

Pocatello Child Care Advisory Committee

Newsletter

April 2021 Issue



Idaho Child Care

Wage Enhancement Grant

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW/ “The Department”) is accepting new applications from eligible child care programs to receive a grant paid monthly to child care programs to temporarily increase the wages of eligible child care staff.

The Idaho Child Care Wage Enhancement Grant provides funding to create a temporary wage supplement for child care workers as authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA). Child care staff have continued to place themselves at higher risk of COVID-19 infection while caring for Idaho’s children. This temporary wage supplement acknowledges the hazards they face and the incredible value of their work, as well as employers’ difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified staff.

This is a non-competitive grant opportunity open to Idaho’s licensed child care providers who have been providing full time, in-person child care since March 1, 2021. Eligible providers will receive a monthly award based on in the number of eligible staff beginning May 2021. Monthly awards will continue to be paid each month until the available funds are exhausted.

This is NOT a “first-come, first-served” grant opportunity. All eligible applicants will receive at least ten monthly award payments. Subsequent monthly awards

Wage Enhancement Presentation, Grant Guide, Staff Eligibility, and Receipt of WE Grant information is posted online at:

<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers/child-care-providers/child-care-resources>

Family Engagement

Family engagement is a collaborative and strengths-based process through which early childhood professionals, families, and children build positive and goal-oriented relationships. It is a shared responsibility of families and staff at all levels that requires mutual respect for the roles and strengths each has to offer. Family engagement focuses on culturally and linguistically responsive relationship-building with key family members in a child’s life. These people include pregnant women and expectant families, mothers, fathers, grandparents, and other adult caregivers. It requires making a commitment to creating and sustaining an ongoing partnership that supports family well-being. It also honors and supports the parent-child relationships that are central to a child’s healthy development, school readiness, and well-being. The Office of Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework is a guide to learning how family engagement promotes positive, enduring change for children, families, and communities.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement>

