

Fri 2/5/2021 3:45 PM

I'd like to submit the following comments.

- Given the current situation of low enrollment it would be helpful to know how much money EEC received in federal funds, when, and how, they will be distributed so that we may have knowledge if we are receiving help.
- We are struggling finding employees, it was bad prior to COVID, it is teetering on critical to offering services now. As people return to work there is a concern we will not be able to find employees to open the classrooms for this need. Your support with a variety of departments such as the Department of Revenue and the Department on Labor would be beneficial. EEC qualified employees must be on unemployment as they are not in the work place. Can you work with the Department of Revenue on who is on unemployment and bring them back to work? Can you reach out to the Department of Labor to see who they are working with that we could reach out to. Seeing increased numbers of unemployment and Child Care Centers unable to get anyone to show up for an interview does not make sense. With the new White House Administration attempting to extend unemployment until September, 2021, increasing the bonus money to \$400, and allowing you not to work if you are uncomfortable, we are in for more trouble with the employment situation. We need high level support to help us meet the needs of families as things change with the vaccine. With the scholarship opportunity and the recent announcement of free courses from Massasoit, a state wide campaign to entice those to come to our industry and turn a job into a career could help. Since November, I have spent \$2,500 on Indeed and Facebook ads to hire 1 Preschool Certified Teacher. I want to hire 10 more people by August, I can't afford to at this expense. We need help now.

Thank you!

Noelle D'Intino