



## 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 Scholarship 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 Program?**

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
- Early Intervention programs
- Health Departments (Nurse Educators), or
- Child care program nutritionists
- Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) must perform function on site with licensed child care facilities

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

### **How does the Early Care and Education Community Specialists Scholarship 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 while enrolled in coursework.

### **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, technical assistance, health education for child care programs, or monitoring and licensing child care programs 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, or have a bachelor's degree in any field and taking early childhood education core course work at the bachelor's/graduate level;
- 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 Scholarship 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 Scholarship 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 credit hours annually to participants who are enrolled in child development coursework within a bachelor's degree program.

**What does the Early Care and Education Community Specialist Scholarship Program provide to someone who already has a bachelor's degree (non early care and education degree), and is taking early care and education core course work at the bachelor's level?**

The program will provide an educational stipend of \$500 per course for a maximum of core early care and education courses to participants who are enrolled in child development coursework within the graduate level.

**What does the Early Care and Education Community Specialist Scholarship Program provide to someone who already has a bachelor's degree in any field, and is taking early care and education core course work at the graduate level?**

The program will provide an educational stipend of \$500 per course for a maximum of core early care and education courses to participants who are enrolled in child development coursework at the graduate level.

**What type of compensation will someone receive when they complete their course work?**

The program will provide a \$75 bonus for each course completed in an early childhood associate degree program, and \$125 for each course at an approved child development program at the bachelor's/graduate level.

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

The scholarship recipient must

- Successfully complete semester hours towards an associate degree, bachelor degree or graduate level coursework as specified in the contract.
- 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.
- Continue employment with organizational employer while enrolled in coursework.
- Repay Child Care Services Association the entire amount of their stipend with interest if they fail to meet the work requirement.

**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.