

Info Sheet: Montana Early Care and Education Career Development MSU Early Childhood Project Bozeman, Montana Fall 2010

Montana Early Care and Education Scholarship Program

What is the Scholarship Program?

This program is designed to assist early care and education practitioner and programs achieve their professional development and program quality goals. Through this program you will receive awards to pay the costs of various fees associated with CDA and program accreditation. . The Early Childhood Project (ECP) maintains accounts with each organization from which scholarships are paid. Therefore, you will not have to pay costs up front if you have an official award letter from the ECP when payment is due. 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 organization.

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 with a letter of intent.** If you receiving STARS to Quality incentive funds, you will not be eligible for these scholarships.

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.

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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 downloaded with instructions at our website, www.mtecp.org. You may also request them 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.

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/MSU

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ecp@montana.edu
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