



STARS FINANCIAL AWARD GUIDELINES and REQUEST FORM – REVISED

Merit Award

Centers and Group Homes

Purpose:

Keystone STARS is an initiative of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) to improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement (CQI) efforts of Pennsylvania's early learning and school-age programs. Providing financial supports to providers serving children who are vulnerable and at risk is one strategy implemented by OCDEL to promote continuous quality improvement. All award funds are contingent upon the availability of state funds. **Note: This application may be denied if it is not complete or the instructions have not been followed.** For any questions regarding the completion and submission of the Merit Award request, please contact the Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC).

Overview:

Merit Award includes expenses relating to Equipment and Supplies/Materials, Professional Development, Accreditation Costs, Staff Benefits, and Other Expenses. It is recommended that all programs applying for and receiving a Merit Award analyze their existing technology and use these funds to develop or enhance computer and internet access as necessary.

General Provider Eligibility:

To be eligible for the Merit Award a program must meet the following requirements.

- 1) The provider must be designated at and meet all Keystone STARS Performance Standards associated with a STAR 2 designation.
- 2) The provider must maintain the STAR 2 designation for which the provider received the Merit during the approval and payment phase of the grant. If a STAR level move-down occurs during this process, the provider is no longer eligible for that Award. It is expected that the provider is making a commitment to maintain the awarded STAR designation.
- 3) **STARS 3 and 4 programs are not eligible for Merit Awards.**
- 4) **The maximum number of Merit Awards providers may receive is three (3).**
- 5) The provider must hold a regular DHS Certificate of Compliance. If a provider has a Provisional Certificate of Compliance, award funds may be available upon return to a full DHS Certificate of Compliance.
- 6) The provider must have an agreement with Child Care Works through the Early Learning Resource Center. Furthermore, the provider must be willing to enroll a child who qualifies for subsidy, if space is available.
- 7) At least **10%** of enrolled child care children must receive one or more of the following services or funding during the current fiscal year:
 - a) Child Care Works (CCW) subsidized care administered through the ELRC; and/or
 - b) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Early Intervention (EI) Services program for children with developmental delays and disabilities. To include a child receiving EI services in the provider's percentage, the following criteria must be met:
 - (1) The provider is providing *child care* services to the child; AND
 - (2) The provider is operating inclusive child care, which is defined as a program with no more than 33% of enrollment identified as children receiving EI Services; AND
 - (3) The child must have a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) / Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) on file at the provider.
 - c) Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships Initiative
- 8) The Provider must complete and submit a STARS Enrollment Calculation Tool (ECT) and supporting verification documents as specified in the ECT form. Please refer to the requirements for completing the tool or contact your ELRC for further details.
- 9) STARS Awards received in previous years must have been expended in compliance with award agreements.
- 10) Providers who owe liens/liabilities to the Commonwealth and/or federal government, including tax liabilities, will be suspended from Keystone STARS and will not be able to receive grants and awards until those liens/liabilities

are fully satisfied and the program provides the ELRC a clearance certificate issued by the Department of Revenue. Clearance certificates can be obtained at the provider's local tax office. Additionally, if a program receives child care subsidy payments, OCDEL may intercept subsidy payments in order to recoup the delinquent taxes on behalf of the state.

Award Timeline:

Due to the availability of funds being limited, it is recommended providers complete and submit to the ELRC, all completed grant documents (postmarked or emailed) as listed below. It is recommended this submission occur within ten (10) calendar days of the provider's current designation date or as soon as grant paperwork is made available after July 1st annually for those providers designated prior to the release of updated documents.

For Electronic submission:

- Pages A, B and D below
- Attachment #1 Keystone STARS Excel Budget Workbook with the following tabs completed: STARS Budget Request and Staff Bonuses and Salary

For Paper submission:

- Pages A through D below
- Attachment #2 Keystone STARS Merit Award Budget Worksheet - see Attachment's instructions for details.

For timeline/process of closing the grant, see **Award Reconciliation/Closure** below.

Helpful tips:

- Best practice is to reconcile all receipts and complete the expenditure portion of the respective attachments for the electronic and paper submissions immediately after all purchases have been made. Please read the instructions in the respective attachment carefully prior to form completion.
- Electronic submission of the Award Request is highly recommended and will expedite the processing of the Grant Request.

Award Amounts:

For the award amounts, please see the details in **Merit Award Request Instructions/Guidelines**.

