



Rural R.U.N. Scholarship Program

Overview

Rural Reskilling, Upskilling, Next-skilling (R.U.N.) is a unique scholarship program that provides **career counseling and tuition support** to early childhood professionals in rural communities seeking to:

- **Reskill** - unemployed and underemployed workers changing industries in order to return to work or obtain more appropriate work based on their skills; or
- **Upskill** - current workers increasing skill levels to retain or advance in their employment; or
- **Next-skilling** - current workers developing future-ready skills necessary for employment in the twenty-first century.

Eligibility

- Participant meets the age requirement of 16 or older
- Participant resides in an area covered by the [Rural Workforce Consortium](#) including **Eastern** Sub-Area, **Southeast** Sub-Area, **Pueblo** Sub-Area, **Upper Arkansas** Sub-Area, **South Central** Sub-Area, **Western** Sub-Area, **Southwest** Sub-Area, **Rural Resort** Sub-Area, and **Northwest** Sub-Area (the Broomfield Sub-Area is **not** an eligible sub-area)
- Participant is unemployed and available for work in the early childhood field (this includes those who have looked for work sometime in the past 12 months) **OR** is currently employed but seeking to move to a job within the early childhood field that provides better opportunities for career advancement
- Participant can complete credential within 12 months of being awarded
- Participant experienced an economic loss within the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as lost or adverse changes in employment, increased food or housing insecurity, had to withdraw from college after March 13, 2020, or suffered another form of economic loss **OR** participant currently qualifies for certain federal assistance programs (*see our [website](#) for the list!*)

Supports Offered

- Career counseling and support
- 1:1 support to ensure progression toward the completion of your credential
- Support in connecting to resources, careers, and transitioning

Scholarship Benefits

In addition to providing career counseling and 1:1 support, the Rural R.U.N. Scholarship Program provides a one-time scholarship award to participants applicable towards the cost of their credential.

The Rural R.U.N. Scholarship Program can also work in conjunction with other scholarship programs, like T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Colorado and Back to Work: Early Childhood Education!

Participant Commitments

- Complete a participant agreement
- Enroll in and successfully complete an allowed early childhood credential program within 12 months
- Communicate regularly with the Scholarship and Career Navigation Coordinator, including scheduling an initial meeting to discuss your credential plans
- Submit final grades to the Scholarship and Career Navigation Coordinator (if applicable)
- Complete an employment survey upon completion of your credential program

For More Information

Contact **Cameron Fall**, Scholarship and Career Navigation Coordinator,
cameron@ecclacolorado.org

Visit our website <http://www.ecclacolorado.org/>

ECCLA's mission is to advocate for and strengthen the accessibility, quality, and equity of local services and supports through a responsive statewide system of Early Childhood Councils, to benefit Colorado's young children, their families, and early childhood professionals.