your numbers.



Charge based on sustainability, not just comparison.

FINANCIAL READINESS



- **Financial Systems (QB, Excel, Wave, etc..)**

- What systems are in place, Recording Income and Expenses Weekly/Monthly, Reconciliation

- **Income and Expense Review**

- How often do you review tuition, knowing your top 10 expenses, separating personal and business, Birds Eye View Analysis

- **Budgets**

- Monthly, Annual, Irregular Expenses, Rainy Day fund, Operation vs Program vs Development

- **Projection and Planning**

- Future Enrollment Goals, Expansion Plans, Staffing Needs, Equity, Needs Debt Service, Proforma

- **Tax Strategy & Planning**

- Ordinary and necessary, quarterly payments, Time-Space Calculations, Depreciation, Retirement, Mileage, Local Taxes

- Entity Review, Year End Preparation (W9s, W2s, 940, 941, W3, 1099s, Childcare Statements)

SPREADSHEET TEMPLATE

<u>True Cost Of Care Per Child</u>		
<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Daily</u>
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

UPCOMING TRUE COST OF CARE SESSIONS

Tuesday, November 18th

From 6:00–8:00pm

IN PERSON

ELRC West Philadelphia

4601 Market St. Philadelphia, PA
19139

Registration Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>

Things You Will Need:

- **Laptop**
- **Latest Financials**
- **Enrollment #s**
- **Spreadsheet Template**
- **Did I Mention Laptop 😊**

THANK YOU!



REINVESTMENT
FUND



SHARON NEILSON
MAOL
Program Manager
ECE Reinvestment Fund
sharon.neilson@reinvestment.com

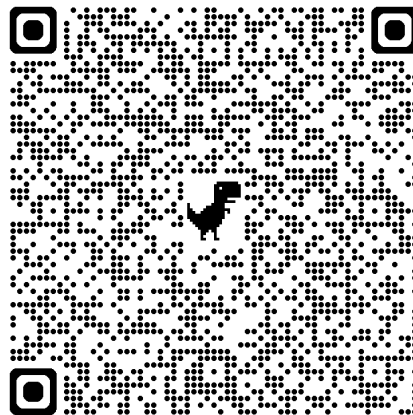


DESMOND HUDSON
Enrolled Agent
Owner
Hudson Tax Services
DHudson@Hudsonntaxservices.com

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Join us! Working Together Webinar

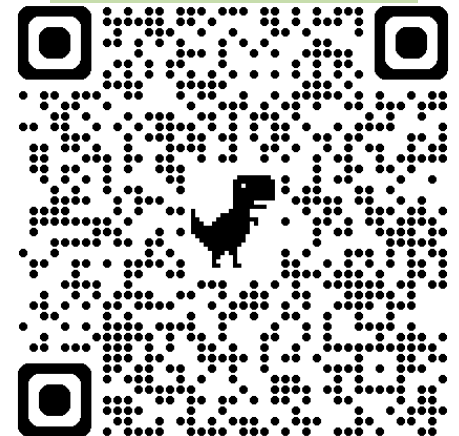
November 5, 2025
1:00 p.m., Via Zoom
Registration Required



Trying
together

OFFICE HOURS

- **October 30**
1:00 - 2:00pm
- **November 12**
1:00 -
2:00pm
and
6:00 - 7:00pm



COMMUNITY PARTNER RESOURCES





Monica Fielder, MEd.

*Senior Business Development
Representative*

ABA Centers of Pennsylvania



Mission Statement

At ABA Centers of America, we believe **everyone has a voice and deserves to be heard and understood**. We provide neurodiverse clients and their caregivers **with individualized, comprehensive care, helping to navigate the communication, emotional, and social experiences of those with autism** through Applied Behavior Analysis therapy.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE



ABA Therapy

Evidence-based therapy delivered in-home, in-school, clinic, and community settings.



Diagnostic Evaluations

Comprehensive autism diagnostic evaluations using gold-standard ADOS-2 and DSM-5 criteria.



Caregiver Support

Weekly coaching sessions, home-based strategies, and ongoing collaboration with families. Also, Multifamily support/connection groups.



Social Skills

Group sessions, break camps, and enrichment activities to develop social competencies.



Teen & Adult Services

Specialized ABA services tailored to adolescents and adults with autism.



OUR CENTERS & TEAMS

Center Features

Purpose-built spaces featuring indoor play gyms, sensory zones, quiet rooms, art rooms, and dedicated 1:1 therapy areas.

