

#### 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, Dec. 16th, 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 OCDEL, DHS & ELRC Announcements
- 1:30 Wrap Up



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](mailto: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 have any questions or suggestions.

## 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.

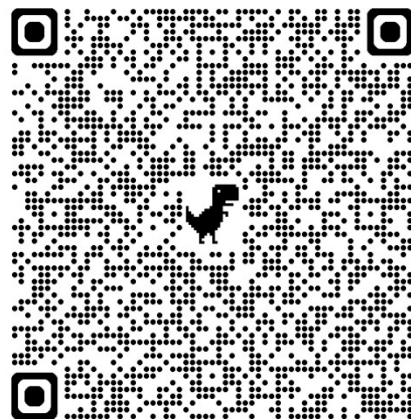
Scan QR code or click on link:

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



**MARY GRAHAM,**  
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

**BUDGET & POLICY  
UPDATES**  
- FEDERAL -



Urge your members of Congress to pass appropriations legislation that prioritizes young children, families, and educators.

**TAKE ACTION TODAY!**





**TYRONE SCOTT,**  
FIRST UP

**BUDGET &  
POLICY UPDATES**  
- STATE -

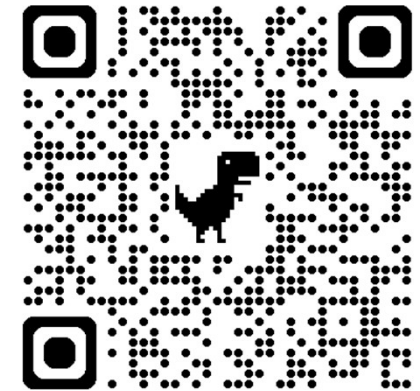
**First Up**



Champions for Early Education

Tight budget year expected for  
next year, we need to  
keep advocacy momentum going.

**TIME TO  
GEAR UP**



<https://startstrongpa.org/take-action>



**TYRONE SCOTT,**  
FIRST UP

**BUDGET &  
POLICY UPDATES**  
- LOCAL -

First Up

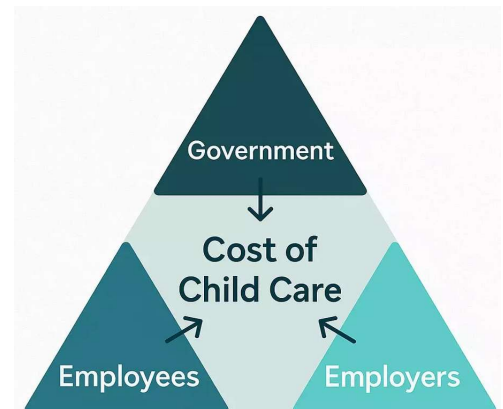


Champions for Early Education



**POSTPONED!**  
**Philadelphia**  
BIRT Tax Reduction  
for Child Care

**Montgomery  
County  
Tri-Share  
Model**







ADVOCACY IN ACTION!



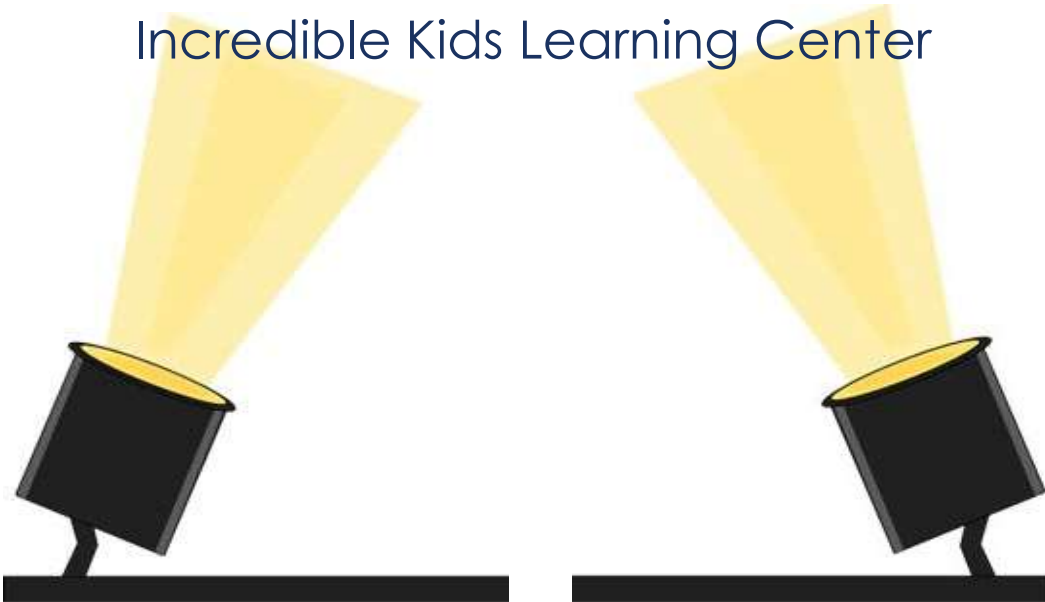
---

# Provider Spotlight



---

Dr. Charles Coe,  
Executive Director and  
Chief Brand Compliance Officer,  
Incredible Kids Learning Center





