

Child Care WAGE\$® NEBRASKA

What is Child Care WAGE\$® NEBRASKA (WAGE\$)?

Child Care WAGE\$® NEBRASKA is a program that provides education-based salary supplements (sometimes called incentives) to low-paid early care and education providers working with children, ages birth to five, in licensed family child care settings in Nebraska. This program is designed to increase retention, education, and compensation of the early childhood workforce.

Family Child Care Providers

WAGE\$ Quick Facts

1) Why is this program only for Family Child Care Providers? The first year (2020) for WAGE\$ in Nebraska was a pilot year. The decision was made to start the program small and build upon it. The plan is for WAGE\$ to be offered to all early childhood educators working in classrooms with children, ages birth to five, in the future. As additional funding is secured, additional eligible applicants will be notified. Keep checking back!

2) How do I know if I am eligible? How can I apply? All eligibility requirements can be found on the reverse side of this page or can be found at www.NebraskaAEYC.org. To apply: (1) Complete an application, (2) Accept child care subsidy (Title XX), have a child enrolled receiving child care subsidy, AND/OR be listed as, "Currently do not accept subsidy, but willing to in the future", on the DHHS child care licensing roster, and (3) provide official college transcripts for your education earned. Applications can be found at www.NebraskaAEYC.org or contact a WAGE\$ counselor (402-858-5143 or wages@nebraskaeyc.org) for more information, or to have an application mailed to you.

3) How much will I receive? Salary supplement amounts are tied to the recipient's level of education. Awards are issued in two six-month payments.

4) How can I increase the level of the supplement I receive? WAGE\$ participants can increase their supplement amounts by gaining more education. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA offers scholarships to child care professionals who want to earn course credits toward specific early childhood credentials or degrees. Contact T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA (402-858-5143 or teach@nebraskaeyc.org) for more information.

5) Do I have to pay taxes on the supplement I receive? Yes, because the salary supplement is income. Participants will receive an IRS-1099 form in January, if they received \$600 or more from Nebraska AEYC during the previous calendar year. Recipients are responsible for reporting and paying personal income taxes due.

6) Will I receive a supplement if I move to another early care and education program? Checks are sent to participants after each six-month period in the same program. If a participant moves to another eligible program within the six months, no check will be sent to the participant until they have worked six qualifying months and completed a new WAGE\$ application from the new site. This will encourage more stability for the children in care and discourage participants from moving programs.

7) Can someone participate in T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE\$? Yes! The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Scholarship Program and the Child Care WAGE\$® NEBRASKA program go hand-in-hand. T.E.A.C.H. is a means to support individuals as they work their way up the WAGE\$ scale and increase their education. Participants in both programs can receive bonuses from T.E.A.C.H. and incentives from WAGE\$ simultaneously.

WAGE\$ impacts early childhood education programs and educators by...

Recognizing and rewarding dedicated professionals

Stabilizing the early childhood workforce

Encouraging continued education

Limited funds are available. Apply today!!

More information and applications to apply for a WAGE\$ incentive can be found at:
www.NebraskaAEYC.org or call (402) 858-5143, or email: wages@nebraskaeyc.org

Child Care WAGE\$® NEBRASKA is a licensed program of Child Care Services Association.

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