Center Excellence

- * Comprehensive team: Clinical Directors, BCBAs, RBTs, and specialized managers.
- * ABA Academy of Excellence with 40+ hours of additional training.
- * 56 internal competencies (vs. 15 required by national standards).
- * 89% first-time certification pass rate (vs. 77% national average).





HOW TO REFER

1 Submit Referral

Use our streamlined intake form, email, or contact your local outreach liaison.

2 Family Contact

We'll reach out to the family within 24 hours of receiving your referral.

3 Evaluation Scheduled

Quick assessment scheduling leads to faster diagnosis and treatment initiation.

We accept referrals from physicians, schools, therapists, and care coordinators. Each region has a dedicated Community Outreach liaison to assist with the process.



ABA CENTERS

— OF PENNSYLVANIA —

Proven Autism Care

TOGETHER, WE'RE CLOSING THE CARE GAP FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

Contact Us:

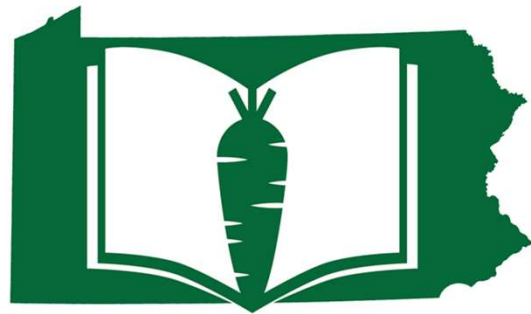
Monica Fielder
Senior Business Development
Representative

✉ **mfielder@abacenters.com**

☎ **(855) 777-6480**

Next Steps

1. Schedule a center tour with our team.
2. Speak with a clinical leader about specific patient needs.
3. Request informational materials for your practice.



PENNSYLVANIA
FARM TO SCHOOL
NETWORK

Samantha Gibb

Managing Director,
PA Farm to School Network
The Food Trust

sgibb@thefoodtrust.org

Vision

Every child in Pennsylvania is meaningfully connected to and nourished by thriving and resilient community food systems



Mission

Leverage and build upon our collective resources and shared vision to cultivate farm to school and farm to early care and education (ECE) initiatives that:

- create opportunities for all children across the state to grow, learn about, and enjoy eating Pennsylvania foods;
- increase market opportunities for Pennsylvania producers;
- connect growers, schools, ECE sites, and community members around food



What is Farm to School:



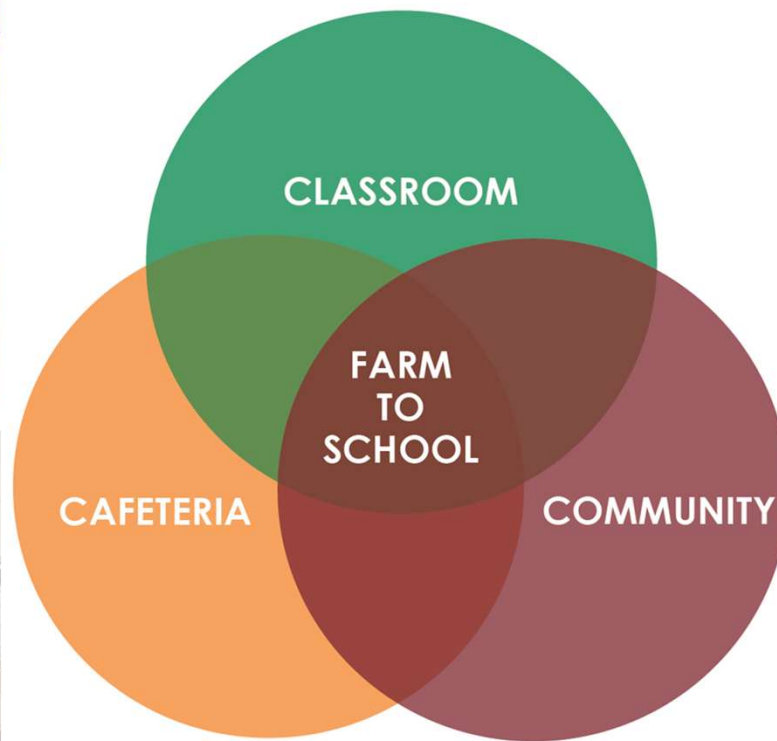
**School
Gardens**

**Nutrition
and Food
Education**

**Fresh Food
Procurement**



Where does Farm to School happen?



