

Info Sheet: Montana Early Care and Education Career Development

MSU Early Childhood Project Bozeman, Montana Fall 2010

Professional Development Incentive Awards (PDIAs)

What is a PDIA?

PDIAs are a Best Beginnings program that promotes early childhood professional development. PDIAs provide an incentive for early childhood practitioners to pursue education and training to help them improve the quality of services they provide to young children and families. PDIAs are administered by the Early Childhood Project and the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Early Childhood Services Bureau.

Visit the **Early Childhood Project website at: www.mtecp.org** for information and to download an application.

How does it work?

Early care and education practitioners may choose to apply for one of two types of PDIAs.

PDIA

- Applicants must have a **current MT** Practitioner Registry Certificate to apply
- Applicants must be employed in a state licensed /registered program a minimum of 15 hours per week when they apply and at the time that they submit the necessary forms for receiving an award payment
- Applicants must submit a **complete** PDIA application by the deadline
- Individual must complete a 25 hour track or a 50 hour track of ECP approved non-college credit training, which may not include the 60 hour infant/toddler or preschool course
- Upon completion of the training, awards will be made upon submittal of all necessary documentation and paperwork

PDIA - Higher Education

- Applicants must have a **current MT** Practitioner Registry Certificate to apply
- Applicants must be employed in a state licensed /registered program a minimum of 15 hours per week or a Head Start or Tribal Head Start or Montana Child Care Resource and Referral agency when they apply and at the time that they submit the necessary forms for receiving an award payment.
- Applicants must submit a **complete** PDIA-HE application by the deadline

You may apply for one of the following two options for the PDIA – Higher Education:

- 1. *If you are enrolled in a minimum of six semester credits and meet the following criteria, you may receive a \$750 award for two semesters each academic year.***
 - Applicants must be enrolled in a college program which leads to a an associate, bachelor's or advanced degree in Early Childhood/ Child Development, OR
 - Current enrollment in college coursework that leads to the completion of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, a Child Care Development Specialist (CCDS) Apprenticeship Certificate, or a 30 credit early childhood college certificate

- 2. *If you are enrolled in two – five semester credits and meet the following criteria, you may receive a \$250 award for two semesters each academic year.***
 - Applicants must be seeking a Level 4 Certification or higher on The Registry or taking relevant course work to maintain a current Level 4 Certification or higher.

How Do I Find a Professional Development Incentive Award Application?

PDIA applications are posted the second week in June with a due date the third week in August of each year. PDIA – HE applications are posted for fall semester the second week in June and for spring/summer semester during the first week of October each year. Due dates are posted on the ECP website along with the applications, instructions and forms to be completed and submitted to receive your award payment.

Early Childhood Project

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Montana Early Childhood Project

