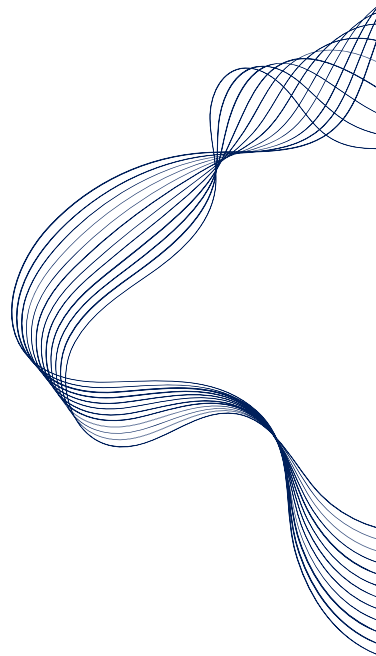


**BACK TO
WORK**

Spring 2023 Participant Newsletter



100%
of participants
were impacted
by COVID-19



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

Back to Work:
Early Childhood Education
Scholarship Program

4891 Independence St., Suite 140 | Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 | Ph: (720) 899-3048 | www.ecclacolorado.org/backtowork



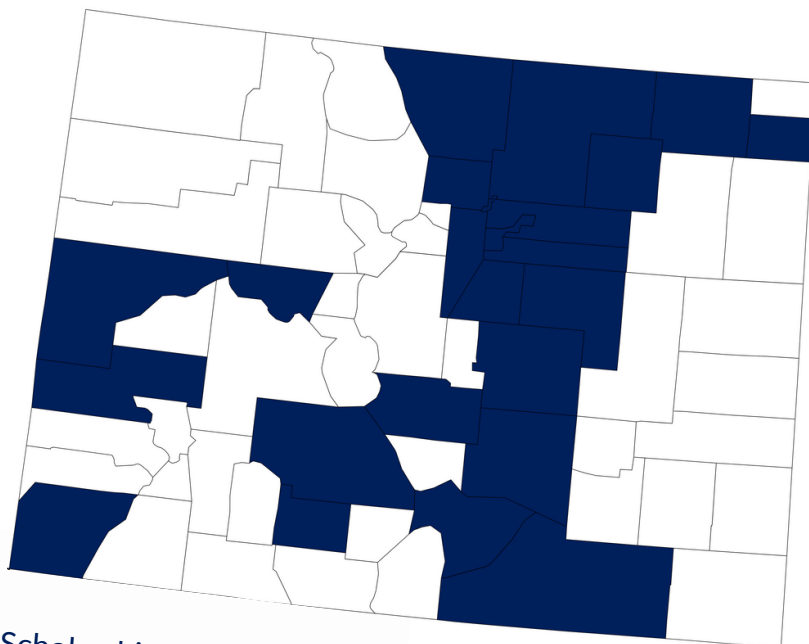
EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
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**BACK TO
WORK**

Across the state, there are only enough licensed child care services for 45 percent of the 256,000 kids birth to age six with working parents. There is a substantial increase in the need for early childhood teachers and leaders – between 33-43% (depending on job category) through 2025. Back to Work is a strategy that helps to support increased capacity and quality for young children while increasing education for professionals.

Back to Work supports recruitment and retention through \$3,500 scholarships to help professionals advance in their education and careers.

ECCLA's Back to Work: Early Childhood Education Scholarship is a unique program that supports early childhood professionals who experienced an economic loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic and want to earn undergraduate-level degrees and certificates related to Early Childhood Education. Through the Back to Work Grant, ECCLA is proud to partner with the Colorado Department of Higher Education's COSI Scholarship Program to help provide the education and training you need for your next job in the Early Childhood profession! The Colorado Recovery Plan expands the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) grant to support Coloradans that have experienced an economic loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic or suffered another form of economic loss.



Scholarships were awarded to participants in **Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Jefferson, Larimer, Las Animas, Logan, Mesa, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Phillips, Pitkin, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache, Weld** Counties

**BACK TO
WORK**





EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE



Congratulations!

You are one semester closer to completing your Early Childhood Credential!

Another semester has come and gone, but you should be proud of your achievement and your continued dedication to make a difference in the lives of Colorado's children and families.

As a reminder, **don't forget to submit expenses that need to be paid along with your schedule for the next semester.** If other expenses come up during the semester, just update your Expense Report and email Cameron! To update the Report, visit this [link](#), login to your account, and edit your Scholarship Packet.

Please reach out to Cameron Fall with any questions or concerns that you have throughout the semester. Cameron can support you in **any of the following areas:**

- Enrollment, registration, financial aid, scholarships, grants, understanding the total cost of obtaining your degree or certificate, [FAFSA](#) assistance, [CASFA](#) assistance and more!
- Navigating institutional barriers and academic hurdles along with social, wellness, familial, and personal concerns
- 1:1 support to ensure progression toward the completion of your degree or certificate
- Connection to various types of resources, career navigation and support, and support with transitioning back into the workforce

Thank you for your hard work. We see and appreciate all of the work you are doing. Feel free to reach out at any time with any questions or concerns!

[Check out ECCLA's Scholarships & Grants!](#)

Thank You!

IMPACT

65 Recipients



Congrats!

338

Credits
Completed

3.42

Average GPA

5

Degrees
Completed

11

Certificates
Completed

\$105,108



Scholarships
Awarded



Congratulations to Spring 2023 Graduates!

BACK¹⁰
WORK



VOICES FROM THE PROFESSION

Participants are at the heart of the Back to Work: Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program. **And their stories matter.**



Meet. Martina

My name is Martina and I am a recipient of ECCLA's Back to Work Scholarship. I was born and raised right here in Denver where I serve families and children. I am a mother of 5 really cool children and am on track to be the first in my family to graduate from college. I am a full time student at Red Rocks Community College, and Director and owner of Colorado Adventure Kids. I have been in the Early Childhood Education profession for over 12 years, I was just shy of 18 when I first stepped into a classroom.

Although I am a small business owner, things aren't always successful or promising. After and during COVID-19, my family and I have faced homelessness twice just within the last two years. I wear many hats and often have placed my educational goals on the back burner to concentrate on other things. Sadly, I know a lot of early childhood educators that live in poverty and experience similar things my children and I have. Within all of the economic issues surrounding the educators in my profession, one thing about myself and individuals teaching is this: Early Childhood Educators serve our communities with the most important job. Teaching, caring for and loving young children is crucial in society. Especially in today's surroundings. There are a million things going on in the world, but one thing never changes. And that is the importance of teachers in our communities. And the teachers be highly educated themselves.