The FOOD
TRUST



© Vermont FEED, a partnership project of Shelburne Farms and NOFA-
VT

Current Opportunities

- **National Farm to School Month Multimedia Storytelling Contest** - Submissions due Nov 7th
- **Farm to School Grants:**
 - **USDA FTS Grant** - Application period open, closes Dec 5th at 11:59 pm
 - **PA Farm to School Grant** - Applications due Nov 14th
- **Keystone Fresh Act** - PA House legislators will likely be voting in November - use this [how-to guide](#) to share your local food in school meals story with them today!
- **Local Procurement webinar - Tuesday, October 28th: 2:00pm – 3:00pm - [join via Zoom](#)**



Subscribe to the Monthly Harvest:
pafarmtoschool.org/get-involved/

PDA's PA Farm to School Grant



The Basics:

- Up to \$15,000 max grant award (minimum 25% match required)
- Funds to be used before June 30, 2027
- Application deadline Friday Nov 14, 2025 at 5 PM EST

Eligibility:

- Early Care and Education (ECE) programs and schools serving K-8th grade age students
- Must participate in a federal child nutrition program



PDA's PA Farm to School Grant



Eligible Projects

- Training for teachers and staff.
- Procuring local foods for school cafeterias.
- Educational opportunities –
 - Including classroom curricula as well as experiential learning.
 - Providing for family and community involvement in educational opportunities
 - Field trips to local farms or other agricultural operations.
 - School Gardens for the purpose of education or to supply the cafeteria.





Department of

Public Health

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Tanya Dhingra, MPH (she/her)
Pediatric Partnerships Program
Manager, COVID-19 Services

Philadelphia Department of
Public Health | Division of
Disease Control



Alix Cozen

Senior Early Learning
Specialist

alix.cozen@firstup.org

EVENT DETAILS

- Award Ceremony in Conjunction with First Up Conference, March 6 and 7th
- Regional Event- 5-county area
- Nomination Process – families and colleagues
- Winners receive:
 - 2000.00
 - Hotel stay
 - Complimentary registration to the First Up Conference
 - Special Recognition at the Awards Ceremony

Nomination process details will be shared by email—check your inbox around **November 4th**.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Currently booking in-service
days for 2025-2026

- Please plan ahead for winter/spring days
- First Up offers in-person or virtual training events up to 6 hours in one day
- Events will be tailored to your specific needs

First Up Conference
March 6 and 7, 2026

Thriving Together: Collaborating
and Communicating in Community

Hilton City Avenue

ECE ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP INFO SESSION

– NOV. 18 @ 1:00PM

ÚNETE A NUESTRO CÍRCULOS DE APRNDIZAJE



¡Ofrecido en inglés y hispano!

APRENDE Y CRECE DENTRO DE UN GRUPO PARA
CONVERTIRTE EN UN LÍDER EN EDUCACIÓN INFANTIL

REGÍSTRATE PARA NUESTRA SESIÓN INFORMATIVA

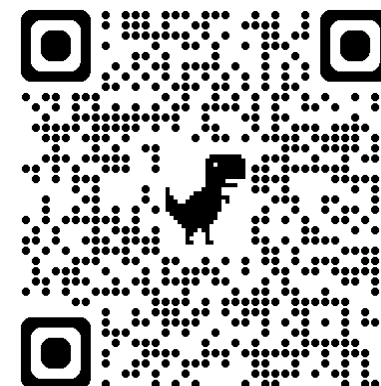
JOIN OUR ECE FELLOWSHIPS



English and Hispanic Fellowships Offered!

LEARN AND GROW WITHIN A GROUP TO
BECOME AN EARLY LEARNING LEADER

REGISTER FOR OUR INFO SESSION



MEETING
REGISTRATION -
ZOOM

Funding for this project provided by
WilliamPennFoundation

Early Childhood Education Human Resources Series



**Are you a STAR 3 or 4 center
looking to improve staff recruitment
and retention strategies?**

Identify ways to shift your approach to staffing,
such as:

- Maximizing limited resources to better assist staff development
- Developing equitable pay scale and employee policies
- Identifying shared resources

**Come learn how making early investments in staff
onboarding and training results in longterm staff retention!**

Cohort 1: November 2025 - March 2026
Wednesdays, 10am-12pm

Nov 12, Dec 3, Jan 7, Jan 28, Feb 18 & Mar 18

Cohort 2: January - May 2026
Thursdays, 1-3pm

Jan 29, Feb 12, Mar 5, Apr 2, Apr 30, May 21

- All meetings will take place via Zoom
- **Only 10 centers each cohort**
- More than one staff member can be designated to attend
- Successful completion of training could qualify to participate in a funded staff improvement plan

**Earn 18
PQAS
Credits!**



Register by November 5th!



