



## UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL UPDATE

### 6.8.26

#### PURPOSE

This document offers Universal Preschool updates to local providers.

#### UPDATES

Hello UPK Providers!

We have heard from several of you that you are confused about the **CDEC memo that was sent out about 2026-07 payment rates**. I want to take a few minutes to clarify what is happening and also help you understand that memo.

**As of July 1st, local coordinating organizations will no longer exist, and any local support will be blended into Early Childhood Councils (ECC).** El Paso County's ECC is the Alliance for Kids. The Alliance for Kids is still under Joint Initiatives, but from now on, any UPK communications from the state that lists a local organization will list the Alliance for Kids instead of Joint Initiatives. When you look at the payment memo, the payments for 26-27 are listed under the Alliance for Kids. However, there are no increases in the UPK payment rate for any ECC for 26-27 as the state budget was too tight to allow for an increase. The memo will be on JI's UPK page within the next day, if you need to look it up.

Up until July 1, we will be able to support you in the same way that we have for the past 3 years. After that time, most of the technical support will transition to the state help desk. Next week, we expect to know the details of how the transition will work and will make sure that we get that information out to you so you know exactly how to ask for help, depending upon your issue.

JI is not necessarily receiving the same communication from CDEC that providers are receiving. We have set up a way to be sure that we are receiving communication to providers, so that we can keep the JI UPK page up to date. We will also be available after July 1 to help you navigate the transition, even though we will not be able to make any changes for you.

#### **In the meantime, there are some reminders that you need to pay attention to:**

**Payments for 2025-26:** May 15 is the end of the 2025-26 UPK year. It is also the day that you will receive your payments for April. Payment for May 1-15 will be made on May 29, unless you received an August payment. If you received an August payment for a child, your last payment for that child will be on May 15. Any reconciliation requests for March through May must be submitted [HERE](#) by June 5.

**Expenditure Reporting:** Your Quarter 3 expenditure report is due by June 30 in your Metrix Enroll account.

**Calendar Submission:** If you have not submitted your calendar for 2026-27, please do so using [this form](#). The calendar submission FAQs are on the JI site at [jointinitiatives.org/upk](http://jointinitiatives.org/upk)

**Annual UPK Quality Service Standards Report:** ALL programs must also complete the Annual UPK Service Standards Report by June 15. You should have received an email on May 8 concerning this report.

**UPK Contracts:** All providers will be signing a contract addendum for 26-27 which you will receive via Docusign. You should have received a memo from CDEC summarizing the changes and letting you know where to submit questions, if you have any. That memo can be found on the JI UPK page by no later than Monday.

**Unmatched List:** We are going through the unmatched list and contacting families and suggesting that they reach out to the providers they are interested in. Please remember to check your selected list and reach out to families that have chosen you, to offer them a tour. We receive new applications every day and so it is important that you check that list. If you do not have any seats in the program that they have requested, please decline the child for that program using the decline reason that no GenEd seats are available. If you do have seats in the program, then please offer the family a tour. If the family does not have a match their application should be unlocked, and if they choose not to attend with you, you can ask them to withdraw their selection with you.

**Please let Heather and I know if there is anything we can do to assist you.**

Noreen is [nglt@mac.com](mailto:nglt@mac.com) or 719-338-7223 (email preferred). Heather can be reached at [upk@jointinitiatives.org](mailto:upk@jointinitiatives.org), [hmayheu@jointinitiatives.org](mailto:hmayheu@jointinitiatives.org), or 719.684.4326. You may also submit to the help desk at [upk@jointinitiatives.org](mailto:upk@jointinitiatives.org) or visit [help.upk.colorado.gov](http://help.upk.colorado.gov). You may also refer families to any of these methods for assistance.