The Fair Start for Kids Act and Trauma-Informed Care

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Purpose

To create a framework for early learning providers to receive trauma-informed supports.
Background

Fair Start for Kids Act (Section 304) says: DCYF will provide trauma-informed supports to aid eligible providers including the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), Early ECEAP, licensed & certified providers, Early Achievement coaches, and license-exempt providers.

Awards can be used for:

- Additional compensation for individual staff who have an infant and early childhood mental health or other child development specialty credential.
- Trauma-informed professional development and training.
- The purchase of screening tools and assessment materials.
- Supportive services for children with complex needs that are offered as fee-for-service within local communities.
- Other related expenses.
More background

How much money is there?
DCYF has roughly $3 million dollars to award in the fiscal year to compensate early learning professionals trauma-informed skills, knowledge, and education. It's also investing additional money to support trauma-informed training and screening and assessment.

How will the money be distributed?
We’d like to hear from IPEL how DCYF should compensate providers for receiving trauma-informed training and education.
What constitutes a trauma-informed approach?

SAMHSA’s Four “‘R’s”

- Resist
- Respond
- Recognize
- Realize
What supports would help early childhood providers be more trauma-informed?

The Fair Start for Kids Act names the following:

- Professional development – Do you know of specific training topics that would be helpful so providers have what they need to help children and families who have experienced trauma?
- Screening and assessment—Are there supports that could help with screening or assessment?
- Other?
Thank you!

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