

Early Childhood Council Professional Development Scholarship Application

“National research underscores that quality child care is contingent upon the special training that caregivers receive in the profession of early childhood development. Both fromal education levels and recent, specialized traingin in child development have been found quite quite consistently to be associated with high-quality interactions and children’s development. Teachers with a Child Development Associate (CDA) provide higher qauality early learning experiences than those with only a high school diploma. And teachers with college degrees provide superior early learning experiences” (ZERO TO THREE – quoted in J. Ronald Lally’s book, For Our Babies: Ending the invisible neglect of America’s Infants).



Overview:

For many years the Early Childhood Council in partnership with The Buell Foundation has granted scholarships to early childhood professionals who are seeking continuing education in the early childhood field. In an effort to increase the quality of our early childhood professional development scholarship we strive to leverage resources from employers, the T.E.A.C.H scholarship, COF Funding, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Early Head Start in order to maximize all funding sources for the improvement of the Early Childhood Professionals in the San Luis Valley.

Priorities:

- ✓ Early Childhood Teacher Qualifications or Child Development Associate (CDA)
- ✓ Center Director Qualifications
- ✓ Students working towards an Associates of Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Early Childhood Education
- ✓ Student’s working towards a Bachelor’s Degree in the Early Childhood Education field (as funds are available)

Eligibility:

Recipients of the ECC SLV Professional Development Scholarship for college level classes must meet the following criteria

- ✓ Reside in a San Luis County Valley (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande or Saguache)
AND
- ✓ **Committed to working with young children and their families in the San Luis Valley**
AND
Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
AND
- ✓ A minimum of one (1) of the following
 - Current employee of a licensed Child Care Center (including Head Start / Colorado Preschool Program)
 - Current licensed Family Child Care Provider
 - Current employee of an organization or agency that works with children ages birth to age eight and their families
 - Currently enrolled in a college or university under an Early Childhood Education degree plan

Scholarship program cannot guarantee ongoing funding. All scholarships through this program are dependent on continuing funding from our partners.

Scholarship Deadlines:

This scholarship has a rolling application date for SUMMER, FALL and/or SPRING semesters.

Applications can be turned in throughout the year to:

Early Childhood Council, Community Outreach & Advocacy Coordinator, 715 Main Street, Alamosa, CO 81101, qicoach@eccslv.org

**ONLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS WITH ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR FUNDING**

Requirements and Guidelines:

1. Scholarship dollars are limited and are intended to be used when all other available sources have been exhausted.
2. Grantees cannot assign or transfer scholarship.
3. The maximum scholarship for each participant is based on the cost of college credits in the field of Early Childhood at our local accredited college, university or the cost of a CDA.
 - ❖ Up to \$1,000 towards Early Childhood Teacher Qualifications, Child Development Associate (CDA) or Center Director Qualifications
 - ❖ Up to \$1,000 per year for up to 2 classes for students working towards an Associate's Degree in ECE
 - ❖ Up to \$1,000 per year for students working towards a Bachelor's Degree in ECE or relevant to the field
4. Complete the application for scholarship and submit it with supporting documentation to the ECC SLV. (Incomplete applications will not be accepted).
5. Complete the Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FASFA) and provide a copy of the award or denial (for college level courses).
6. Scholarship recipients must receive a 'C' grade or higher in the class paid for by this Scholarship AND maintain a 2.0 grade point average. A student who does not receive a grade of 'C' or better is NOT eligible for future scholarships. To regain eligibility, the student must refund the amount awarded for the ineligible class or repeat the class with an acceptable grade at their own expense. Applicants agree to provide documentation of grade(s) received in classes for which they have received ECC SLV scholarship.
7. Applicants who leave the San Luis Valley before using their awarded funds forfeit their award.
8. Create an account in the **Professional Development Information System** (PDIS) and complete your profile & apply for an Early Childhood Professional Credential.

By applying, participants represent that they are eligible, and agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the scholarship awards process.

Award Determinations: The applications will be reviewed for completeness and to determine if they meet the current eligibility requirements. As needed the Professional Development Advisory Committee will assist in this work. Scholarship Awards will be made directly to the College or University where student is enrolled or agency providing training. The ECC SLV reserves the right to evaluate applications on an individual basis for extenuating circumstances.



Early Childhood Council Professional Development Scholarship Application

Please complete and return pages 3 & 4 ONLY!!

Applicant / Student Name: _____

College or University name or Agency providing training: _____

Student ID number (**REQUIRED** for college students) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home phone #/mobile # _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Work phone _____

What class(es) are you registered for?

Name _____ Course # ECE- _____ # of Credits _____

Name _____ Course # ECE- _____ # of Credits _____

In what semester and year? _____

Please attach a transcript, schedule showing your name, or other proof of registration. (REQUIRED)

Do you have a Bachelors' degree in ANY subject? ___ If YES, in what area of study? _____

Why are you taking additional ECE course work? _____

For college students:

Have you applied for Financial Aid? Yes ___ No ___ (if NO: You are *not* eligible for this Scholarship)

Were you approved for PELL GRANT assistance? Yes ___ No ___

Please attach award/denial notice (REQUIRED)

Are you eligible for any other funding from your employer, Veteran's benefits, Workforce Center, Etc.?

No ___ Yes ___ Amount _____

Have you ever received a scholarship from the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley in the past? Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, provide the following information for each class that was funded by the ECC SLV Scholarship and **provide documentation showing grades of a "C" or better** (REQUIRED for past funded classes).

Semester and Year Received	Class taken	Grade Earned

Please read the following statements and indicate your agreement by initialing each statement and signing and dating this statement.

- ✓ I give permission to the Early Childhood Council San Luis Valley to communicate regarding my application and/or eligibility for financial assistance with the staff at the college where I am enrolled or intend to enroll. _____
- ✓ I give permission to the Early Childhood Council San Luis Valley to receive, or exchange information concerning my enrollment, present or past grades or current classes with the faculty/staff at the college where I am enrolled. _____
- ✓ I give permission to the Early Childhood Council San Luis Valley to communicate information concerning my enrollment/classes with my employer and/or Early Head Start staff. _____
- ✓ I have read the Policies of the Professional Development Project outlined in this application and agree to follow them. _____
- ✓ I understand it is my responsibility to submit a copy of my financial aid verification with this application to have it considered a completed application. _____
- ✓ I understand if awarded, it is my responsibility to submit my bill, once received, to the Early Childhood Council for payment and I understand the scholarship award will be paid directly to the college / university or Agency providing training. _____
- ✓ I understand it is my responsibility to submit a copy of my grades if awarded to the ECCSLV Professional Development Project. _____
- ✓ I give permission to Early Childhood Council to use pictures, video or other media obtained from or including scholarship/incentive awards for promotion of the Early Childhood Council. _____

I understand that if I do not meet the requirements of the scholarship, I may be responsible for repayment of the full or partial amount of the scholarship. _____

I have read/ initialed and agree to the above:

Printed Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____