

August 31, 2009



Dear Provider -

Attached please find several documents related to 09/10 STARS Awards, including:

- STARS Financial Award Request
 - Merit and Education and Retention Award (STAR 2, 3, and 4 sites)
 - Support Grant Request (SWS and STAR 1 sites)
- Best Practices in STARS Financial Award Spending
- Overview of Award Structure
- 2009/2010 Grants and Awards flyer

Please note that release of these documents does not imply that there has been any change in regard to the state budget impasse in general, or funding for the state's early childhood programs in particular. As of this writing, there is still no budget authorizing payment of any kind to the Regional Keys, CCIS agencies, etc.

OCDEL and the Regional Keys are trying to be proactive in getting these documents out, so that you in turn can complete and submit your grant applications for initial processing while the impasse continues. This will allow us to act on your application as quickly as possible once a budget is signed and money is received by the Regional Key.

Please be aware that at this time there is no way to know the final outcome of the budget impasse. It is possible that a cut to early childhood funding could result in a cut to the grant amounts listed on the award structure document. If this occurs, we would contact you & work with you to revise your grant to reflect the actual grant amounts. In completing your grant application now, you might want to think of how you would prioritize the items you are requesting if such a revision were necessary.

We are asking that those of you who have already been designated or renewed in the 08/09 fiscal year (July 1, 2009 or later) submit your grant applications as soon as possible - within 15 days of receipt of this message. Going forward, we will follow our usual policy of requesting that grant applications be submitted within 10 days of your designation or renewal. However, we understand that this is an extremely stressful time for many in the early childhood community. If you are unable to meet the above timelines, please contact your STARS Specialist to discuss an alternate plan.

This year, more than ever, thank you for your hard work and dedication to the children and families of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen J. Murphy".

Maureen J. Murphy, Director
South Central Regional Key