To register, please scan the QR code or
print, scan, and email the following form
to huanc@childrensvillagephila.org



ECE Human Resources Series

Mary Graham
Children's Village

Maryg@childrensvillagephila.org





OCDEL, DHS & ELRC Announcements

TAMMY JOLOSO - ELRC15

TJOLAOSO@PHMC.ORG

ASIA M. SHEPPARD - DHS

ASSHEPPARD@PA.GOV

JAMILA DASHIELL - DHS

JDASHIELL@PA.GOV

NETTA RADZINSKI – OCDEL

C-JRADZINS@PA.GOV

TAMMY JOLAOSO
M.ED; LBS

ELRC 15 DIRECTOR

TJOLAOSO@PHMC.ORG



**EARLY LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTER**



OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING



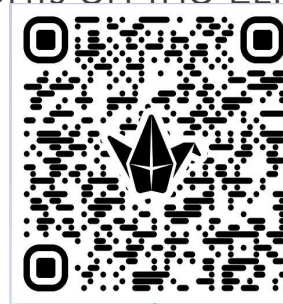
TAMMY JOLAOSO M.ED; LBS
ELRC 15 DIRECTOR

ELRC REGION 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
UPDATES

ELRC 15 UPDATES - DELCO

LOCATION: 2098 WEST CHESTER PIKE SUITE 102 **TOLL FREE:** 888-535-2217 **MAIN:** 610-480-3191

- The ELRC 15 Quality Team holds monthly office hours from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Office hours are offered both virtually and in person. Contact your Quality Coach for more information or to schedule a program visit.
- Stay up to date with STARS and Community Events on the ELRC 15 Quality Padlet. The QR Code to access the Padlet is listed below.



- ELRC 15 will hosts a Winter Coat Drive on Wednesday, November 12th at the J. Crozer Library located 620 Engle St, Chester, Pa. Email: ELRC15Delco@phmc.org for more information.

ELRC 16 UPDATES – BUCKS COUNTY

Email: elrc16@cscinc.org

Phone: 215-486-2524 or Toll Free: 833-229-6928

Website: <https://elrc-csc.org>

Region 16 - Seeking a new Provider Manager

- The Bucks County ELRC has an immediate opening for a highly skilled person to fill the role of Provider Manager. This position oversees our Quality Coach team as well as the Provider Services team. If you have a relevant Bachelor's degree, experience supervising staff and project management skills, this could be a great opportunity to take the next step in your professional career. Go to our website to apply: <https://www.cscinc.org/careers/>

Rapid Response Team

- Continues to support childcare providers and families in efforts to reduce suspension and expulsion of children with challenging behaviors. Providers are encouraged to contact the ELRC for more information or to make a referral.

Monthly Directors' Network Meetings

- All providers are invited to join community partners and Quality Coaches for networking, news and important updates. In-person and virtual options are available. See the **Monthly Provider Link Newsletter** for details and to register: **ELRC 16 PROVIDER NEWSLETTER**

Building Capacity Network for home-based providers

- ELRC 16 is working with the PAKey to gather feedback and data from Family Child Care Homes and Group Homes to discuss the unique benefits, challenges and needs of these providers. Bucks County Family and Group providers who are interested in providing feedback and identifying ways the PaKey can support your work can contact Angie Somogyi at asomogyi@cscinc.org for more information.

ELRC 17 UPDATES - MONTCO

- ELRC 17 is hosting Parent Café Events at Child Care Providers in Montgomery County. This is a great Family Engagement Opportunity. Reach out to your Quality Coach to schedule an event at your center.
- ELRC 17 next Health & Safety Regional Taskforce Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19th from 1-2:30pm. This meeting is held in a hybrid format. All Community Partners, and Child Care Providers in Montgomery County are encouraged to attend.
- ELRC 17 next Provider Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 3rd from 10am-12pm. This meeting is held in a hybrid format. This meeting is for Child Care Providers in Montgomery County only.
- ELRC 17 Monthly Newsletter is sent via our Quality Coaches each month. Our newsletter is posted on our website: www.montcopa.org/elrc

ELRC 18 UPDATES PHILADELPHIA

Based on provider feedback on priority training and support resources, ELRC 18 is hosting a Wellness Webinar Series in November with panels from several community partners.

