

Infant-Toddler Educator UNDERSTANDING AWARD\$[®] Plus

Infant-Toddler Educator AWARD\$[®] Plus received several questions through its survey process. When respondents provide their names, AWARD\$ Plus reaches out to answer those questions directly. However, many questions are applicable to anyone interested in AWARD\$ Plus. The answers can be found below. If you have a question that isn't listed or need more information on these topics, please call AWARD\$ Plus at [919-967-3272](tel:919-967-3272) or email awardsinfo@childcareservices.org.

Who funds AWARD\$ Plus?

The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) funds Infant-Toddler Educator AWARD\$[®] Plus in all counties across the state. If you are a recipient, be sure to share your gratitude for the support they have shown the infant-toddler workforce.

Can I apply as soon as I start in an eligible position or do I need to wait for six months?

You may apply as soon as you begin employment and have a pay stub that verifies your full-time employment. You cannot be paid until after you have completed your assigned commitment period, but you may apply at any time.

How often are teachers awarded supplements?

Supplements are issued based on six months worked in the same child care program, so it is possible for applicants to receive two payments within a funding year. The assigned six-month period for each individual is called a commitment period. If an applicant remains eligible and is not out for more than two weeks of time during the commitment period, a payment may be issued by the end of the following month if funds have been transferred by DCDEE. If funds have not yet been transferred, it could take additional time to release payments.



Do I need to reapply every year to continue receiving the AWARD\$ Plus supplement?

No, you do not need to reapply as long as you remain eligible in your current child care program. AWARD\$ Plus will track your six-month commitment periods and will confirm your ongoing eligibility with your employer. If you do move to another program or become ineligible for another reason, you may reapply.

If I change jobs, will I be able to get back on AWARD\$ Plus?

If you change jobs, you may reapply from your new program if you are eligible in your new site. You will be unable to receive a payment, however, unless/until you have completed your assigned commitment period at your new site. This commitment period will be reestablished based on your new application and eligibility dates.

If I move to a new county, will I be able to get back on AWARD\$ Plus?

Because AWARD\$ Plus is funded by DCDEE in every North Carolina county, you may reapply from a different county if you meet all other eligibility requirements.

Are official transcripts the only accepted documentation for education?

AWARD\$ Plus offers the opportunity to applicants currently or recently in school to complete an Internet Permission Form (IPF). This form enables us to access your school account with your password and download your transcript. AWARD\$ Plus staff must download this; an internet transcript cannot otherwise be accepted. Your password may be changed after we successfully access the internet transcript. In addition to the IPF, if an applicant has an official transcript on file with either the Child Care WAGES® Program or Early Educator Certification, AWARD\$ Plus may use it. Official transcripts may be sent electronically from the school or the participant may forward the school email with the link to the transcript included.



If I complete additional education, do I have to submit a new transcript?

Yes, AWARDS Plus must have an official transcript in order to verify that you have completed the coursework necessary to advance toward a higher level on the scale and earn more money. Please keep AWARDS Plus staff updated with ongoing education documentation so we can be sure you are given the highest level possible! See the previous question for alternative documentation options.

How do you determine the college credits that count towards the different education levels?

AWARDS Plus follows a protocol developed for counting coursework and every class on a transcript is assessed. The salary supplement scale allows for a combination of general education and early childhood coursework, but levels with significant early childhood coursework earn greater supplements. To determine the focus of courses, a review of course descriptions is often necessary. The Grade Point Average (GPA) may also impact which courses can count. If you have questions about your education, please call an AWARDS Plus counselor at 919-967-3272.

Will I be contacted when my payment is issued?

If you have an email on file, AWARDS Plus will send an email when payments are issued. Whether you receive a hard copy check or direct deposit, a letter that shares many details about participation on AWARDS Plus, including your commitment period, will also be mailed. You can then identify when your next six months will end, knowing that payments are issued one to two months following your completed commitment period.



Child Care Services Association
Infant-Toddler Educator AWARDS® Plus
PO BOX 901, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-967-3272
www.childcareservices.org