Award Guidelines and Compliance

Non-compliance with all the requirements of the STARS Financial Award Request and the Grant Agreement could result in the provider being required to return grant funds to the ELRC.

- OCDEL strongly encourages providers follow the Best Practices in STARS Financial Award Spending.
- Limitation of health care benefits are as follows: Child care owner/operator and child care practitioners working with children during operating hours (a minimum of 15 hours) a week are the only individuals eligible for reimbursement of health care benefit costs.
- All award funds are allocated for child care services only and are not to be used to supplement or complement the incomes of teachers in any other program or service (i.e. Pre-K Counts, Head Start) other than Keystone STARS.
- **Funds attributed to this grant must be expended by the date specified in the provider's signed Grant Agreement or no later than June 30th.**
- Funds may be moved between line items as long as a line does not increase by more than 10% of the original budget. If a program determines the need to shift funds by increasing a line by more than 10%, prior approval is required by the ELRC.
- Provider must retain original receipts for all award expenditures and ensure the receipt amounts match total expenditures as reported on the respective Attachment #1 Keystone STARS Excel Budget Workbook and Attachment #2 Keystone STARS Merit Award Budget Worksheet.
- **Important: Any unexpended funds must be returned to the ELRC.**

Award Reconciliation/Closure

The completion of the respective attachments for the electronic and paper submissions will directly tie the request and approval of award funds to the reconciliation and approval of expended funds.

For Grant closing and budget approval/expense reconciliation, the following **must** be completed and submitted to the ELRC (postmarked or emailed) by the date specified in the Grant Agreement or no later than June 30.

For Electronic Submission:

- Attachment #1 Keystone STARS Excel Budget Workbook with all tabs completed. (The budget revision tab completed only if budget revision was necessary).

For Paper Submission:

- Attachment #2 Keystone STARS Merit Budget Worksheet – see the Attachment’s instructions for details.

Continuing this fiscal year, providers **will not** submit receipts to the ELRC. Providers **must** keep original receipts for their records and for review by ELRC program representatives and state/federal agents who may need to review receipts for auditing/monitoring purposes. All grant related documents must be maintained for 7 years.

- For monitoring purposes original receipts must have at a minimum:
 - A purchase date (within the current Fiscal Year July 1– June 30);
 - The name of the vendor or supplier;
 - Descriptions of purchased items;
 - Cost of each item and evidence of payment – the receipt must indicate balance due or, if paid, a balance due of \$-0-. If the receipt or invoice shows a balance due, proof of payment must be provided either by cancelled check or a document indicating balance due of \$-0-;
 - Dollar figures for total purchases must equal or exceed the requested Merit Award subcategory (and care levels) indicated for each item (Classroom Furnishings / Learning Materials / Minor Renovations / Gross Motor Equipment / DHS Certification Business Practices, Computer Technology / Professional Development, Accreditation Costs, Staff Benefits and Other Expenses).
- Receipts may exceed the total amount of funds issued with the understanding that the provider is responsible to pay for balances out of the program’s operating budget for amounts exceeding the grant request.
- The total of receipts must total expenditures as reported on the respective attachments.

Examples of Unallowable Receipt/Invoice Documentation

The Following is a listing of documents that are unallowable as a receipt or invoice:

- Copies of general ledger posting records.
- Copies of check registers or listing of checks written by providers.
- Computer accounting record screen-shots or other lists of data indicating payment.
- Documents that do not indicate Payee, date, amount paid and description of items purchased and/or is not supported by a check or other form of payment.
- Receipts that appear to have been altered or changed in any way.
- Payroll/employee compensation documents that indicate a payment period that crosses over Grant year-end. (Including checks dated after Grant year-end even if payroll period is within the Grant year). Do not submit receipts (payroll records, tax forms, etc.) for “Staff Bonuses and Salary”. Payroll records must be retained on-site.
- Receipt documents that do not appear to be issued by a valid supplier or vendor.
- Purchase orders or vendor/supplier monthly statements reflecting purchases.

Merit Award Request Instructions/Guidelines

Merit Award: A provider may be eligible for a Merit Award by serving a 10% or higher population receiving subsidy, EI and Early Head Start/Child Care Initiative. This is the full-time enrollment calculation (FTE). Please refer to the Merit Award Table below.

