# T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®
## Early Care and Education Community Specialist Scholarship Program

### What is the purpose of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Early Care and Education Community Specialist Scholarship Program?

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Early Care and Education Community Specialist Program is designed to increase access to relevant early childhood and child development focused coursework by those individuals who are working on behalf of young children in the early care and education system.

### Who is eligible to apply for the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Early Care and Education Community Specialist Scholarship?

Individuals may be eligible to apply if they are currently employed with any of the following early care and education organizations:

- Head Start
- Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&R)
- NC local Smart Start partnerships
- NC Community College early childhood associate degree programs, or
- Early Intervention programs

Priority will be given to applicants who make less than $45,000 annually.

### How does the Community Early Childhood Specialists Program work?

Individuals who are awarded the scholarship will receive a stipend for each course taken to offset their educational costs. In return, the scholarship participant is expected to successfully complete their courses and maintain employment for a specified commitment period.

### What function must the individual be performing for the employing organization in order to be eligible?

An individual may be eligible to receive a scholarship if she has been providing home visiting, professional development, coaching, mentoring, or technical assistance to early childhood professionals for at least 6 months in the employing organization.

### What other scholarship eligibility requirements must be met?

In order to be eligible, the individual must

- Be employed at least 30 hours per week at the time of application submission;
- Be eligible for enrollment in either a NC community college early childhood associate degree program or have at least 55 transfer credits into a bachelor's degree child development program;
- Provide a current written job description, a letter of support from his/her employer, two professional references; and
- Complete an essay that demonstrates their commitment to young children.

### What does the Early Care and Education Community Specialist Program provide to someone enrolling in coursework in an early childhood associate degree program?

The program will provide an educational stipend of $250 per each course taken for up to 18 credit hours annually to participants who are enrolled in early childhood associate degree coursework.

***What does the Early Care and Education Community Specialist Program provide to someone enrolling in coursework in an approved child development program at the bachelor degree level?***

The program will provide an educational stipend of $500 per course up to 18 credits annually to participants who are enrolled in child development coursework within a bachelor's degree program.

***What is the responsibility of the scholarship recipient?***

The scholarship recipient must

- Complete at least nine semester hours towards an Associate or Bachelor degree annually,
- Maintain at least a 3.0 overall G.P.A. each semester they receive the stipend,
- Apply for Early Educator Certification within 6 months of the award of scholarship or submit documentation of current level of certification,
- Work a specified length of time in their employing organization based on the number of credit hours taken, and
- Repay Child Care Services Association the entire amount of their stipend with interest if they fail to meet the work requirement for that period.

***What is the responsibility of the employer?***

- Provide a written plan on how paid release time (not reimbursable) will be administered to the recipient during work hours if needed.
- Provide a statement of understanding that salary/wages will not be reduced as a result of participating on scholarship.