

February 1, 2011

Dear Tulare County Child Development Division Contractor:

The Tulare County Child Care Planning Council is currently involved in a project that directly affects your child care staff. The 2000-2001 Budget Act allocated \$15 million for child care worker retention programs (AB 212). Funds were allocated to Local Child Care and Development Councils based on the percentage of state-subsidized center-based child care funds received in that county. *Please be advised that due to the current State budget crisis, funds allocated for AB 212 programs were reduced by 21%.* The goal of AB 212 is to increase retention of qualified staff that work directly with children, in state-subsidized center-based child care programs.

Since 2002 the Council has disbursed stipends to qualified applicants working in state-subsidized center-based programs in Tulare County. The Council has additional funds to disburse and will be rewarding qualified individuals working in state-subsidized center-based classrooms. Stipends will be disbursed based on the priorities as indicated on the application. ***Please be advised that the priorities and disbursement of stipends have changed from previous years.***

Again, due to IRS guidelines, all eligible Tulare County Office of Education and Tulare County Office of Education Child Care Educational Program employees will receive their AB 212 stipend in their regular paycheck and the stipend is subject to withholdings. Specific questions regarding withholdings should be directed to the Human Resources Department.

Enclosed are applications for distribution. Due to the changes from previous years, please instruct staff to review the eligibility, priorities and instructions carefully as applications must be complete and correct in order to be processed. ***For TCOE and TCCCEP employees the YELLOW application must be utilized.*** As noted on the application, applicants are responsible for ensuring that their original application is received in the Child Care Planning Council office by the deadline of 5:00 PM Friday, March 18, 2011.

If you have any questions or require additional applications, please contact me at tshirley@cc.tcoe.org or 651-1723.

Sincerely,

Tina Shirley, MSW
Planning Council Coordinator
Tulare County Office of Education