ANNOUNCEMENT #18

INFANT INCENTIVE

TO: All Delaware Stars 4 & 5 Programs

CORE: Syreeta Clarke, Coordinator, DAEYC
Infrastructure: Debra Renz, Program Manager, Children and Families First
Professional Development at the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood: Allison Constable, Associate Director, PD
Stars Program at the UD DIEEC: Nicole Hylton, Operations Manager; Chris Joe, Lead Technical Assistant
Stars Program at Children and Families First: Andrea Prettyman, Lead Technical Assistant
Stars Program at Easter Seals: Anna Scovell, Lead Technical Assistant
Stars Management Committee: Martha Buell Professor, HDFS, University of Delaware; April Hill-Addison, Education Associate, Head Start Collaboration, DOE; Patricia Daniels, DHSS; Maria Edgerton, ELLI Coordinator; Kelly Hunter, Director, Early Development and Learning Resources, DOE; Evelyn Keating, Program Manager, Office of Early Learning; Mary Moor, Early Childhood Mental Health, DSCYF; Leslie Newman, CEO, Children and Families First; Pam Reuther, VP Operations, Easter Seals; Ann Ryan, Supervisor, Office of Child Care Licensing, DSCYF; Crystal Sherman, Home Visiting Coordinator, DHSS; Carol Ann Schumann, Training Administrator, Birth to Three, DHSS; Annette Searfoss, Director, Delaware Stars; Mary Sonnenberg, Deputy Director, Delaware Stars; Verna Thompson, Education Associate, IDEA 619/ECAP, DOE; Betty Gail Timm, Administrator, OCCL, DSCYF; Nancy Widdoes, Deputy Director, Office of Early Learning; Devona Williams, Goins Williams Associates; Kathy Wilson, Education Specialist, Professional Development, Stars, DOE
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®: Paula Holloway, Coordinator, DAEYC

FROM: Evelyn Keating, Program Manager, Office of Early Learning

SUBJECT: Infant Incentive

Purpose
The purpose of the Infant Incentive is to increase resources to Star 4 & 5 programs serving Infants.

Background
In 2013, Anne Mitchell conducted a cost study of early learning programs. The data demonstrated that programs serving infants needed additional supports beyond what families and Purchase of Care were
providing. The Incentive is for eligible programs (Star 4 & 5 programs, as of October, 2014, that serve infants, with a minimum of 5% of their 0-5 year old children through Purchase of Care) and eligible children (any infant enrolled in your program for a minimum of two weeks in the month of October; an infant is defined by DelaCare as a child who is less than one year).

Discussion
Through the Early Learning Challenge funds, Star 4 & 5 programs will be able to apply for an Infant Incentive based on their Infant enrollment at three pre-set times: October, 2014; March, 2015; and October 2015. See “Procedure” below to apply for the October 2014 funds. Additional funds and application dates will be made available for the March and October, 2015 funding.

Procedure
Each Star 4 & 5 program, serving infants can apply for these funds through the Delaware Stars database between November 1 and November 15, 2014. Applications will not be available prior to November 1st or after November 15th. Applications are located on the Grants page, as a drop down menu choice of “Infant Incentive Program”. You must complete the data requested and explain your planned usage of the funds. You must attest to the information as true and accurate and then select “apply” for your request to be submitted. You will see the summary screen to confirm your application was submitted. Each program can only apply once within the application dates (11/1-11/15). The amount of the Infant Incentive will be seen as “0”, as the funds will be distributed based on eligible applicants and the number of eligible infants.

The Office of Early Learning will randomly select eligible programs to audit, therefore documentation of your infant enrollment and attendance should be kept as permanent records.

Next Steps for All

- Delaware Stars TAs are encouraged to share the information with their programs.
- Delaware Stars programs are encouraged to apply if eligible.

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Evelyn Keating: evelyn.keating@state.de.us

Evelyn Keating
Program Manager, Office of Early Learning
820 North French Street, 5th Floor
Wilmington DE 19801
evelyn.keating@state.de.us
www.greatstartsdelaware.com
P: 302-577-5243
F: 302-577-1300