



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL  
LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

## Workforce Supports



Colorado is facing a critical period of building up our early care and education workforce as our child care sector faces incredible challenges which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. ECCLA supports multiple programs aiming to ensure Colorado's child care workforce is strengthened and sustainable so our children and families can access safe and reliable care options.

ECCLA's workforce supports through T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Colorado Scholarship Program, Back to Work: Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program, and Family Child Care Home Facilities Improvement Grants aim to create pathways for professionals to attain educational credentials, build their businesses, and grow in their work.



The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Colorado Scholarship Program offers early childhood education program directors and teachers a pathway to pursue higher education. Access to scholarships for early childhood education is a critical piece to a successful professional development pathway.

Early childhood education professionals including directors, teachers, and family child care providers who meet criteria are eligible to apply.

### T.E.A.C.H. WAGE AND RETENTION IMPACT

**\$15.66** average wage at the start of the program

**11%** average wage increase upon program completion

**93%** of scholars are retained by their early childhood employer throughout the required work commitment (removing turnover due to the pandemic). Only two recipients quit their jobs due to the pandemic.



### BACK TO WORK: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Back to Work: Early Childhood Education is a unique scholarship program that works to support Coloradans displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic, including those laid off or furloughed, those who have experienced decreased earnings, had job offers rescinded, or could not enter the workforce because of adverse economic conditions.

Supports offered include guidance around enrollment, registration, financial aid, navigating classes, and transitioning back into the workforce. In addition to providing individual student support, the Back to Work: ECE Scholarship isn't just for paying for tuition and fees, it can also be used to pay for educational expenses like books, transportation, supplies, and more.

## **FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

Building and maintaining a FCCH can be challenging, and we've seen many FCCH providers struggle to keep their doors open for the past several years. To address the declining number of licensed slots within family child care homes and to improve quality within home-based learning environments, the

Buell Foundation, along with the Daniels Fund, granted funds to the Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA) to provide facility improvement funding to family child care homes. This opportunity is intended to help family child care homes start up, expand, or maintain consistent operations, increase capacity and reduce the number of family child care homes closing their doors due to financial restrictions. Since the inception of the Family Child Care Home Improvement Grant Initiative in 2020, ECCLA has awarded \$399,000 to 105 family child care homes across 32 counties in Colorado. These funds have been used for facilities improvements focused on expanding licensed capacity, health, safety, and quality improvement.



Thank you for helping me breathe life into this home that plans to nurture children for many more years. The biggest barrier for me in the operation of my business for the last 30 years has always been trying to bridge the gap between 'what parents can afford to pay' and 'what I need to charge to remain in business.' Unfortunately, what is left for wages after providing quality care for the children (food, activities, and supplies/equipment, utilities), simply does not allow enough cash flow for major building upkeep. Your grant helped me with some much-needed repairs and replacements to this dedicated play area.

-Gloria Bergner, Phillips County



## **CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Concurrent Enrollment Scholarship program is for high school students interested in earning college credit and experience in early childhood settings. It is intended for students to transition successfully into the field with the support, knowledge and credentials needed to obtain employment and perform roles with confidence.

Twenty high school students will be chosen from across the state to join each cohort. This program includes regular meetings and support from cohort peers and Concurrent Enrollment Program counselors.



## THE RURAL R.U.N. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Rural R.U.N. (Re-killing, Upskilling, Next-skilling) Program provides career counselling and tuition support to early childhood professionals in rural communities seeking to reskill, upskill, or next-skill. Through an initiative of the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to facilitate training for unemployed and underemployed Coloradans, ECCLA supports this program for early care and education professionals.

- Reskill: supports workers to change industries to better meet their skills
- Upskill: trains workers to advance or improve in skills connected to their employment
- Next-skill: supports workers developing future-ready skills for twenty-first century employment

RURAL  
  
R.U.N.

SCHOLARSHIP

A PROGRAM OF  
EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL  
LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE



Colorado Workforce  
Development Council

For more information about T.E.A.C.H., FCCH grants, or High School Concurrent Enrollment Scholarships, contact Shannon Hall, Director of Workforce Supports, [shannon@ecclacolorado.org](mailto:shannon@ecclacolorado.org)  
720.899.3047

For more information about Back to Work or Rural R.U.N contact Cameron Fall, ECE Scholarship/Career Navigator, [cameron@ecclacolorado.org](mailto:cameron@ecclacolorado.org)



### About ECCLA

ECCLA advocates for and strengthens 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.

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