



Department of  
Job and Family Services

Ted Strickland, Governor

Douglas E. Lumpkin, Director

July 17, 2009

Dear Families of Children Enrolled in the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) Program:

As you know, Ohio, like many other states, is facing financial difficulties of historic proportions. Because of declining tax revenues, our biennial budget has eliminated or greatly reduced funding for many programs, simply because there are not enough funds to pay for them. One of the programs that has been eliminated is the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) program.

The Department wants to continue to support you and your child during these very important years of development. Therefore, we have developed a transition plan so that children currently enrolled in ELI may continue to receive services through August 22, 2009. In addition, many children served through ELI will be able to continue to receive financial assistance through Ohio's Subsidized Child Care Program. In many cases, your child may be able to continue services at the same location where he/she is participating in ELI.

August 22<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline for families with children receiving ELI services and incomes of up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level to submit applications for subsidized child care to their County Departments of Job and Family Services (CDJFS). This is an opportunity only for current ELI families because the subsidized child care program will be available only to families under 150 percent of the federal poverty level. ELI parents submitting applications for subsidized child care must be involved in qualified work, training or educational activities.

We encourage you to obtain a child care application and to work with your county JFS to see if you are eligible for subsidized child care. For more information, go to <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/Page4.stm> or call (866) 886-3537, option 4. For assistance in locating alternative options for your child, please contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency at [www.occrra.org](http://www.occrra.org). Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

Terrie Hare, Chief  
Bureau of Child Care and Development

Alicia Leatherman, Director  
Early Childhood Cabinet

Sandy Miller, Director  
ODE, Office of Early Learning and School Readiness

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