The loss of SNAP benefits will also put more stress on parents, families, and childcare providers. We are already living in a period where parents are running on hamster wheels due to a lack of resources.

The loss of SNAP benefits strips away everything parents cherish most. Meals are more than sustenance. Families bond over meals, share admiration for each other, hear updates on the day, and plan the future. Simply put, the family unit is disrupted when there is no food. It is essential that our leaders do everything they can to ensure parents can feed their children.

**Charles Coe**, *executive director and chief brand compliance officer,*  
*Incredible Kids Learning Center, Philadelphia*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR ON SNAP & PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL HEARING ON SWEETENED BEVERAGE TAX



*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

### **SNAP cuts**

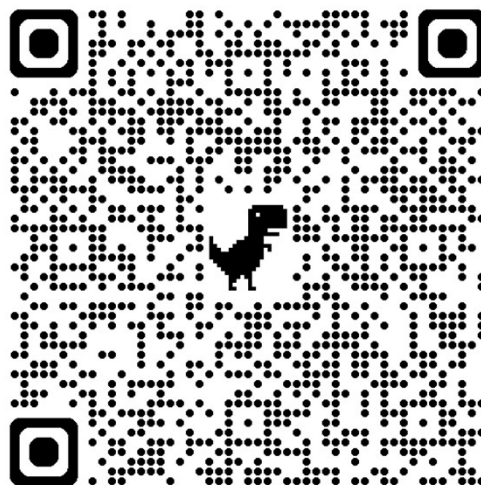
It is amazing (and not in a good way) that our elected officials are discussing rescinding funding on the eve of 475,000 people in Pennsylvania losing food due to the lack of SNAP benefits.

Childcare providers will be the primary way many children will eat. If childcare providers, many of whom are already struggling, must now work in an environment where the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is not available to them or the families they serve, the pain will



**LESLIE SPINA,**  
KINDER ACADEMY  
& VOICE OF ECE

DATA GATHERING:  
**ACCESS TO EARLY  
INTERVENTION  
SERVICES FOR  
CHILDREN  
AGES 3-5**



Philadelphia Providers, please complete: [Data Gathering-  
Access to EI Services for Children Ages 3-5 – Fill out form](#)



**LESLIE SPINA,**

KINDER ACADEMY  
& VOICE OF ECE



We need your insight! Your participation in this [Insurance Survey](#) will help drive informed advocacy efforts.



---

## During the Holidays: *What do you say, Dear?*



---

AKA Ms. Manners for  
the day!

**ELEANOR LEVIE**

[ELEANORLEVIE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ELEANORLEVIE@GMAIL.COM)

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH  
WOMEN (NCJW)

AND A PROUD MEMBER OF THE  
SEPECC ADVOCACY WORK  
GROUP!





---

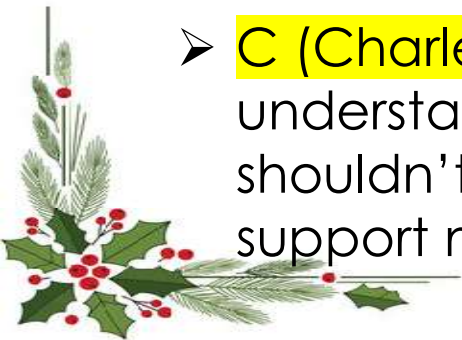
## *What do you say, Dear?*

**Miss Manners:** You're at the grocery store, and someone in line says,

**Sim:** "Wow, prices are really higher."

### **What do you say, dear?**

- **A (Mel):** "You're darn right. It's all because of those tariffs."
- **B (Zakiyyah):** "You said it. Everything costs more. I need to quit my job in childcare 'cause I just can't make ends meet. Is this grocery store hiring? I can make more money doing this cashier's job."
- **C (Charles):** "Yeah, it's hard all over. And I wish folks would understand how running a quality family childcare program shouldn't run me into the ground and leave me struggling to support my own family."





