

October 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Early Childhood Professional:

Welcome fall! And welcome to more in-person DIEEC opportunities. As always, your safety and health continue to be our priority. To this end, we are following UD COVID guidelines to keep everyone safe. Please check out our DIEEC professional development calendar [here](#) for in-person workshops.

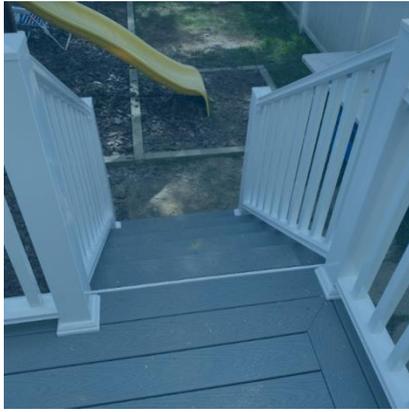
This issue also provides information on our Stabilization Fund Application Support events, where our staff will help you apply for grants. You don't want to miss out on this opportunity to receive funds for your program. In our "Voices from the Field" series, Carol Crawley, a family child care professional, shares her experience applying for the grant and how she invested in her program.

Be sure to check out our newly designed Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood website. We're excited about our new look but would love your feedback. Don't hesitate to reach out to our [communications team](#) with your thoughts.

We are also sharing newly approved curricula that focuses on social/emotional learning and gives you more online options - areas that have become increasingly important because of the pandemic.

Finally, we are holding our second Jeopardy event in November. We got great feedback on the first event and wanted to add a little fun to fall with another opportunity to play.

Rena Hallam
DIEEC Director



Voices from the Field The Stabilization Fund: A Provider's Perspective

"I hope my experience with the Stabilization Fund is helpful to others."

***Carol Crawley
Family Child Care Professional***

Carol Crawley received a grant from the Stabilization Fund and shares her experience from start to finish, including details on applying and how she invested in her program. She offers helpful tips from working with contractors to accounting for her investments.

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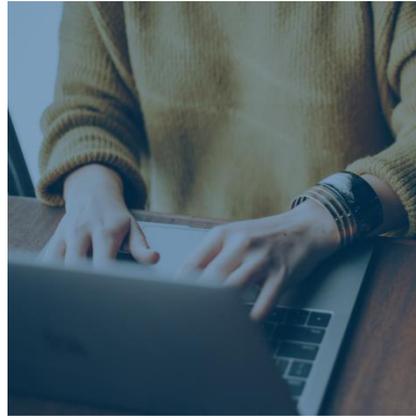
***Carol Crawley
Family Child Care Professional***

Carol Crawley received a sub-grant from the Stabilization Fund and shares her experience from start to finish, including details on applying and how she invested in her program. She offers helpful tips from dealing with contractors to accounting for her investments.

What was your experience with the application process?

"I was fortunate to have a very helpful Stabilization Fund technical assistant (TA) who walked me through the application process. It only took a couple of hours total for the actual process. I had to call my TA several times with questions, but she happily responded. Also, as a tip, I had written estimates from various companies on hand to upload. My application went through without a single glitch. Within days of my acceptance email, the funds were deposited into my account."

How have you used (or plan to use) the funds you received through the Stabilization Fund to sustain your program?



**Have you applied for the Stabilization Fund sub-grants?
There's still time and we can help!**

We don't want you to miss out on sub-grants for your program through the Stabilization Fund, so we're holding in-person application support events statewide.

Our team members will be there to support applicants through the entire application process, from start to finish. You can check it off of your list in 15 minutes or less.

It's quick and easy!

**Stabilization Fund Application Support Events
Have you applied for a Stabilization Fund sub-grant?
There's Still Time!**

Join us to receive support with the application process for sub-grants available through the Delaware Early Education and Child Care Stabilization Fund.

Our Stabilization Fund team will be available to help you start or complete a Stabilization Fund application. Sub-grants can be used in various ways to assist your program, such as providing salaries and bonuses for you and your staff. These funds are available to family child care and center-based licensed early education programs.

We are holding events statewide. Details are:

Newark Event

Thursday, October 14, 2021
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
DIEEC Training Location
501 S. College Ave., Newark, DE 19716

Sign up here for the Newark event.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4ea5ae23a7f4ce9-stabilization1>

Dover Event

Saturday, October 16, 2021
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Dover Residence Inn
600 Jefferic Blvd., Dover, DE 19901

"I used the entire amount to make my daycare as safe from COVID or future pandemics as possible. This decision will strengthen my business and keep my daycare children safe. The upgrades included:

- Nonporous kitchen counters with new, deeper sink.
- Larger deck for outside play and eating area.
- New Fencing.
- New HVAC unit with UV Light/Filter.
- Nonporous flooring in all areas used for daycare. (Such a difference—I simply run my shark steam cleaner each night! No germs hidden in carpets.)
- Totally renovated daycare bathroom.
- All daycare walls were freshly painted with washable paint."

