



UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL UPDATE

1.16.24

PURPOSE

This document offers Universal Preschool updates to local providers.

UPDATE

Payment Operational Memo

- Please review [this memo](#) that formalizes and builds upon the original payment communication that went out in July. In it you will find more details and information on payments and reconciliation. This memo will also be shared with providers today.

Program -Specific Link Update

- It was brought to our attention by the Bridgecare team that the provider referral link, also called the program-specific link, bypasses the age eligibility requirement when a family fills out the application through that link. Therefore, it is important that providers pre-screen for age eligibility before sharing the referral link with families.
- This means that, moving forward, providers should only be sharing their links with families whose children they know are age-eligible. If a family registers through this link and their child is not age-eligible, the system will not catch this ineligibility and proceed with the application.

Community Provider Office Hours have moved to Zoom!

In order to accommodate simultaneous translation, the provider office hours have been moved to Zoom. Previously shared links were for Google Meet rooms.

- 1st Tuesday of each month at 6pm on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83557451399>
- 4th Monday of each month at 1pm on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88949693259>

The following are updates and reminders from JI's UPK office:

2024-25 UPK Providers: Check your select list if you have open seats!

There are still families that have moved into the area who would like UPK seats for their children for the rest of the year. If these families have chosen your center, they are on your "select" list. Please check your select list and reach out to families on that list if you have open seats!

2025-26 UPK Pre-Registration

Pre-registration for the 2025-26 year continues through February 3.

You can send an invite for one of your programs to families who qualify for pre-registration by following the instructions on pages 19 through 22 of the Provider Handbook.

The family must answer the pre-registration questions and must have you ranked 1st in their choices for them to show up in your pre-registration list in "placed" status.

If you can't see a family, it is likely because they either completed a 2024-25 application by mistake, or they did not answer the pre-registration questions. Reach out to upk@jointinitiatives.org if you have that situation and we will add in the pre-registration question to their application.

Families who have priority status will be notified of their match on or around February 4 and will have one week to accept or decline their match.

2025-26 UPK Registration

Those who do not have pre-registration status can still sign up and will be run through the matching algorithm on February 10 for any seats that providers have open following pre-registration.

Providers can increase their seats from February 4 to the 9th but cannot increase seats beyond their licensed capacity. Instructions for increasing the number of your seats can be found in the Provider Handbook on pages 41 and 42. If you can't see the three dots, it means that you do not have permission at that time to increase your seats and you should send the request to Noreen at nglt@mac.com. Any requests to decrease seats must be sent to Noreen.

Rumors about a reduction in UPK hours for 2025-26

I understand that a news reporter stated that the state was considering cutting the 2025-26 UPK hours from 15 to 10. That reporter quoted a state legislator as something that might be considered, but no action has been taken to put this in place. In fact, CDEC and the Governor have stated that they are moving forward with a budget proposal that will allow UPK to maintain the 15 hours per student and to hopefully provide a small increase in the provider rate. The state budget for 2025-26 will not be finalized until June or July, at which time CDEC will release provider rates for the upcoming UPK year.

Staff changes at JI

We are currently down one Family Resource Navigator on the UPK Team. Heather Mayheu remains as a family navigator and we have added a part-time family navigator, Ryan Navarre. We are currently advertising for a full-time family navigator, with a preference for a bi-lingual person. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them visit the JI careers page to learn more and apply. [Jointinitiatives.org/careers](https://jointinitiatives.org/careers)

Roundtable on January 30th

One of the state's priorities is to support UPK providers in being able to take advantage of all of the functions and processes that they have enabled for providers so that you can manage much of your own UPK enrollments, etc. yourself. With that in mind, we are going to hold two Roundtables in January, both on the 30th, at 1:00 and 6:00 pm. We will start with state updates and then begin to go through the provider handbook and answer questions about basic functions that you can complete yourself. Join the Roundtable here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4185258570?pwd=IGOstdoutYi3AR4isdme7bnTQqNR5d.1>. The meeting ID is 418 525 8570 and the passcode in UPK if you need it. No need to pre-register and the agendas for both meetings will be the same. One of the meetings will be recorded.

Help Desk for Families

There is also a new and improved Helpdesk where you can send families if they need basic assistance. **The telephone number is 303-866-5223 and the email address is universalpreschool@state.co.us.** Please feel free to pass this along to families who need assistance and of course, we are also here at JI. You can reach out at UPK@jointinitiatives.org or by calling 719-630-0927. Providers needing assistance should contact Noreen at ngl@mac.com or 719-338-7223.