

## Program to dispense cash awards to child-care providers

### Business plans to be reviewed after Jan. 5

Continuing in its tradition of helping budding child-care providers, First State Community Loan Fund (FSCLF) has partnered with the Delaware Family Child Care Alliance and other Delaware community organizations to sponsor a business plan competition for home-based child-care providers. FSCLF anticipates giving out equity awards of \$2,000 each to five home-based child-care providers. Funding for the program, technical assistance and equity awards has been provided by the Citigroup Foundation.

The Home Based Childcare Providers Business Plan Competition encourages home based child-care provider participants to write a business plan outlining how an equity investment will grow their businesses. Business plans will be submitted to FSCLF by Jan. 5 and will be reviewed by a panel of experts. The program culminates with an awards ceremony April 26 at Delaware State University where the five equity awards will be distributed.

To be eligible to submit a business plan, participants must be a Delaware-licensed family (level 2) or a large family child-care

provider and must have a state of Delaware business license. The award proceeds must be used to improve the operations and/or quality of care that the child-care provider offers. Further eligibility criteria and submittal guidelines will be available at [www.first-stateloan.org](http://www.first-stateloan.org).

The Business Plan partners are the Nehemiah Gateway CDC, Delaware Family Child Care Alliance, Family and Workplace Connection, Delaware Small Business Development Center Network, Delaware Center for Enterprise Development and the YWCA of Delaware. The business plan partners will provide technical assistance (training courses and/or one-on-one consulting) to competition participants in order to help them prepare for the competition.

"We are very pleased to be partnering with First State Community Loan Fund on this

initiative," said Shay Frisby, program coordinator at Nehemiah Gateway CDC. "The competition will be a fun way for providers to clarify the vision they have for their businesses and it will strengthen their potential for future endeavors."

"This is a great initiative. We are anticipating 30 or more providers to participate in the competition," said Vandell Hampton Jr., executive director of FSCLF. "The completion of a business plan will increase the capacity of the providers and enhance the quality of care for the children that they serve."

FSCLF is a nonprofit community development financial institution that specializes in supporting microenterprises, small businesses, developers of affordable housing and other community organizations throughout the state of Delaware.

The Delaware Family Child

Care Alliance is a project of the Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corp.

The purpose of the alliance is to build capacity for home based childcare providers through business training, networking, and advocacy on policies which affect the industry.

The Citigroup Foundation sup-

ports organizations that help people improve their lives, businesses to grow, and communities to prosper around the world. Additional information can be found at [www.citigroupfoundation.org](http://www.citigroupfoundation.org).

For more information on the business plan competition, contact First State Community Loan Fund at 302-652-6774.

## Briefly

In Sussex County, a session will be from 6 to 7 p.m., Jan. 29, at the Milton Public Library, 121 Union St., Milton.

For more information or to register, call 800-652-4779.

### Business loan seminar session held Jan. 29

The First State Community Loan Fund will host several small business loan information sessions titled Show Me the Money!

The sessions will cover resources for Delaware's small businesses and a review of the application process.

### Lewes Realty lists top agents for November

Carole Sieber announced Lewes Realty's top agents for the month of November.

The top listing agents were Alison Miller and Bill Callahan and the top sales agent was Laurie Bronstein.

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