

Grants Available For Child Care Providers

Child care providers in Susquehanna County are now eligible to apply for a \$500 project grant through MetroAction's Child Care MicroGrant program. As part of their commitment to improving the quality of affordable childcare in the region, MetroAction awards \$2,500 in MicroGrants to child care providers throughout their eight county service area, twice each year.

MetroAction recognizes that child care providers are very different from the typical small business, encountering many different obstacles in the operations of their business. Child care providers often operate on very lean budgets, which often times do not allow for upgrading or adding new programs or equipment.

Since the launch of MetroAction's Child Care MicroGrant program in 2005, fifteen providers across six counties have received funding. This funding has been used to purchase new curriculum, create a science center, address the language gaps between children and staff, and create learning libraries. More than 570 children have been directly impacted by the MicroGrant program.

MicroGrant applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on April 25. MetroAction will be hosting a free technical assistance session on March 25 at 1:00 p.m. at The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce to help eligible providers complete the application. The session will provide an overview of the program, tips and sample projects and an opportunity to have questions answered. For more information, or to request an application package, contact Desiree Ranella at (570) 342-7711 or at dranella@metroaction.org.

MetroAction is a non-profit community development organization dedicated to providing small business financing, training, and recognition throughout eight counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. For more information on MetroAction, visit www.metroaction.org.