Social-Emotional Wellness

When: Nov 12, 2025 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Partner Panelists: Rapid Response Team, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants, Early Intervention, and more!

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://phmc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dpPntZrdSHW6PVOUXVbDGw

Health & Safety Wellness

When: Nov 18, 2025 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Partner Panelists: DHS Certification, PA Keys Program Quality Assessment Team, and more!

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://phmc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gusPiAdNT-mb8P2S4zcRHA

ELRC 19 UPDATES - CHESTER

- **ELRC 19 Quarterly Provider Meeting– Tuesday, December 10-12 Virtual**– Topical discussion Lesson Planning and Individualization. To register please reach out to your Quality Coach.
- **H&S TA** - Beginning November 1st, for Chester County Child Care programs, Health & Safety Technical Assistance available! Please reach out to your Quality Coach or see our newsletter for more information.
- **Chester County Quality Coach Office Hours** – Every Thursday we hold office hours throughout the county, please check either the newsletter or with your QC to find out when we will be close to you. Please come and visit!
- **ELRC 19 Newsletter** – This provider newsletter is now delivered monthly to your inbox with current announcements, OCDEL news, Keystone STARS and CCW updates and information about regional services and events. To subscribe please contact your Quality Coach or email directly the Director, Susan Moylan @ smoylan@phmc.org



THANK YOU!

ASIA M. SHEPPARD

ASSHEPPARD@PA.GOV

JAMILA DASHIELL

JDASHIELL@PA.GOV



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OCDEL BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION

- Bureau of Certification, Third Quarter 2025 Newsletter Now Available!
 - The **Third Quarter 2025 Newsletter** from the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), Bureau of Certification, is now available! Take a look and discover information about:
 - The Confluence Podcast
 - Announcement C-25-03: Policy for Transferring Care Between Child Care Facility and School
 - 2025 Child Care Market Rate Survey
 - Civil Rights Compliance
 - and more!

**JANETTA
(NETTA) RADZINSKI**
C-JRADZINS@PA.GOV



Pennsylvania
**Office of Child Development
and Early Learning**

OCDEL UPDATES



**EARLY LEARNING
STANDARDS**



**MARKET RATE
SURVEY**



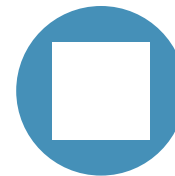
**RAPID RESPONSE
TEAMS**



**TEACH
SCHOLARSHIPS**



OPEN FOR Q&A



**EI COMPLAINT
FORM**

EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS

Learning Standards for Early Childhood Now Available in Spanish

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning is excited to announce that the 2024 Infant, Toddler, and Pre-Kindergarten Learning Standards for Early Childhood are now available in Spanish! This resource is a valuable tool to support the learning and development of our youngest learners.

Providing this key resource in Spanish will better support Early Childhood educators, professionals, and families across the Commonwealth who communicate primarily or more comfortably in Spanish.

You can now view, download, and print the complete documents directly at the [Pennsylvania Key website](#).

Los estándares de aprendizaje para la primera infancia ahora disponibles en español

¡La Oficina de Desarrollo y Aprendizaje Infantil (OCDEL) se complace en anunciar que los Estándares de Aprendizaje (Infantes/Niños Pequeños y Preescolar) para Educación Infantil de 2024 están disponibles en español.

Este recurso facilitará que educadores, profesionales de la primera infancia y familias en todo el estado que hablan o prefieren el español tengan mejor acceso a la información

Puedes ver, descargar e imprimir los documentos completos directamente [en el sitio web de Pennsylvania Key](#).

