

Montana Early Care and Education Scholarship Program

What is the Scholarship Program?

This program was established by the Statewide Early Childhood Advisory Council with monies from the federal Child Care and Development Fund administered through the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Early Childhood Services Bureau. The Early Childhood Project has accounts with each organization from which scholarships are paid. It is important that you apply for any of the following scholarships to the Early Childhood Project at least sixty days prior to submitting your materials to the appropriate organizations.

What Scholarships Are Available and Who is Eligible?

Early care and education programs and/or practitioners may apply for three types of scholarships at any time during the year. **A *current* Practitioner Registry certificate must accompany any of these scholarship applications.**

Child Development Associate (CDA) Assessment

This scholarship pays for the CDA assessment fee of \$325.00 payable at the time the candidate applies to the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. for the final verification visit. This is the last step after completing all requirements for CDA assessment. CDA often requires up to two years of preparation time.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation

The NAEYC accreditation process is designed for childcare centers, preschools, school-age programs, and kindergartens. Nationally, over 6,000 programs are accredited and in Montana there are nineteen. It is administered by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs in Washington, D.C. Montana scholarships are available to help pay the costs of accreditation. The fee structure for accreditation has undergone major changes since November 2004. This will change awards for NAEYC Accreditation Scholarships.

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accreditation

The NAFCC accreditation process is designed for family and group home child care programs. It involves a comprehensive self-study, parent surveys, and an observer visit. The fee is \$495 with a membership in the NAFCC. Full scholarships are available for the accreditation fee which is payable when your accreditation materials are sent back to NAFCC.

How Do I Request A Scholarship Application?

Applications for these scholarships may be requested by calling the Early Childhood Project at 1-800-213-6310 or 406-944-4746 or by email to ecp@montana.edu. Leave your name, address and phone number if you get our voice mail. Please speak slowly so we get accurate information to respond to your request. You may also download all of the scholarship applications and instructions from our website, www.montana.edu/ecp.

How Do I Contact These Organizations?

Child Development Associate (CDA):

Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition
2460 16th Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20009-3575
1-800-424-4310

NAFCC Accreditation:

National Association for Family Child Care
5202 Pinemont Dr.
Salt Lake City, UT 84123
1-800-359-3817
www.nafcc.org

NAEYC Accreditation:

National Academy of Early Childhood Programs
NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children)
1509 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-1426
1-800-424-2460
Fax: 202-797-1651
www.naeyc.org

Early Childhood Project

Montana State University
P.O. Box 173540
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406-994-4746
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