



Service Employees International Union, Local 500, CtW, CLC
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July 13, 2018

Dear Childcare Member,

Your bargaining team has reached a tentative agreement with MSDE for a three-year agreement, through June 30, 2021, and is **recommending that you vote "YES"** to ratify the terms below.

This agreement retains current contract language except as noted below:

- CCS Rates for providers shall increase to reflect the following:

July 1, 2018: the 20th market percentile*

July 1, 2019: the 30th market percentile*

July 1, 2020: the 45th market percentile*

*Market percentiles are determined by the most current market rate survey. Market rate surveys are regularly conducted pursuant to CCDF regulations (every two to three years as of 2018). The state's fiscal 2016-2018 CCDF plan indicates that rates were previously set at the 9th market percentile¹.

- Language that creates a requirement that rates shall not fail to rise by at least 8% per year of the Agreement.

In this contract, we also affirmed past language about important benefits like the Family Day Care Provider Direct Grant Fund (Section 15). This grant is available for all licensed providers, and is up to \$500 for a variety of educational toys, criminal background check fees, training courses and other programs/items that can improve your business. To obtain additional information about the Provider Grant Program, please call the **Regional Licensing Office** in your area.

We also affirmed our commitment, with MSDE, to encourage providers without health insurance to participate in the Maryland Health Exchange (Section 20). You can get more information about the program at <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/>.

Finally, the union and MSDE again confirmed that the union has a role in supporting providers who have questions about their licensing report. The union can help you question your findings as well as file a complaint on your behalf, if necessary (Section 21).

As a union member in good standing, you are eligible to vote on this contract using the enclosed ballot. Your bargaining committee supports this agreement and recommends that you vote YES.

Sincerely,

The Union Bargaining Team

¹ According to the Fiscal and Policy Note for Senate Bill 379, Third Reader-Revised, 2018 Maryland General Assembly.

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