2025 MARKET RATE SURVEY

- Licensed child care providers: Help shape the future of child care funding and policy decisions in Pennsylvania.
- Information about your private pay tuition rates is vital. OCDEL strongly encourages you to participate in the 2025 Child Care Market Rate Survey, open from **September 8 to December 8, 2025**.
- By sharing your tuition information, you're contributing to more accurate data that directly influences child care subsidy policies and funding decisions.
- [Pennsylvania's 2025 Child Care Market Rate Survey - The Pennsylvania Key](#)



RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS

Next Steps as PDG Funding Winds Down

As the PDG funding period concludes, focus shifts toward **sustainability and system learning**:

- Review and **leverage cross-site evaluation data** to document outcomes and lessons learned.
- Identify **high-impact RRT strategies** that can be maintained or scaled post-grant.
- Engage in **statewide discussion** to share successes, challenges, and recommendations for future integration into OCDEL quality systems.
- Prepare comprehensive closeout documentation — including fiscal, programmatic, and evaluation summaries — to inform both **PDG reporting** and **future funding proposals**



TEACH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

- **Spring 2026 TEACH Scholarship Applications Now Open**
- Know an ECE professional who wants to enroll in college for spring? They should apply now for a TEACH Early Childhood® Pennsylvania Scholarship!
- To be considered for Spring 2026, TEACH applications and all required documents must be received by Friday, November 14, 2025. For more information on eligibility or to download an application, visit the [**PACCA website**](https://www.pacca.org/teach).
- Questions? Contact a TEACH Counselor at [**teachinfo@pacca.org**](mailto:teachinfo@pacca.org).



**Announcement
EI-25 #02**



Pennsylvania
Office of Child Development
and Early Learning

Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports

Issue Date: 07/01/2025

Effective Date: 07/01/2025

Subject: Early Intervention Complaint Procedures

To: Infant Toddler and Preschool Early Intervention Program Leaders

From:

Shante' Brown

Shante' A. Brown
Deputy Secretary, Office of Child Development & Early Learning

PURPOSE

The purpose of this announcement is to communicate the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports' (BEISFS) procedures for filing, investigating, and resolving formal complaints against the Infant Toddler or Preschool Early Intervention (EI) system related to any alleged violation of requirements under Parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Early Intervention Services System Act (Pennsylvania Act 212 of 1990), and other applicable state or federal statutes or regulations.

Announcement EI-11 #01 is obsolete as of the effective date of this announcement.

BACKGROUND

Part B and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) under 34 CFR §§ 300.151-153 and 34 CFR §§ 303.432-434, respectively, require states to adopt complaint procedures for resolving complaints alleging violations of IDEA requirements. The procedures in this announcement are being updated to ensure that the process for resolving complaints alleging violations of IDEA requirements complies with the IDEA.

In addition to formal complaints, parents and guardians have a number of options for resolving concerns including the BEISFS Family Concern Line, Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)/Individualized Education Program (IEP) Facilitation, Mediation, or a Due Process Hearing. This announcement focuses specifically on formal complaints.

Announcement EI-25-02

Early Intervention Complaint Procedures

Working to ensure families know how to file a complaint

Please share the announcement and fillable form!

Early Intervention Complaint Procedures

PaTTAN - Early Intervention Complaint Form



OPEN DISCUSSION

Reach out to Netta with any
questions or concerns
c-jradzins@pa.gov



SEPECC

Advancing quality early care
and education in Bucks, Chester,
Delaware, Montgomery and
Philadelphia Counties

2025-2026 SEPECC COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Steering Committee

Zakiyyah Boone (Co-Chair)
Melanie Brennan (Co-Chair)
Ebony Baggett
Jackie Groetsch
Kia Douglass
Latonta Godboldt
Laverne Cheeseboro
Mary Graham
Melody Connell
Minnette Taylor
Sharon McClafferty
Shineal Hunter
Tracey Triolo

Advocacy Workgroup

Eleanor Levie
Laverne Cheeseboro
Lisa Iliopoulos
Mercedes Fleet Mount
Nicole Fetherman
Shineal Hunter
Shirlee Howe
Sim Loh

Advisory Council

Elizabeth Ozer
Khadijah Sabir
Maddy Malis
MaryKay Mahar
Norma Finkelstein
Pamela Haines

Social Media Workgroup

Eleanor Levie
Shar'ron Brown Carroll
Sim Loh

Sept. 2025

- **30-Second Exit Survey:**

<https://forms.gle/AUEKfNgEQQJw3Vuj8>



- **PQAS Hours Request Form:**

<https://forms.office.com/r/RfzSg97k7j>

- **Upcoming Meetings:** 12:30-2:30pm

- November 25
- December 16 (3rd Tue.)

- **Meeting Slides, Recording & Registration Links** on First Up/
SEPECC Webpage: <https://www.firstup.org/sepecc/>

- **Q & A Time**

