

Vermont Child Development Division

College Tuition Assistance Grant

Overview

This grant is for individuals working in regulated early childhood or afterschool programs in Vermont to assist with the cost of college tuition related to their role in providing direct services to children. The maximum amount of this grant is \$1250 per student per semester for tuition only (no books or fees). Students enrolled in the Assessment of Prior Learning (APL) course may request funding up to \$1000 to include the portfolio review. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements in order to qualify for this funding.

Grant availability is limited for each fiscal year. When necessary, applications will be prioritized, and priority will be given to those who have not received a grant in the current fiscal year. Only complete applications will be considered. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and can be submitted anytime. Please allow 4-8 weeks for applications to be processed.

Course Requirements

- The course in this application must be related to working with young children or be part of an early childhood degree program through an accredited higher education institute. (See Northern Lights at CCV description for list of related degrees).
- The course in this application must have a connection to advancing on the Vermont Early Childhood Career Ladder; achieving a credential, qualifying degree or teacher licensure (early childhood or early childhood special education); meeting Program Director licensing requirements; or for meeting degree requirements in a related field.
- The course in this application must include college credits through an accredited institution of higher education.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be employed for at least 3 months by a CDD regulated child care program in a direct care or licensed program director position. Their primary work location must be the licensed/ registered program.
- Applicants must apply to other grant sources first and receive eligibility determination from relevant federal and/or state financial aid sources.
- Applicants must be enrolled in a qualifying professional development activity (described in course requirements).
- Applicants must update their Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) to include career goals and indicate a realistic time frame and steps to achieve goals.
- Applicants must be working in a CDD Vermont regulated child care program with good regulatory standing.
- Applicant career goals must demonstrate a commitment to work in a Vermont regulated early care and education program for at least one year after course completion.

- Applicants that are Level I or Level II on the Vermont Career Ladder, must work with a Northern Lights Resource Advisor at CCV to ensure they have necessary educational support.
- Applicants must have professional qualifications, including all transcripts, verified by Northern Lights and entered into their Bright Futures Information System Quality and Credential account prior to applying for this grant. Transcripts must demonstrate academic achievement (grade of C- or better).
- Applicants must demonstrate financial need.
- Applicants must not be a recipient of the Peer Review Assessment Scholarship through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Vermont Scholarship Program.
- Applicants must not be a public-school teacher who is on a teacher contract for work in the regulated care setting. (Note: Classroom assistants, aides & para educators are eligible if they meet the other requirements.)
- Applicants must not owe any funds to the State of Vermont and be in good standing with the Vermont Department of Taxes.

Grant Report

- Awardees need to submit a grant report within three months of course completion.
- If the course in this grant application was dropped or failed, the awardee will need to reimburse any grant funds that were awarded.
- Awardees must submit a copy of their transcript with a cover sheet to Northern Lights at CCV (to upload into their BFIS account) within 30 days of the course completion.

**For assistance with this grant application contact:
 Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC)
 802-234-1090
pdsupports@vtaeyc.org**

**For information regarding other funding opportunities contact:
 Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
 PO Box 2000, 10 East Allen Street Winooski, Vermont 05404
 800-642-3177 or 802-654-3750
www.vsac.org**

**For assistance with an Individual Professional Development Plan visit:
<https://northernlightscv.org/career-development/individual-professional-development-plan-ipdp/>**

**For assistance with submitting documentation to Northern Lights visit:
<https://northernlightscv.org/career-development/professional-development-tracking/>**