Pennsylvania’s Rising STARS

A state initiative to increase enrollment of at-risk children in Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs.
10 Year Mark

- Research has shown that Quality Rating Improvement Systems like Keystone STARS can have a positive effect on program quality; yet, the design and implementation impact whether it will actually increase the availability of high quality care for high needs children (Build Initiative Brief)

- Keystone STARS has increased program quality
- Keystone STARS can do better at increasing the availability of high quality care for our most at-risk children
Keystone STARS Provider Participation
June 2010-July 2012

# Providers

|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
Moving Forward

• Practicing Continuous Quality Improvement at the State Level

• An effective finance strategy is not just about additional funds; it is also about redirecting existing funds to meet our policy objectives

• Incentive based approach - state commitment to begin steps to cover the cost of high quality care

• Increase the numbers of at-risk children in high quality STAR settings
Rising STARS Initiative

A two-prong approach:

• Redesign the Keystone STARS Awards (retroactive to 7/1/12)

• Redesign the Keystone STARS Tiered Reimbursement add-on rate (1/1/13)
Redesign of Awards

• Increase minimum “at-risk” Full-Time Equivalent requirement from 5% to 10%
• Eliminate Start with STARS which was not recognized as a Keystone STARS quality level
• Target grants to selected communities and selected providers for more intensive case management and technical assistance
• Implement a single grant award structure for STARS 2-4 grant awards (w/ rounded awards to $5 dollar increments).
### RISING STARS GRANT AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Home</th>
<th>All Group Homes and Center up to 6 FTE</th>
<th>Center 7-12 FTE</th>
<th>Center 13-45 FTE</th>
<th>Center 46-99 FTE</th>
<th>Center 100-180 FTE</th>
<th>Center 181+ FTE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start with STARS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 X Award</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STAR 1 – 2 X Award</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rising STARS Targeted Support Grants to Hard to Serve and Hard to Reach Places</strong></td>
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### MERIT AWARDS – Must have 10% enrollment of PA subsidized funded children or children with IFSP/IEP.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Home</th>
<th>Group Homes</th>
<th>Center up to 6 FTE</th>
<th>Center 7-12 FTE</th>
<th>Center 13-45 FTE</th>
<th>Center 46-99 FTE</th>
<th>Center 100-180 FTE</th>
<th>Center 181+ FTE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAR 2 3X Award</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,575</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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<td>$4,725</td>
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<td><strong>STAR 3 Ongoing</strong></td>
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<td>$19,500</td>
<td>$37,800</td>
<td>$49,250</td>
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Redesign of Tiered Reimbursements

- Infuse more dollars into tiered reimbursements
  - Shifting funds from Grants to Reimbursements allows the provider more flexibility and ongoing incentives for enrolling at-risk children
  - Slightly lower MCCAs across the state for Non-STARS providers to increase tiered reimbursement for high quality STARS 3 and STARS 4 Providers
    - Keystone STARS providers will receive the Full-time MCCA reduction back in tiered reimbursement.
Full-Time Tiered Reimbursement

- Non STAR: $0.35
- STAR 1: $0.60
- STAR 2: $1.85
- STAR 3: $2.50
- STAR 4: $1.25

Legend:
- Additional Add-on
- Existing Add-on
- Restore MCCA
- Reduce MCCA
Part-Time Tiered Reimbursement

- Non STAR: $0.15
- STAR 1: $0.20
- STAR 2: $0.25
- STAR 3: $0.85
- STAR 4: $1.15

Legend:
- Additional Add-on
- Existing Add-on
- Restore MCCA
- Reduce MCCA
Rising STARS Initiative

New Tiered Reimbursement Amounts
effective 1/1/13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STAR 1</th>
<th>STAR 2</th>
<th>STAR 3</th>
<th>STAR 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>FT</td>
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<td>0.35</td>
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<td>PT</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>0.45</td>
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Moving to a STAR 1

• Director Qualifications
  – Director completes the STARS Orientation within 90 days of Enrollment.
  – Complete professional development on the Core Body of Knowledge/ Professional Development Record (CBK/PDR) and Foundations of the Environment Rating Scale (ERS).

• Child Observation / Curriculum / Assessment
  – Site obtains and maintains copies of the appropriate Learning Standards for all age groups in the program.
Moving to a STAR 1

• Environment Rating
  – Complete the Learning Environment Checklist

• Community Resources / Family Involvement
  – At enrollment, families are provided with information regarding public, social, and community services
  – The program collects child-centered information at enrollment to facilitate responsive care that is mindful of the needs of individual children and families. A family meeting is offered within 45 days of enrollment to encourage program-family partnerships and share initial observations and goals for the child.
Moving to a STAR 1

- **Transition**
  - Program provides general information to families regarding transitioning children to another classroom or educational setting.

- **Business Practices**
  - Program develops and distributes a Family Handbook.

- **Continuous Quality Improvement**
  - Annual site-based professional development plan completed.
  - Program uses documents for tracking illnesses and injuries, including plans of action to prevent further occurrences.
Moving to a STAR 1

• **Staff Communication and Support**
  
  – Program provides documentation of a staff meeting held within the last 6 months.

  – Director develops and annually implements a plan for sharing information about Keystone STARS, continuous quality improvement, strategies for supervising children and professional development with staff.
Next Steps

• Work with a group of stakeholders to finalize the design/policies for Rising STARS Targeted Awards and determine the at-risk communities

• Continue to address professional development needs for providers to reach STAR 3 and 4 levels

• Monitor the implementation of Rising STARS
Questions and more information

• Questions:

   Email Ra-ocdearlylearning@pa.gov

• For more information visit:

   www.pakeys.org