

PRE-K PILOT PROGRAM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

October 28, 2020

Q – What would the re-imbursement Process Look like for the Provider?

A - According to the agreement, we will do a reimbursement on a monthly basis. The provider will invoice the city. We will ask the parent to sign off on the invoice, all will be routed electronically through DocuSign starting October 2021.

Q – The 2.5 hours is an addition to the service provided to the Miami Beach residents?

A – It can be, if you take funding from the state and you are participating in the state VPK, we will fund an additional 2.5 hours beyond what the State funds. Those who do not take funding from the State, we will be contributing up to \$2,700.00, for 2.5 hours per day, \$6 dollars per hour for 180 days of school year during a Pre-K program.

Q – We also have students that are not VPK students, they have other grants like Gardner, there are in an acceleration program because they missed a year because of their September birthday?

A – If the child is already receiving other funding then we will not overlap on top of that funding, if outside of that funding there was an additional 2.5 hours of services needed or less that are not currently covered by any other source and the family wants the child to have an additional 2.5 hours of PreK then we can fund those unfunded hours. As far as the children that are older (younger) than 4 we will abide by the state's guidelines, you must be 4 by September 1st of the year. The state allows if your birthday is February, you may then wait until the next year, technically children who turn 4 from February 2020 to September 1st 2021 would be eligible.

Q – Extending times for VPK, if adding 2.5 hours, the way VPK works is according to attendance, we have to submit attendance, we don't bill ELC or we don't bill anybody, we submit the attendance sheet of each one of the students, is that going to be the same environment for this funding?

A – You will submit an invoice at the end of each month that indicates the child's attendance and we will reimburse based on attendance. Both the parent/guardian and the provider will sign the invoice.

Q – Is that in addition of what we already do with the ELC or will this be completely separate?

A – We are completely separate. It is a very simple invoice that we have developed. we'll create the invoice for you to use, if that's preferred, you will put the child's name and you'll give us dates that they were in attendance, you will count the total number of days and the numbers of hours, you do a simple multiplication and that is what you will get reimbursed for. We have nothing to do with the Early Learning Coalition, nothing to do with the State VPK, we are completely a separate additional enhancement solely for Miami Beach residents with children that are eligible.

Q – How are you going to supervise the whole process? How are you going to make us accountable, are you going to send Inspectors?

A – No, we are not, our sole criteria for provider participation is that you have a DCF identification number. We hope that our families will choose exceptional, wonderful providers for their children. It is a family decision and everybody's needs are different. Our goal is to fund up to an additional 2.5 hours up to \$2,700.00 and no more than 6 dollars per hour for 180 days.

Q – Only for the residents of the City of Miami Beach?

A – They must live either in 33139, 33140, or 33141 zip code. We will verify the family's eligibility upon submission of their application and we will continue to verify their eligibility throughout the 2021-22 school year. As far as the provider goes, as long as you have a DCF identification number, license number, you're eligible. It's the family's decision as to who they want to choose as their child's pre-k provider.

Q – Do you know if another municipality is getting with the program or is it just going to be Miami Beach?

A – No, this is a city of Miami Beach municipal funded initiative, our Mayor and our Commission have approved this funding so it's only our municipality, it's unique to our city. Our goal is to encourage young families who would like to take advantage of this initiative to live in our city and apply and if other young families who have children that are eligible would like to take advantage of this initiative, they should move to Miami Beach.

Q – Is there a way to send out the flyers to the families that we are already serving?

A – Absolutely, similar to how you received information. We will post a flyer with information on the city's website and we will also utilize the city's Miami Beach Communications Department to get the information out there. If you register to be a provider with us, in advance of that, we will have your information, we can certainly send the flyer directly to you, but the flyer for families and all that information will be heavily shared within our community through our Communications Department, and so I encourage each of you to certainly share with all of your families because I suspect they would be interested in this program, not to mention interested in a \$2,700.00 savings to them for an eligible pre-k child for the school year 2021-22.

Q – Would that be also shared in the ELC website?

A – I have shared the provider flyer with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade and Monroe County. I have also shared the information for providers with the State Department of Education and asked them to share it as well. So, I am hoping that they are sharing this information across the board. We have shared information directly with providers across Miami Beach, so the information is out there. As far as the families go, we will heavily promote within our City to our residents and we will certainly share that information with the ELC as well and the State and ask them to share the information so that any eligible families can learn about this opportunity and if they are currently ineligible and they would like to become eligible they will consider perhaps moving to Miami Beach.

Q – If the person is not a resident within those zip codes but works within those zip codes will they still be eligible?

A – No, they must live within City of Miami Beach, physically reside. We will confirm their residency. It is only for residents. It's a resident perk.

Q – If parents want to remain more hours, do they need to copay?

A – The City is only funding 2.5 hours, max of 6 dollars an hour for 180 school days during the regular PreK program hours.

Q – If parents want to keep their kids for longer hours?

A – *If a parent needs to leave a child at the school for 10 hours the City will pay for 2.5 hours of those 10 hours at no more than 6 dollars per hour for a total of \$2,700.00 during the regular PreK class hours. We are not funding aftercare.*

Q – If it is free and or reduced, does that funding go down to \$4.80?

A – *In the public schools pre-kindergarten programs receive state funding and other federal funds. For parents that want their children to stay in the pre-k program beyond the 3 hours funded by the state, the parent fee supported programs are either \$6 per hour or \$4.80 per hours this year for those on free/reduced lunch. For the children who are eligible for free and reduced lunch according to the public-school system, we will pay the \$4.80 per hour. We will not pay more than what they would charge the family. If you are a private pre-k provider, we would fund at no more than 6 dollars an hour for 2.5 hours of the regular PreK schedule. If you charge 4.00 per hour, we would pay would pay 4.00 per hour for the 2.5 hours. We are going to pay at the hourly rate you charge the family, we just will not exceed 6.00 per hour. There is no minimum but there is a maximum of \$6 per hour. The rates should be standard across the provider.*

Q – I have a sliding scale fee, is it done on an individual basis to see how much their going to get funded?

A – *That's correct. That is why we ask you to submit a copy of the agreement you sign with the family, because in your agreement it's going to show what you are charging the family and what the hourly rate is for service for that family. We will match that hourly rate not to exceed 6.00 per hour for up to 2.5 hours during the regular Pre-K schedule.*

Q- Is the school allowed to charge 10.00 per hour and reimburse up to 6.00 per hour or can a school only charge 6.00 per hour?

A – *We do not have an opinion on that, parents are going to decide where it is they want to go and what they want to do. We fund up to 2.5 hours for \$6 per hour during the regular PreK schedule. We do not fund aftercare.*

Q – Why only pre-k families? Why does this not apply to kindergarten, elementary, middle school, or high school if you are a resident of Miami Beach?

A – *Our elected officials decided to do a pilot program in the 2021-2022 school year at the pre-k level and they allocated \$250,000 for a minimum of 92 families. We may impact more depending upon the cost per child at individual schools.*