



## Rural R.U.N. Scholarship Program

### Scholarship Benefits

ECCLA's Rural R.U.N. Scholarship provides participants with career counseling and 1:1 support along with one-time scholarship awards applicable towards the cost of credentials. The amount a participant receives is dependent on the credential they wish to pursue.

ECCLA's Rural R.U.N. Scholarship also works in conjunction with other scholarships and programs, like college scholarships and grants, the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Colorado Scholarship Program, ASPIRE to Teach®, T-PREP, and more!

### Supports Offered

- Career counseling and support
- 1:1 support to ensure progression toward the completion of your credential
- Connection to various types of resources, career navigation and support, and support with transitioning back into the workforce
- Navigation into the [T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Colorado Scholarship Program](#) and/or the [Back to Work: Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program](#) (where applicable)

### Participant Commitments

- Complete a participant agreement.
- Enroll in and successfully complete a credential program within 12 months of being awarded.
- Communicate regularly with the Scholarship and Career Navigation Coordinator, including scheduling an initial meeting to discuss your credential plans.
- Submit final grades/progress/certificates to the Scholarship and Career Navigation Coordinator
- Complete an employment survey upon completion of your credential program.

### For More Information

Contact **Cameron Fall**, Scholarship and Career Navigation Coordinator,  
[cameron@ecclacolorado.org](mailto:cameron@ecclacolorado.org)

### 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.

### Scholarship Models

With ECCLA's Rural R.U.N. Scholarship, participants can earn any of the following Early Childhood Credentials:

- [Aim4Excellence™ National Director Credential](#)
- [Child Development Associate \(CDA\) Credential](#)
- [CLASS® Observation Certificate through Teachstone®](#)
- [Early Childhood Coach Credential](#)
- [Environment Rating Scales® Training & Certification through Clayton Early Learning](#)
- Any College Certificates related to Early Childhood Education

### 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!*).

*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.*