What advice or tips would you share about this process/experience with other early childhood professionals who have yet to apply or are considering applying?

- "Do not be afraid to call and speak up regarding your needs. It is your daycare—you know what will help keep you and your daycare children safe."
- "Take time to get estimates—interview potential contractors. I was upfront with all contractors, explaining the funds were from a sub-grant, and it would take a while to complete estimates, applications, etc. I made sure there was no rising-cost clause in the contracts I signed."
- "Get references—good, solid references before hiring a contractor! Make it clear you are running a business and prefer as few disruptions as possible. There were two days I had to close because it simply would not have been safe to open daycare during construction."
- "This is just a personal preference I felt would protect me, but I went to my branch bank and printed out cashier checks rather than write a personal check. It was an extra record for my business."

"My daycare parents have raved about the work I was able to have completed and feel their children's safety is important to both me and the state."

Editor's note: The current application for family child care professionals no longer allows for uploading the documentation. The application process currently only takes about 15 minutes. Once you hear from a technical assistant and determine what you'd like to request funds for, you can submit any documentation, if necessary, at that time.

Sign up here for the Dover event.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4ea5ae23a7f4ce9-stabilization2>

Wilmington Event

Tuesday, October 19, 2021
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Stubbs Early Education Center
1100 N Pine Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Sign up here for the Wilmington event.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4ea5ae23a7f4ce9-stabilization>

Seaford Event

Tuesday, October 26, 2021
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Little Sprouts Learning Academy
126 N Shipley St
Seaford, DE 19973

Sign up here for the Seaford event.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4ea5ae23a7f4ce9-stabilization3>

Computers will be available.

Please bring your OCCL number, and POC site ID and FSF number (if you have either of these). Please note we will follow all safety and health guidelines consistent with the University of Delaware. These COVID protocols include:

- Complete the UD Daily Health Check and show the green check display reflecting health clearance.
- Participants must provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination. Their final vaccine should have occurred at least 14 days in advance of attending the event.
- If not vaccinated, participants need a negative PCR coronavirus test taken within 72 hours of the event. Please note that "at home tests" will not be accepted.
- Participants can present a paper copy of their vaccination card or negative test results, OR show an electronic copy of their vaccination card or negative test results on their smartphones. Participants will also need to show valid identification matching the vaccination card/test results.
- While on-site, participants will need to practice social distancing and wear a face covering.

For questions, email us at stabilizationfund@udel.edu or call 1-877-351-2841.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to receive these funds!



DIEEC Launches New Website

The Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC) has a new look. We redesigned our landing page to give you easy access to our services and relative content for the early childhood community.

Check us out <https://www.dieec.udel.edu/>
[here!](#)



Date Set for Fall Jeopardy Event: Thursday, November 4, 2021 7 p.m. (via Zoom)

Calling all early childhood professionals! We are hosting our second Jeopardy Event. You can play alone or with a team - it doesn't matter, fun is all that counts.
And you can win great prizes!

Sign up [here!](#)



Announcing Two New Approved Curricula

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) is excited to announce that two new curricula have been approved as resources for early childhood education programs - "Al's Pals" and "Ready to Advance."

These curricular resources were selected because they meet needs highlighted by the pandemic – social-emotional learning and online materials.

New Curricula Approved to Support Pandemic Challenges

The pandemic has highlighted the need for curricula that provides resources for social/emotional learning and the need for online learning. We are excited to share that "Al's Pals" and "Ready to Advance" are approved to support these areas.

"Al's Pals" is a supplemental social-emotional curriculum for all ages. "Al's Pals" provides young children with the skills to prepare for life's challenges through scripts for interactive lessons with impactful teaching approaches. Children use tools such as engaging puppets and original music.

Access the "Al's Pals" resources here:
<https://teachingstrategies.com/solutions/teach/als-pals/>.

"Ready to Advance" is a comprehensive curriculum for preschool-age children – ages 36 to 60 months. This is a print curriculum with 10 units and materials available through their digital subscription. It is available in English and Spanish.

Access the "Ready to Advance" resources here:
<https://www.benchmarkta.com/index.html>

[Read more here.](#)

