

WAGE SUPPORTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Child Care Centers & Group Homes

Governor Lamont and the CT State legislature have given funding to the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to give one-time wage supplements to early childhood educators through a new initiative called **Wage Supports for Early Childhood Educators**. The OEC understands and appreciates how hard early childhood educators are working for our children, and they deserve to be applauded and rewarded for their dedication. There will be two phases within this initiative. We are in Phase 1.

ELIGIBILITY:

All licensed programs, as well as license-exempt programs that receive School Readiness or Child Day Care Contract funds, are eligible. Eligible staff must:

- be employed at the time of application;
- be regularly scheduled to provide direct service to children (this includes cleaning/cooking staff and admin/receptionists on the program payroll, but shall not include volunteers, substitutes, etc.); and
- be supervisors of those who provide direct service to children, provided they work with teachers or parents regularly; and their salary does not exceed more than \$100,000 per year.

APPLICATION & PAYMENT:

- OEC will give these funds directly to programs for each eligible staff member via an application process. Look for an email from childcarefunding@ctunitedway.org with your custom application and follow the application steps. (See **FAQs** for more detail). Once funds are received, programs will give funding to each staff member:
 - **\$1,000** for full-time (minimum of 30 hours per week or 130 hours per month)
 - **\$400** for part-time (defined as less than 30 hours per week or 130 hours per month)
 - Additional **10%** on top of staff payments to administrative processing costs.

There is still a lot of work to do to help support and recruit staff, but we are confident that with your partnership, we will continue to move forward in the right direction.

If you have any questions about this process, please review the **FAQ page**; contact 211 Child Care at **1-800-505-1000**; or email childcarefunding@ctunitedway.org and include your license number for faster assistance.

CHECK OUT THE OTHER WAGE SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES FROM OEC:

- **Qualified Workforce Incentives (QWI)** program, which awards staff for their credentials or degrees, is expanding eligibility this fall.
- Retention Awards initiative will recognize teachers who have stayed in the field to help stabilize OEC-funded programs. More information to come in early 2023.