---

## *What do you say, Dear?*

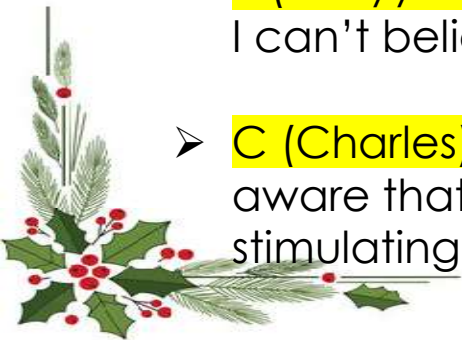
**Miss Manners:** You're in the kitchen helping to prepare a holiday meal, and overhear conversation...

**Jackie:** Have you found a place that can take that active little guy of yours?

**Sim:** Nah. I'm lucky my mother-in-law can babysit while I'm at work. I know my two-year-old is a handful for her, but she's willing.

### **What do you say, dear?**

- **A (Mel):** "You said it. My grandmother took care of me when I was little, and I turned out OK. If it was good enough for me, it's good enough for your kiddo."
- **B (Zakiyyah):** "Wow. I know your mother-in-law; she doesn't see or walk so well. I can't believe you leave little Anthony with her."
- **C (Charles):** "You are lucky to have support from a loving family member. Just be aware that quality childcare programs can provide a lot more nurturing, stimulating, and safe social opportunities and a lot more outdoor play, too."





---

# *What do you say, Dear?*

**Miss Manners:** You're at the dinner table with extended family, and Aunt Sim says...

**Sim:** I can't believe the Governor's budget has nothing for SEPTA, and \$25 million for childcare. I don't want my hard-earned tax money going to pay babysitters."

## **What do you say, dear?**

- **A (Me)!**: "You are so right. I'm a fiscal conservative, and we don't need to spend millions on babies. If you can't afford 'em, don't have 'em. I just don't like all this wasteful spending."
- **B (Zakiyyah)**: "You know, families in places like Denmark pay 50% of their income in taxes, and federal money goes to pay a big chunk of childcare and college costs, and universal health care, and livable wages for most jobs, and more. Folks know that, so they don't complain; in fact they're called the happiest country in the world."
- **C (Charles)**: "Nobody likes paying taxes. But when families spend all their disposable income on child care in addition to food and rent, they don't have the money to support our economy. They can't shop for extras or eat out at local restaurants. And if they can't afford child care and have to limit their hours, they can't take on the good jobs, and may have to rely on government programs like food stamps and welfare, which actually raises taxes for all of us tax-payers. Think of childcare as the best investment our tax dollars can provide."







---

*What do you say, Dear?*

*So, during this holiday season,  
be an advocate for quality childcare.*

*Whenever the occasion rises, speak up about the  
importance of investing in our community!*

*Happy holidays!*





## **OCDEL, DHS & ELRC Announcements**

---

CAROLYN GREEN – OCDEL  
[CAROLYGREE@PA.GOV](mailto:CAROLYGREE@PA.GOV)

ANGIE SOMOGYI  
[ASOMOGYI@CSCINC.ORG](mailto:ASOMOGYI@CSCINC.ORG)

JAMILA DASHIELL - DHS  
[JDASHIELL@PA.GOV](mailto:JDASHIELL@PA.GOV)





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

---

**CAROLYN GREEN**  
[CAROLYGREE@PA.GOV](mailto:CAROLYGREE@PA.GOV)



## CHILD CARE STAFF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM

- New initiative in the 2025-26 budget
- \$25M for child care staff recruitment and retention payments
  - Recruitment payments dependent on funding
- Qualified staff will receive a \$450 payment
- Application period – December 15, 2025 – January 29, 2026
- Policy Announcement and Application posted online - <https://www.pakeys.org/CCSRR/>



# PROVIDER ELIGIBILITY

## Qualified Provider

- DHS certified child care center, group child care home, or family child care home holding a regular Certificate of Compliance
- Current Child Care Works (CCW) Agreement
- Does not have an open referral to the Office of Attorney General or an ongoing repayment plan with an ELRC for a previous OCDEL grant/award
- In operation and serving children
- Does not owe liens/liabilities to the Commonwealth
- Completed reporting on all previous OCDEL grants/awards



# STAFF ELIGIBILITY

## Qualified Staff

- Employee of a qualified provider
- Responsible for direct supervision for at least 15 hours/week
- Have a current and accurate profile in the Professional Development (PD) Registry
- Employed at time of application and when funding is received
- Owners/operators are eligible if they directly supervise children at least 15 hours/week



## RECRUITMENT PAYMENTS

- Contingent on availability of funds
- Newly employed, qualified staff members hired after application submitted
- Based on provider type and licensed capacity



