

Dear Early Childhood Professional:

Congratulations on your decision to increase your expertise and education by earning your CDA and/or degree in early childhood! Research has shown that the biggest determinate in the quality of care for children is the education level of those caring for them. You will not be sorry that you invested in yourself. Please contact the TEACH office if we can assist you with this process.

Scholarships & Application Requirements

Apprenticeship Scholarship

Applicants must:

- Work at least 30 hours per week as a classroom teacher in a licensed child care, preschool, Head Start, or approved public school pre-k program in Nebraska,
- Have the support and sponsorship of your employer,
- Be able to financially assist in payment of tuition, fees, and books,
- Complete at least nine hours of early childhood coursework per year at a community college in Nebraska,
- Commit to two years of participation in the program.

CDA or Associate Degree Scholarship

Applicants must:

- Work at least 30 hours per week in a licensed child care, preschool, or family child care program; Head Start; or approved public school pre-k program in Nebraska,
- Have the support and sponsorship of your employer,
- Be able to financially assist in payment of tuition, fees, and books,
- Pursue early childhood coursework at one of our partnering Nebraska schools,
- CDA—Commit to working in the field of early childhood for six months after the completion of your CDA coursework.
- Associate Degree—Commit to working at your sponsoring program, or continue to operate your family child care program for at least one year after the completion of your coursework.

Bachelor Degree Gap or Bachelor Degree Scholarship

Applicants must:

- Meet all Associate Degree scholarship requirements,
- Have been employed by the sponsoring program for one year prior to applying for a scholarship, *OR*, as a family child provider, the applicant must have a non-expiring child care operating license in good standing,
- Be pursuing a degree in the Inclusive Endorsement in Early Childhood,
- Already hold an Associate Degree in early childhood or equivalent,
- Bachelor Degree Gap—Be able to earn enough credits at a community college to be able to transfer to a bachelor degree school at a junior standing (60 credits)
- Bachelor Degree—Be able to transfer at least 60 credits in order to enter at junior standing,
- Commit to working at your sponsoring program, or continue to operate your family child care program for at least 18 months after the completion of your coursework.