The amount of the provider’s award is based upon the following:

1. The provider’s size based upon the calculation of the full-time and part-time enrollment of children receiving child care services.
2. The provider’s percentage of the full-time and part-time enrollment receiving CCW, the commonwealth’s EI services, and the Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships Initiative. If a child is receiving both CCW and EI, or both CCW and participating in the Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships Initiative, the child will be counted only one time.

- Children must be enrolled in *Child Care services* to qualify for eligibility. Children funded exclusively through Head Start, PA Pre-K Counts, or Early Intervention only do not count toward the Award size. Please use the *STARS ECT* to determine the provider's full-time and part-time enrollment.

Merit Award Table

Percentage of CCW/ EI/ EHS-CC	STAR Level Attained	Group Homes	Center up To 6 FTE	Center 7-12 FTE	Center 13-45 FTE	Center 46-99 FTE	Center 100-180 FTE	Center 181+ FTE
10% FTE	STAR 2 (Three time award)	\$1,575	\$975	\$1,537	\$3,071	\$6,142	\$9,214	\$15,275

The intent of the STARS Merit Award is to support continuous quality improvement in early learning and school-age programs to achieve a STAR 2 or higher. The guiding principles for the award structure are as follows:

- Keystone STARS will encourage and support programs in developing and sustaining higher levels of quality, in strengthening outcomes for children and families, and improving school readiness.
- Keep STARS Performance Standards stable and continue to deepen the understanding and best practice of continuous quality improvement within Pennsylvania's early learning and school age programs.
- Continue funding Keystone STARS with an emphasis on moving programs to higher levels of quality.
- Focus support on programs serving children who are vulnerable and at risk.

OCDEL is committed to providing financial supports to eligible participants of the Keystone STARS program to enhance quality learning experiences for Pennsylvania's children. It is the responsibility of the award recipient to expend award funds in a manner that supports CQI and aligns the provider with research-based quality standards and criteria. To guide the intentional expenditure of award funds, written justification is required. Please refer to the *Optional Tool – Best Practices in STARS Financial Award Spending*.

- List items requested grouped by category and Care Level on Page B. For example, a provider requesting Staff Benefits for Infants/Toddlers and School Age would enter the request as below.

Staff Benefits			
Infants/Toddlers	Preschool	School Age	Mixed/Multiple Age
1 staff receiving health care benefits through Blue Cross		3 staff receiving health care benefits through Blue Cross	

- Use the following table to determine the appropriate Care Level for the items requested. (These ages and care levels correspond with those used in the *STARS ECT*.)

Age Groups	Care Level	Children's Age	Abbreviation
Infants/Toddlers	Infant	0-12 Months	INF
	Young Toddler	13-24 Months	YOT
	Older Toddler	25-36 Months	OLT
Preschool	Preschool	37 Months – Child Enters Kindergarten	PRE
School Age	Young School-Age	Kindergarten - 3rd Grade	YSA
	Older School-Age	4th Grade - 13th Birthday	OSA
Mixed/Multiple Ages	Includes two or more age groups listed above.		MXD

- Best practice for spending is using the Award to purchase larger, more costly items. Consider the difficulty of receipt reconciliation and quality improvement implications when purchasing numerous low-dollar items.
- A provider may receive only one STAR 2 Merit Award per fiscal year. Contact the ELRC to determine eligibility and availability of funds.
- STAR 2 providers may be eligible to receive a Merit Award once a year for up to three years in order to improve quality to reach STAR 3 and 4.
- Merit Awards are site-specific. Monies must be used for site-specific quality improvement.
- Merit Awards **cannot** be used for the following:
 - Purchase of land, new construction, or major renovations.
 - Purchase of gift cards, money orders, gift certificates, travel checks, or any other comparable legal tender.
 - Payment of mortgages, utilities, or rental/lease payments for basic facility operations.

