

Early Learning Division

CCEC

Relief Nursery Rule
Discussion
August 11, 2016

What is a relief nursery and what services do they provide?

Relief nurseries are community-based organizations that seek to interrupt the cycle of child abuse and neglect working among and alongside early childhood education, child welfare, behavioral and physical health and social services within private and public sector entities.

Services are offered within a comprehensive and integrated early childhood and family support system, including strength-based, culturally appropriate services designed to achieve appropriate early-childhood benchmarks and healthy family functioning. Parent and child participation in services is voluntary. Statutorily required services include therapeutic early childhood education programs, and parent education and support. ORS 417.788 (2). The statute further requires each relief nursery that receives state funding to have financial support from the community that is at least equal to 25 percent of any state allocation (match requirement). ORS 417.788 (3).

What additional information do you need about relief nurseries and what services do they provide?

ORS 417.788 establishes, as state policy, that relief nurseries shall “be consistent with the voluntary early learning system overseen by the Early Learning Council.” ORS 417.788 also calls out the responsibility of the Early Learning Division to support relief nurseries statewide and to contract with relief nurseries in order “to ensure service continuity and efficient delivery of contracted services”.

ORS 417.827 states that the Early Learning Council

“...shall implement and oversee a system that coordinates the delivery of early learning services to the communities of this state through the direction of Early Learning Hubs.”

“The system implemented and overseen by the council must ensure that providers of early learning services are accountable for outcomes, services are provided in a cost-efficient manner and services provided and the means by which those services are provided are focused on the outcomes of the services.”

What additional information would you like
around governance issues?

Any specific thoughts on how the state governs or supports relief nurseries?

Alignment with health, safety and quality guidelines:

- To be eligible to receive state funds through contract, a relief nursery must:
- Be established and in operation (for specific period of time) and fiscally viable as demonstrated through submission of a business plan (must have an infrastructure that provides oversight, responsibility and resources necessary to provide services on an ongoing basis);
- Be licensed by the ELD Office of Child Care;
- Demonstrate ability to collect and report accurate program and fiscal data as required
- Meet established program and service standards

Aligning Health, Safety and Quality Guidelines

Are the correct and appropriate health, safety and quality guidelines identified or are there others that should be addressed?

Principles, Expectations and Accountability for outcomes:

- Services and outcomes must be linked to the goals of the state's comprehensive early learning system:
- To receive funds, a contractor must demonstrate progress towards meeting outcomes established by the Council and Early Learning Hubs, such as:
 - Reduction of child maltreatment rate
 - Reduction in foster care placements
 - Appropriate developmental progress in children
 - Improvement in parenting skills and family functioning

Principles, Expectations and Accountability for Outcomes

Are the correct and appropriate criteria reflected regarding a contractors ability to demonstrate progress towards meeting outcomes or should others be addressed?

Governance and guidelines for overseeing how public dollars are spent on services:

Funding Formula:

The Division will develop funding formula recommendations for the Council. The funding formula should include at a minimum:

- Cost per child/caseload
- Number of slots/vacancy rates
- Quality
- Risk
- Service dosage
- Service frequency
- Duration of services
- Duration of services

Governance and Guidelines for Overseeing How Public Dollars are Spent on Services

Are the correct and appropriate funding drivers to be used in the development of the funding formula recommendations identified or are there other factors not already identified that should be considered?

Questions

Are there any additional questions or clarifications that need to be addressed?