



## TEACH Early Childhood® Early Care and Education Community Specialist Scholarship Program



### **What is the purpose of the TEACH Early Childhood® Early Care and Education Community Specialist Scholarship Program?**

The TEACH 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 TEACH 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 \$58,000 annually.

### **How does the Early Care and Education Community Specialists Scholarship Program work?**

Individuals who apply and are eligible will receive a capped scholarship for each course taken to offset their educational costs. In return, scholarship participants are expected to successfully complete their courses and maintain employment while enrolled in coursework and fulfill a commitment to the early childhood field.

### **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 he/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 in the employing organization.

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

To be eligible, the individual must:

- Be employed at least 30 hours per week performing a specialized role serving children, families or the early childhood workforce;
- Be eligible for enrollment in either a NC community college early childhood associate degree program or have at least 55 transfer credits into a participating university's bachelor's degree child development program;
- Provide a current written job description and three professional references with one being from current employer; and
- Complete an essay that demonstrates his/her 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 a capped scholarship of \$350 per each course to participants who are enrolled in early childhood associate degree coursework for up to 18 credits per year. The scholarship can be renewed annually if the recipient retains eligibility.

### **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 \$625 per course annually to participants who are enrolled in child development coursework within a bachelor's degree program at a participating university for up to 18 credits per year. The scholarship can be renewed annually if the recipient retains eligibility.

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

The program will provide a \$350 bonus for completion of 9-12 credits hours per year, or a \$500 bonus for completion of 13-18 credits per year.

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

The scholarship recipient must

- Successfully complete 9-18 semester hours towards an associate degree or bachelor’s degree as specified in the contract.
- Continue employment with organizational employer while enrolled in coursework.
- Remain in the early childhood field for 1 year after the completion of contract and award of bonus.
- Repay Early Years, Inc. the bonus if he/she does not fulfill commitment.

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

- Provide a flexible working schedule for the recipient while enrolled in coursework.
- Sign a statement of understanding that salary/wages will not be reduced because of participation on scholarship.

**What colleges/universities participate with the Early Care and Education Community Specialist Program?**

- At the associate degree level, participants can enroll at any of North Carolina’s community colleges that offer an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education Program.
- At the bachelor’s degree level, participants can enroll at any of the following universities. Admissions requirements and course delivery formats may vary by universities.

Appalachian State University  
 Barton College  
 Brevard College  
 Catawba College  
 East Carolina University  
 Elizabeth City State University  
 Fayetteville State University  
 Gardner-Webb University  
 Greensboro College  
 NC A&T State University

NC Central University  
 Shaw University  
 University of Mount Olive  
 UNC Charlotte  
 UNC Greensboro  
 UNC Pembroke  
 UNC Wilmington  
 Western Carolina University  
 Winston Salem State University