- Purchase of alcohol.
 - Purchase of vehicles.
 - Payment toward staff entertainment, including amusement, diversion, and social activities or any costs directly associated with such costs (such as tickets to shows or sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities) that are not professional development related events.
 - Costs of membership in civic, community and social organizations (Kiwanis, Lions Club, Rotary, etc.).
 - Purchase of **any** second hand (used) items, including but not limited to those from individuals, yard sales and auctions.
- Merit Awards may be used *only* for child care related expenditures, which includes expenses that support blended classrooms. Please contact the ELRC for more information on acceptable means of documenting cost allocations in instances where the facility is used by other organizations outside of services delivered by the early learning provider.
 - For any item (minor renovations is considered a single unit cost) that has a **unit cost of \$3000 or more**, a provider shall obtain a **minimum of two (2) written price quotes** to ensure fair and equitable bid practices, as follows:
 - The bids must be for identical or comparable merchandise, purchases, and/or work.
 - Provider will submit all bid quotes with this Grant Request to the ELRC, but the provider should request payment for the lowest bid amount.
 - If the provider decides to accept the higher bid, the provider is responsible for any amount above the lowest quote using operational or other non-Keystone STARS funds. Please contact the ELRC for further clarification.
 - If extenuating circumstances occur where the provider must accept the higher bid, the provider must contact the ELRC to discuss the situation prior to submitting this Grant Request.
 - The Department of Human Services retains the title to property of any equipment having a useful life of more than one year and an individual cost of more than \$5000 that is purchased with this award.
 - The provider is required to notify their ELRC if they are closing or will be disposing of said equipment. If a grantee permanently closes or sells the business, the ELRC will need to work with the grantee to redistribute (as appropriate) to other Keystone STARS Providers supplies and equipment purchased using state and federal funds granted by the ELRC.

Merit Grant Award Categories

I. EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES/MATERIALS

Equipment and Supplies for purposes related to site-based quality improvements correspond to needs identified in the Keystone STARS Performance Standards, Environment Rating Scale (ERS), Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) or national child care quality standards including but not limited to National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Council on Accreditation (COA), and Caring for Our Children (CFOC).

Classroom Furnishings that create a developmentally appropriate environment for learning such as:

- Sufficient furniture for children in care
- Child-sized tables and chairs
- Adaptive furniture for children with disabilities and/or special needs
- Mats, cots, and/or cribs for a restful naptime
- Area rugs and soft furniture for relaxation/comfort areas
- Child-sized shelves and storage units
- Cubbies/lockers to store children's personal belongings

Learning Materials that support curriculum goals and Learning Standards such as:

- Blocks, art supplies, musical instruments, games, puzzles, dramatic play props, nature items, science materials, and manipulatives
- Numeracy materials that introduce numbers, patterns, shapes, measurement, and problem solving
- Language materials that support receptive and expressive language, comprehension, and literacy
- Diversity awareness resources
- Materials to address individual needs of children including those with disabilities and/or special needs
- Curriculum guides, assessment tools, and other teacher resources

Minor Renovations to address indoor/outdoor space improvements to meet quality standards and criteria such as:

- Installation of playground equipment
- Playground resurfacing.

See age appropriate playground surface requirements as specified in the United States Consumer Public Safety Commission's Public Playground Safety Handbook, Publication 325. This publication is available on the Internet: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/325.pdf> or by calling the Consumer Public Safety Commission at (800)-638-2772.

Please note: Child Care Development Funds (CCDF) requirements apply. Call the ELRC for more information.

Any item (minor renovations is considered a single unit cost) that has a unit cost of \$3000 or more, a provider shall obtain a minimum of two (2) written price quotes to ensure fair and equitable bid practices.

Gross Motor Equipment that promotes safe, active play areas such as:

- Enough equipment to avoid a long wait
- Equipment that stimulates a variety of skills including balancing, climbing, ball play, steering and pedaling wheel toys
- Playground equipment
- Improvements or adaptations to active play areas (indoors and outdoors)
- Inclusion of children with disabilities and/or special need

Department of Human Services (DHS) Certification, Business Practices, and Computer Technology:

- Continuing to support and exceed DHS Certification regulations
- Developing business practices such as: policy and procedure manual, financial systems, business plans, and staff support
- Computer and technology support in preparation for child assessments and outcome reporting such as: computer hardware, internet access, and fees associated with utilizing the assessment software/products

II. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Continuous Quality Improvement may be supported in early learning and school-age programs through the ongoing professional development of directors and staff such as:

