



SPYC Monthly Newsletter

December 2019

Dear SPYC Partners,

It is our last SPYC newsletter of the decade!! We say this all the time, but it is truly hard to believe how quickly our work together is evolving. We are going to end 2019 with some big moments! To name just a few things: the SPYC website will launch by December 16th, 10+ families received tuition assistance in Years 1 and 2, the 2020-2021 tuition assistance applications are being printed now and the application process will formally begin, and we have made huge strides in putting together a PD and Degree Attainment plan for 2020. The level of partnership and collaboration that has gone into each of those things, and everything we are doing, makes our work so much stronger and more impactful for children.

As you read though this month's newsletter, you will see the following three very important to-do's:

- Sending Alyssa feedback on your program profile asap if you have not already
- Reading, signing, and returning the SPYC Year 2 MOU
- Providing your current families and any prospective families with the SPYC 2020-2021 Tuition Assistance application once Alyssa or Tonya drops it off

Please attend to these items as soon as possible and reach out with any questions! Alyssa will also be in touch to schedule December check-ins.

Thank you so much for all that you do. We cannot think of another group of people more deserving of a restful, safe, and happy holiday season.

Best,
Lisa and Alyssa

MOU

- You will find the updated MOU for Year 2 attached to this email. Please take time to read through and then send along any questions. The only other thing you need to do is insert your organization name at the top where it says **[Partner Name]**.
- **Please sign and return your MOU by Friday, December 13.**

Contracts and Invoices

- Everyone is at different points in this process. Please complete next steps as soon as they are communicated so we can keep this moving quickly. If you have any questions or you have been waiting to receive something for a while, please let me know.

Budget

- Based on the increases most programs received in subcontractor budgets, Tonya has prepared new budget sheets with the changes/increases. You will receive these this week!

QRIS

- **The to-do for December (due on 1/10 since we know this is a busy and abbreviated month!) is completing the Strengthening Families self-assessment.**
- Alyssa will schedule time with everyone in December or January to do a longer QRIS check-in and provide support where needed. Please always email questions as they come up.

Outreach & Awareness

- Our website will launch by December 16th!! Before it can go live, I need feedback on everyone's program profiles **so please send this asap if you have not already.**
- We also have completed the design of a SPYC postcard that will increase awareness of SPYC as an entity, communicate the importance of early education, and direct families to our website to learn more about early education opportunities. We will get these printed and then provide everyone with a stack for outreach!

Tuition Assistance

- As mentioned above, the SPYC Tuition Assistance applications are being printed now. As soon as we get them back, we will bring each program a pack of applications in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. Please give these out to your families and ask them to pass along to friends, neighbors, and family with young children. For families currently receiving tuition assistance from SPYC, you can let them know that they do not need to worry about these applications. They will go through a different process beginning sometime in late spring.
- The tuition assistance subcommittee met on Friday, November 22 to discuss the process for determining eligibility for new families applying for tuition assistance. Detailed notes from this meeting are attached to the newsletter email.
- The tuition assistance subcommittee is planning to meet again in December to discuss the parent fee scale.

Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

- Tonya will be reaching out to everyone to check in on implementation in the next week. If you haven't received your kits yet, they will be dropped off this week!
- You should have received an email from Jennifer DiCato from DRIVE introducing herself and providing information about how she can assist with the portal.
- If you have questions at this time as to your next step, please let us know.

On the Horizon

- We are going to hold until January to begin having family engagement nights. Tonya or I will be in touch with more updates on this later in the month.
- We are going to send out a SPYC Teacher Newsletter next week and then again in May. **As soon as you receive this in your inbox please forward to all of your teachers/classrooms and encourage them to read though it!**

UPCOMING DEADLINES

| Item | Due by |
|---|-----------------|
| Send Alyssa feedback on program profile for website | asap |
| Sign and return Year 2 MOU | 12/13/19 |
| Send Teacher Newsletter to all teachers/classrooms | 12/13/19 |
| Complete Strengthening Families Assessment | 1/10/20 |

UPCOMING MEETINGS

| Meeting | Date |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| December SPYC Monthly Meeting | 12/12/19 |
| Building Blocks Math Workshop | 1/10/20 |



Professional Development

Please see below for a list of upcoming opportunities! Stay tuned for more information soon on content and registration.

- On **January 10th** we will offer an Introduction to Building Blocks Math workshop with Head Start
- **Starting in January**, Cambridge & Somerville will collaborate to offer EEC certification courses (Child Growth & Development, Infant Toddler coursework) – these would be weekly sessions for 13-15 weeks
- On **January 14th** there will be a transcript review & advising sessions at Bunker Hill. Stay tuned for a possible transcript review/advising session offered in Somerville
- On **January 16th** Early Years Project will start PD modules for directors
- On **February 12th from 2:45-4:15** we are planning to offer a Simple Interactions (Social Emotional/Relationship Building) Workshop
- **April 4th** full day Strong Start Conference in Cambridge – this workshop will provide a variety of offerings aligned with QRIS and certification needs
- Embedded curriculum mini workshops as part of SPYC coaching can be offered (with PDPs) throughout the year – contact Lisa to set this up!
- **January through April** – Week of the Young Child projects – more information coming soon (Week of the Young Child date is TBD but will be in early April)



Deadlines
 Attendance highly recommended
 Attendance optional

December 2019

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|------|------|------|------|---|--|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Send feedback on your program description | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 SPYC Monthly Meeting 11am-12:30pm | 13 Sign and return Year 2 MOU Forward Teacher Newsletter | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |



Deadlines
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 recommended
 Attendance optional

January 2020

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|------|------|---|------|--|---|------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Building Blocks Math PD Complete Strengthening Families | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Bunker Hill Transcript Review | 15 | 16 SPYC Monthly Meeting 11am- 1pm | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |