



## Continuous Quality Improvement in PA Go Green Initiative

The purpose of this form is to provide information about initiatives that could support programs in addressing CQI after needs are identified through examination of relevant sources of evidence.

<b>Title of activity/initiative:</b>	PA Early Childhood & Education (ECE)- Healthy & Green Initiative
<b>Purpose, goal and expected outcomes of the initiative. How is this activity important to program quality?</b>	<p>Create a statewide initiative that will assist early learning programs to become the country's most environmentally healthy and environmentally friendly programs. Currently The Heinz Endowments is supporting the <b>PA ECE Healthy &amp; Green Initiative</b>, a three-year effort that will do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Integrate environmental health and green building best management practices into the existing PA ECE Quality Improvement Continuum.</li> <li>2) Build professional development, supportive tools and resources that will assist programs in making environmental health and green building improvements in their programs and operations.</li> <li>3) Promote and coordinate quality Environmental &amp; Ecology curricula throughout the state.</li> </ol>
<b>Description of initiative and any component parts (Technical assistance, professional development, program assessment inventories, etc.)</b>	<p>Now in its second year, the PA ECE Healthy &amp; Green Initiative will be rolling out the following for program years 2012-2014:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Environmental Health professional development</li> <li>2) Environment &amp; Ecology professional development</li> <li>3) Tools, technical assistance and resources that support the Keystone STARS program and integrates this initiative's content.</li> </ol>
<b>Program eligibility criteria or recommended programs for initiative</b>	<p>Age Group Serving: <input type="checkbox"/> Infant/Toddler <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-K <input type="checkbox"/> SACC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All</p> <p>Program Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All  <input type="checkbox"/> Head Start <input type="checkbox"/> Early Head Start <input type="checkbox"/> PA Pre-K Counts  <input type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention Providers <input type="checkbox"/> School District  <input type="checkbox"/> PCHP <input type="checkbox"/> NFP <input type="checkbox"/> Keystone Babies</p> <p>Child Care: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All  <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 1 <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 2 <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 3 <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 4  <input type="checkbox"/> Center <input type="checkbox"/> Group <input type="checkbox"/> Family</p> <p>Other: RK staff and PA Key field staff, Certification field staff</p>
<b>Website(s) for initiative</b>	Not available currently
<b>Identify needs, questions or problems the activity/initiative addresses:</b>	<p>This initiative deepens how health and safety concepts are defined and applied in programs. The Go Green initiative supports programs to improve operational efficiency through resource conservation and promotes developmentally appropriate environment and ecology curriculum in early care and education settings.</p>

<b>Identify focus areas the initiative addresses</b>	-Administrative Competencies -Engaging Families -Healthy Children/Families/Practitioners
<b>Other initiatives, resources, organizations or professional development that support or enhance the initiative</b>	Better Kid Care <a href="http://www.betterkidcare.psu.edu/index.html">http://www.betterkidcare.psu.edu/index.html</a> Eco-Healthy Child Care <a href="http://ecohealthychildcare.org/index.php?page=provider">http://ecohealthychildcare.org/index.php?page=provider</a> Penn State Integrated Pest Management: <a href="http://extension.psu.edu/ipm">http://extension.psu.edu/ipm</a> ECELS Environmental Health Self-Learning Module can be found at: <a href="http://www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org/content/6-8-07%20v10%20Environmental%20Health%20SLM%20Module.pdf">http://www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org/content/6-8-07%20v10%20Environmental%20Health%20SLM%20Module.pdf</a> Project Wild <a href="http://www.projectwild.org/growingupwild.htm">http://www.projectwild.org/growingupwild.htm</a>
<b>Audiences for direct participation in the initiative, list all that apply</b>	X Directors X Management/Leadership Teams X Teachers X Assistant Teachers X All Staff X Parents X Board Members X Community Stakeholders X Children Is a component of the initiative that information be brought back to the program and intentionally shared with others? X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not necessarily Notes: Children, especially school-age children (incorporate in learning activities)
<b>Research or national context to support the initiative: How is the initiative important to program quality?</b>	<p>Over the course of the last decade, the fields of pediatric environmental health and the green building industry have advanced. Environmental health experts have substantiated the link between childhood illness, disease, and lack of productivity to the exposure of indoor environmental hazards. The American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Environmental Health has demonstrated that poor indoor air quality, chemical and other physical hazards all pose immediate health risks to children.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>The green building industry concurs. As a leader in the green building movement, the US Green Building Council has developed a comprehensive set of standards that include the lessons from environmental health research. Those within the green building field assert that people, the economy, and the community all benefit by applying green standards in the operations, maintenance, and construction of a facility: building occupants become healthier, the external environment is positively impacted, and financial savings are generated through purposeful conservation practices.</p>

<sup>1</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health. Child Care Settings. In Etzel RA, ed. *Pediatric Environmental Health*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2003: (page 419-421).

<b>Keystone STARS or Program Standards addressed and CBK Topic Codes (if applicable)</b>	K7, Topic Code 84 K8, Topic Code 91 K2, Topic Code 11
<b>Additional information or materials</b>	More to come as initiative continues to roll-out programming.
<b>Contact person for questions about this Initiative</b>	Samantha Balbier- Consultant <a href="mailto:sambalbier@comcast.net">sambalbier@comcast.net</a> 412-260-0124 Maryanne Olley – Education Advisor <a href="mailto:molley@pa.gov">molley@pa.gov</a> 717- 772-4849