- Professional development not supported through DHS funded professional development, Rising STARS Tuition Assistance program, Child Development Associate (CDA) Assessment Voucher, STARS TA or other ELRC-funded TA
- CDA course enrollment fee and instruction/coursework (that is not DHS funded)
- Conference registration fees
- Travel expenses for staff attending appropriate professional development
- Personnel costs of substitutes for professional development attended during site hours of operation (the hourly wage should not exceed the average hourly wage of an assistant teacher or group supervisor)
- Specialized professional development/technical assistance - specialized professional development and technical assistance that relates to achieving STARS Performance Standards in the areas of Learning Program, Partnerships with Family & Community, Leadership and Management and Health & Safety. Technical Assistance (other than TA provided as part of Keystone STARS) must meet the following criteria:
 - Should be PQAS approved (some exceptions in the area of Administration/Business Practices and Playgrounds and professional development required to maintain DHS Certificate of Compliance). For professional development such as national conferences, contact the ELRC for prior approval.
- Other – expenses related to professional development that do not correspond to one of the categories listed above, such as membership in a professional organization related to the field of early childhood or school-age programs

Funding for credit bearing courses -The Merit Award will not fund courses leading to degrees above the Master's level. For all credit bearing courses at the Master's level and below, the Rising STARS Tuition Assistance Program Guidelines will be followed with the exception of the one-year work requirement at a STARS program. It must be verified that the student has either been found ineligible for the Rising STARS Tuition Assistance Program or has qualified but already exceeded the limits of that assistance. If the limits had been exceeded, the student could potentially be eligible for an additional capped amount of \$6,000 under the Merit Award. Funds for credit bearing courses under the Merit Award are disbursed as reimbursement to those that have met the qualifications.

Unallowable costs include college courses funded by Rising STARS Tuition Assistance and CDA assessment fees already funded by the CDA voucher program. For providers not accessing tuition assistance or vouchers, please

contact your Early Learning Resource Center for eligibility details, grade requirements, and tuition policies. Attach additional pages if needed.

III. ACCREDITATION COSTS

Cost of Application for Accreditation - Continuous Quality Improvement may be supported in early learning and school-age programs through pursuing and achieving accreditation. This section reflects the cost of applying for or renewing all accreditation.

IV. STAFF BENEFITS

Continuous Quality Improvement may be supported in early learning and school-age programs through financial supports and compensation for staff. All staff and substitute funding must be processed through payroll and are subject to applicable taxes (processing through IRS 1099 is prohibited).

- Award funds may not be used to supplant existing salaries. Funds may be used toward salaries that support the provider in meeting the STAR standards. (Examples include: hiring or expanding working hours for substitutes/staff to provide breaks, planning time, observation and assessment time, preparation time required in meeting performance standards)
- Compensation: Keystone STARS Award funds may be used to support the provision of benefits to staff. Due to the variability of state and federal funds for Keystone STARS, it is recommended that providers work towards encumbering benefits into the provider's operating budget. Benefits may include, but are not limited to, health insurance, paid vacation/sick time/holidays/personal time/family leave, child care benefit, retirement plan, etc. Distribution of benefits must be addressed in the provider's personnel policies.
- For Staff Bonuses and Salary - Award funds may be used only for the child care director (individual recognized as the facility director and, "employed by a facility [or legal entity if SACC only provider] and present at the facility site a minimum of 30 hours per week") **and** child care practitioners who work directly with children during operating hours at least fifteen (15) hours a week. If the practitioner is funded by other sources, such as Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts, the provider must cost allocate the bonus/salary. Please contact the ELRC for the acceptable documentation of cost allocation. **Note: Please include all Staff Bonuses and Salary in the grid below on page C. (If submitting electronically, complete the Staff Bonuses and Salary tab on Attachment #1 Keystone STARS Budget Workbook)**
- Restrictions: Practitioners must use the exact amount on their most recent W-2 when applying for grants and awards. The salary amounts may not exceed \$40,000 for teaching staff and \$50,000 for directors.

V. OTHER EXPENSES

Continuous Quality Improvement may be supported in early learning and school-age programs through other program supports. Other expenses for which the provider would like to request funds may include taxes and shipping & handling charges for approved purchased items under the Merit award. Make sure to include an explanation of each item.

STARS FINANCIAL AWARD REQUEST: Merit Award

To be completed by provider and submitted to the Early Learning Resource Center

Name of Provider _____

STAR Level _____ Designation Expiration _____

MPI# on Certificate of Compliance _____ County _____

Section 1: Merit Award

Justification of Budget Request –

Provide a brief overall description as to how the Merit Award will support direct costs of early learning program. OCDEL recommends that Merit Awards be used to support the Quality Standards*.

