



Early Learning Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions for Family Child Care Providers May 2017

On July 1, 2017, San Francisco is starting a new program for expanding the availability of high quality child care for families called Early Learning Scholarship (ELS). 268 family child care homes were qualified to participate in the new program through a NOFA process.

What does it mean to be qualified as an Early Learning Scholarship provider?

Family child care providers will receive a higher reimbursement rate for any low income children they enroll with vouchers or other subsidies. The full time, full year reimbursement rates for family child care homes participating in the program are:

Infants/Toddler \$20,207 per year; or \$1,684 per month

Preschoolers \$19,494 per year; or \$1,625 per month.

Family child care homes who participate in the Early Learning Scholarship will also commit to continuous quality improvement and have access to training, and support from the Family Child Care Quality Network.

I was awarded ELS-City (Reserved) funding. What does this mean?

You will have a funding agreement for the number of enrollments included in your letter. You can count on enrolling the number of children and receiving the ELS reimbursement rate:

Infants/Toddler \$20,207 per year; or \$1,684 per month

Preschoolers \$19,494 per year; or \$1,625 per month.

Wu Yee Children's Services will work with family child care homes awarded ELS-City Reserved funding to transition any current enrollments into this program, or identify children on the centralized eligibility/ waiting list (SF3C) to fill any available spaces. Family child care providers must enroll eligible children to earn the funding.

What is Transition Funding? Why did some providers receive it and others did not?

Transition funding is intended to help providers who are receive funding from OECE in 2016-2017 and may experience a loss in funding from OECE in 2017-18 based on the change to the new Early Learning Scholarship program. Transition funding can be used for any operating expenses. Only providers who applied for this funding and received high scores were awarded this one-time funding. Providers can select to receive the funding all at once or in two installments.

I currently serve children with City Child Care subsidies or Preschool Plus, PFA Voucher Bridge, or PFA Special funding. Will I still receive city funding to serve those children?

OECE is committed to ensuring that all families who are fully city-funded in 2016-17 will be funded in 2017-18, and potentially until Kindergarten if eligible. Providers will receive a letter from Wu Yee or Children's Council by May 26 about appropriate paperwork to ensure these children continue to receive city funding. If you have questions about the status of funding for these children, please call the OECE contact person that was listed in your letter from OECE about funding for next year.

If I don't serve voucher kids now, but I want to, what do I do?

Family Child Care providers should communicate their willingness to serve voucher children, and any vacancies they may have in their family child care home with Children's Council and Wu Yee Children's Services.

Children's Council
415.343.3300
www.childrenscouncil.org

Wu Yee Children's Services
844.644.4300
www.wuyee.org

Who can answer my questions about funding for 2017-18?

Each award letter from OECE identifies an OECE contact person and lists their phone number and email. Call that person to discuss your award letter, or any questions you have and/or to request your scores.

My program/business will be hurt by a reduction in funding. What can I do?

Providers may also protest the funding decisions described in their letter from OECE by submitting a written protest, or appeal, to OECE **by May 19, 2017**. Protests can be submitted in any language and must be emailed to

September.Jarrett@sfgov.org or mailed to September Jarrett, **OECE**, P.O. Box 7988, San Francisco, CA 94120.

Please contact OECE staff or check our website (www.sfoece.org) for more information.