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MEMORANDUM

TO: Child Care Providers

FROM: Office of Child and Family Services

DATE: September 29, 2023

SUBJECT: CCDF ECCP® Stipend Award FAQs

In conjunction with the announcement of the CCDF ECCP® Stipend Awards announced on September 29, 2023, OCFS is issuing this memo in anticipation of frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the ECCP® program and the stipends available.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What are the stipends for?

OCFS will initiate a new ECCP® stipend initiative funded with Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Discretionary Funds. This stipend is meant to further support Maine's child care providers, and continue to place value on the three goals outlined in the Child Care Plan for Maine: increase access, quality, and workforce.

OCFS has allocated CCDF Discretionary funds to recognize child care programs that participate ECCP® program. Programs that participate in ECCP® Core Classroom Services or Family Child Care Provider Services and meet the eligibility requirements outlined below are eligible to receive stipends. OCFS will issue stipends through June 30, 2024, or the until allocated funds are exhausted.

Q: What is the ECCP® program?

ECCP® is an early childhood mental consultation service which helps early childhood educators and caregivers of young children ages 0-8 build their skills to effectively respond to the social-emotional needs of young children. ECCP® provides experienced early childhood mental health consultants who work directly with child care providers and early childhood educators to identify and practice strategies to effectively manage challenging behaviors and social-emotional development of young children.

Q: What are some reasons to request consultation through ECCP®?

Consultation may be requested for multiple reasons from managing aggressive behaviors, difficulties with classroom transitions, implementing positive behavior management strategies, introducing social-emotional learning into the classroom or program, helping children understand and verbalize emotions, and building effective partnerships with families, among other reasons.

Q: What types of consultation does ECCP® offer?

There are three types of consultation services available through ECCP®: Core Classroom Services, Child-Specific Services, and Family Child Care Provider Services. Please see the [program brochure](#) for descriptions of each consultation service offered. A brief description of each consultation service is also available on the Maine ECCP® [website](#).

Q: Is ECCP® a mental health treatment service?

No. Although ECCP® consultants are licensed mental health clinicians or have master’s degrees in education or a related field, they do not diagnose or provide mental health treatment as part of ECCP® services. ECCP® is a short-term, prevention-focused consultation service. ECCP® consultants do not provide crisis intervention or one-on-one behavioral support to students.

Q: How much does ECCP® cost?

There is no cost for ECCP® services to providers or families.

Q: Where is ECCP® available?

ECCP® is expanding statewide. Please go to the Maine ECCP® [website](#) to find the consultant in your county.

Q: Why isn’t ECCP® available in my county?

OCFS contracts with licensed mental health agencies to provide ECCP® services and employ ECCP® consultants. These contracted agencies are actively recruiting to hire ECCP® consultants for all counties. Services will be available when ECCP® consultants are hired and trained.

Q: What types of consultation qualify for the stipend?

Core Classroom Services and Family Child Care Provider Services qualify for the \$500 stipend. Child-Specific Services do not qualify for the stipend.

Q: What types of programs are eligible to receive the stipend?

Licensed child care facilities and licensed family child care providers are eligible for the stipend.

Q: How does my program qualify for the stipend?

Eligible programs may receive one \$500 stipend per classroom or family child care program after completing participation in ECCP® Core Classroom Services or Family Child Care Provider Services.

Q: What is meant by a completed service?

Eligible programs must complete all service visits in the ECCP® Core Classroom or ECCP® Family Child Care Provider Service, up to and including the one-month follow-up visit. The head or lead teacher in the classroom or program receiving the Core Classroom or Family Child Care Provider Service must remain employed by the program and serving as the head or lead teacher in the classroom throughout the service through the one-month follow-up visit. If the head or lead teacher leaves employment or is re-assigned to another classroom prior to the one-month follow-up visit, the classroom or program will not be eligible for a stipend.

Q: How long does it take to complete an ECCP® Core Classroom Service or a Family Child Care Provider Service?

Core Classroom Services involve weekly on-site consultation visits for approximately 10-14 weeks with a one-month follow-up visit to follow. Family Child Care Provider Services involve weekly on-site consultation visits for approximately 8-10 weeks with a one-month follow-up visit.

Q: What if I already completed an ECCP® Core Classroom Service or a Family Child Care Provider Service?

\$500 stipends will not be issued retroactively to programs completing Core Classroom or Family Child Care Provider Services prior to October 1, 2023.

Q: How do I apply to receive the stipend?

There is no application to complete. OCFS will identify programs that qualify for the stipend and contact the program directly once the program has completed an ECCP® Core Classroom Service or Family Child Care Provider Service.

Q: How do I request ECCP® services?

To request ECCP® services, please contact the ECCP® consultant in your county or contact the OCFS ECCP® Program Manager. Contact information is listed on the program [website](#).

Q: Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact ECCPProgram.DHHS@maine.gov or call (207) 624-7991. You may also fill out an information request form on the program [website](#).