*Quality Standards: Director Qualifications; Director Development; Staff Qualifications; Staff Development; Child Observation, Curriculum, Assessment; Environment Rating; Community Resources, Family Involvement; Transition; Business Practices; Continuous Quality Improvement; Staff Communication and Support; Employee Compensation

Name of Provider _____ MPI# _____ County _____

Please list the highest dollar items (up to five per care level) in each category you are requesting funding to support. Also indicate what care level the purchase is intended for (refer to the care level table on page 5 of the instructions)

Equipment & Supplies/ Materials:

Sub-Category	Infants/Toddlers	Preschool	School Age	Mixed/Multiple Age
Classroom Furnishings				
Learning Materials				
Minor Renovations				
Gross Motor Equipment				
DHS Cert, Business Practices, Computer Tech				

Professional Development:

Sub-Category	Infants/Toddlers	Preschool	School Age	Mixed/Multiple Age
Non-Credit				
Credit				
Other (including travel costs, personnel costs for substitutes, and technical assistance)				

Accreditation Costs:

Infants/Toddlers	Preschool	School Age	Mixed/Multiple Age

Staff Benefits: Please include all benefits except Staff Bonuses and Salary

Infants/Toddlers	Preschool	School Age	Mixed/Multiple Age

Other Expenses:

Infants/Toddlers	Preschool	School Age	Mixed/Multiple Age

Staff Benefits: Staff Bonuses and Salary						
Staff or Substitute Name	Title	Care Level (INF, YOT, OLT; PRE; YSA, OSA; MXD)	Current Annual Salary*	Bonus Requested	Additional Salary Requested	Amount Requested
1. Example: Rosa Gonzalez	Part-Time Floater†	INF	\$ 15,000	\$ 200	\$ 4,420	\$ 4,620
2.			\$	\$	\$	\$
3.			\$	\$	\$	\$
4.			\$	\$	\$	\$
5.			\$	\$	\$	\$
6.			\$	\$	\$	\$
7.			\$	\$	\$	\$
8.			\$	\$	\$	\$
9.			\$	\$	\$	\$
10.			\$	\$	\$	\$
11.			\$	\$	\$	\$
12.			\$	\$	\$	\$
13.			\$	\$	\$	\$
14.			\$	\$	\$	\$
15.			\$	\$	\$	\$
Subtotal Staff Bonuses and Salary						\$

*. Current Annual Salary is based on the tax year and should reflect the exact amount on the employee's most recent W-2 statement(s). Do not include Current Annual Salary in the Amount Requested column.

† In the example listed above, the staff member is a part-time floater in the infant room with a current annual salary of \$15,000. This employee is eligible for a \$200 bonus per the policy that is part of the provider's personnel handbook. Additionally, the director has decided to use award funds to increase this employee's schedule by two hours per day to assist in covering paid breaks and planning time. The cost for this change is listed as Additional Salary Requested. As shown by this example, the combination of the employee's current annual salary, additional salary, and bonus does not exceed the \$40,000 maximum for teaching staff.

Name of Provider _____ MPI# _____ County _____

STARS FINANCIAL AWARD REQUEST TOTAL AWARD REQUEST SUMMARY

Instructions In the table below, please list the total amount requested for the Merit Award.

At Closure/Reconciliation: If a budget revision is required, call your STARS Representative to discuss options.

Total Amount of Awards	Amount Requested
TOTAL MERIT AWARD REQUESTED	\$ _____

STARS FINANCIAL AWARD REQUEST: Merit Award Request Attestation

Instructions: Please complete this page and submit with the Keystone STARS Merit Award package. To be eligible to receive the Merit Award, make sure that the individual who signs this request has legal authority to represent the provider.

What is the Provider Type? (Check one) Center Group Home Family

Attestation

By signing this document, the grantee certifies that all instructions were read prior to completion of this form. The grantee also certifies that, as of the date of this grant request, this legal entity/program has no liens/liabilities or other commonwealth or federal obligations. Discovery of state or federal liens/liabilities or other obligations by the Early Learning Resource Center and/or OCDEL staff will result in the grantee's/legal entity's program(s) STAR level being suspended in Keystone STARS, and may result in the garnishment of Child Care Works subsidy, until such time as those liens/liabilities are fully satisfied. Lastly, the grantee certifies that, as of the date of this grant request, this program location has a full Certificate of Compliance.

Signature Section:

<hr/> Signature of the Individual Who is Legally Authorized to Represent the Provider	<hr/> Date
<hr/> Print Name Number	<hr/> Provider Phone
<hr/> Title	