**ANGELA SOMOGYI**

[ASOMOGYI@CSCINC.ORG](mailto:ASOMOGYI@CSCINC.ORG)



**EARLY LEARNING  
RESOURCE CENTER**



OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING



## ELRC 15 – DELAWARE COUNTY UPDATES

**LOCATION:** 2098 WEST CHESTER PIKE SUITE 102

**TOLL FREE:** 888-535-2217    **MAIN:** 610-480-3191



- There is still time to complete the ELRC 15 Health and Safety TA Survey Link, which can be requested from your Quality Coach <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2TqDaFbSkSA9L-zmLzt1kJpCzqcmLz-vKu7Xmzv1TSBQvtA/viewform?usp=header>
- Join ELRC 15 as we partner with the Middletown Free Library on Wednesday, December 17th, for a Parent-Child Workshop.
- Reminder : Attendance Invoices are due by the 5th working day of each month for payment on the 20th of the month. Please do not submit an invoice prior to the end of the service month
- 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 16 UPDATES – BUCKS COUNTY

EMAIL: [ELRC16@CSCINC.ORG](mailto:ELRC16@CSCINC.ORG) PHONE: 215-486-2524 OR TOLL FREE: 833-229-6928

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://ELRC-CSC.ORG](https://ELRC-CSC.ORG)

- **New Provider Manager, Esmeralda Mata-Perkins started 12/15/25**

- **Now Hiring - Provider Specialist**

The Bucks County ELRC is conducting interviews for a new Provider Services Specialist to work from our Fairless Hills office. This position is dedicated to processing provider invoices in an accurate and timely manner and manages CCW provider agreements and related work. This would be a great opportunity for a director with CCW experience who is looking to take their career in a different direction. 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. To date we have worked with providers, parents and behavior specialists to support 51 children, with 71% of these at-risk enrollments being maintained.

- **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: **Region 16**  
**- Provider Link 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. If you are a Bucks County Family or Group provider interested in learning how the ELRC and the PAKey can support your work contact Angie Somogyi at [asomogyi@cscinc.org](mailto:asomogyi@cscinc.org).



## ELRC 17 – MONTGOMERY COUNTY

- 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 Local Leadership Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 28th, from 1-3:00pm. 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 Health & Safety Regional Taskforce Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11th 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 Monthly Newsletter is sent via our Quality Coaches each month. Our newsletter is posted on our website: [www.montcopa.org/elrc](http://www.montcopa.org/elrc)



## ELRC 19 – CHESTER COUNTY

- **ELRC 19 Quarterly Provider Meeting– Tuesday, March 10th 10-12 Virtual**– Topical discussion PQA Tools, best practices, and Process. To register please reach out to your Quality Coach.
- **Quality Coach Position Available** - We are currently seeking a qualified candidate to fill the role of Quality Coach. For more information, please visit <https://phmc.org/careers/>
- **H&S TA** – AVAILABLE NOW!! 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](mailto:smoylan@phmc.org)



# RECRUITMENT & RETENTION AWARD

## WHERE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

### **ELRC 15 - Delaware County**

Attn: Andrew Carter

- 2098 West Chester Pike, Suite 102 Broomall, PA 19008
- [ELRC15Grants@phmc.org](mailto:ELRC15Grants@phmc.org)
- Fax: 267-592-4090

### **ELRC 16 – Bucks County**

- [elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org)

### **ELRC 18 – Philadelphia**

Attn: Cheri Howard

- 1500 Market St, Phila. PA 19102
- [ELRC18grants@phmc.org](mailto:ELRC18grants@phmc.org)
- Fax: 267-592-4178

### **ELRC 17 - Montgomery County**

Attn: Margaret Johnson

- PO Box 311  
1430 Dekalb St,  
Norristown, PA 19404-0311
- [ELRCRegion17@pa.gov](mailto:ELRCRegion17@pa.gov)
- Fax: (610) 278-5161

### **ELRC 19 – Chester County**

- [ELRC19grants@phmc.org](mailto:ELRC19grants@phmc.org)



**JAMILA DASHIELL**

[JDASHIELL@PA.GOV](mailto:JDASHIELL@PA.GOV)



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



- **30-Second Exit Survey:**

<https://forms.gle/ui4Q2DT71dSK3cHE6>



- **PQAS Hours Request Form:**

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

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

- January 27
- February 24
- March 24

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

THANK YOU

IT'S A WRAP!

MEETING  
WRAP UP







**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

### **Social Media Workgroup**

Eleanor Levie  
Shar'on Brown Carroll  
Sim Loh

### **Advisory Council**

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





*From all the  
SEPECC  
volunteers...*

