

## **Policy Communiqué #12-20 Rising STARS Initiative**

**Title:** Rising STARS Initiative

**Date:** October 17, 2012

**Priority:** Medium

**Category:** Informational

**Action Required:** None

**Response Required:** No

### **Purpose:**

This is to advise the Child Care Information Services that the Office of Child Development and Early Learning is sending the attached letter, dated October 15, 2012 about the Rising STARS Initiative to all regulated providers with agreements who have no STARS. This initiative will change subsidy payment rates. Also attached are letters the Regional Keys recently sent to Start with STARS and STAR providers notifying them of the Rising STAR Initiative.

### **Discussion:**

The Rising STARS Initiative is designed to increase the number of at-risk children enrolled in Keystone STARS 2, 3 and 4 programs by modifying tiered reimbursement amounts, grants and award structures. Effective January 1, 2013, subsidy payment rates for all providers will change. The full-time Maximum Child Care Allowance (MCCA) will be reduced by \$0.35 per day and the part-time MCCA will be reduced by \$0.20 per day. Providers that participate in Keystone STARS will receive a tiered reimbursement add-on rate to help offset the rate reduction as noted in the attached letter.

The Start with STARS program will be eliminated. Regional Keys staff will offer support to non-STAR and Start with STARS providers to help them attain STAR levels.

For more information about the Rising STARS Initiative, please access the Rising STARS PowerPoint presentation at <http://www.pakeys.org> and select "Rising STARS" from the QuickLinks dropdown. Direct your questions to your subsidy coordinator.

### **Next Steps:**

1. Share this information with appropriate staff.
2. Direct provider inquires to the Regional Key.
3. Direct questions to your Subsidy Coordinator.