



Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund Fact Sheet

1. Who is eligible for the Fund?

People working at least 1 year with children in a registered or licensed child care facility in the State of Maryland, participating in the Maryland Child Care Credential program, holding a high school diploma or equivalent, and have been accepted by an accredited college or university in Maryland for enrollment in one or more college courses for credit toward a degree in early childhood education or a related field may receive funding through this program.

2. What can the Fund be used for?

An award under the Fund may be used for the costs of tuition, college fees, and books. Funds may only be used for the actual expense of college course work incurred subsequent to an award toward completion of a college degree in early childhood education or related field. Funds may not be used to pay for non-credit courses, fees or costs, including tuition costs, previously incurred for college enrollment or attendance purposes.

3. How is the Fund accessed?

Applications for the Fund must be submitted to the Office of Child Care – Credentialing Branch for consideration prior to the start of a college semester.

4. Where are application forms available?

Forms are available from the Office of Child Care, Resource and Referral Centers, and college financial aid offices.

5. How will a person know if they receive an award through the Fund?

A letter will be sent to the applicant and the college indicating that funding has or has not been awarded.

6. Can a person receive funding every year?

Funding may continue as long as an academic grade-point average of 2.75 or higher is maintained, the grantee is employed as a provider in an approved child care facility, and the approved course of study is pursued. The provider must submit a renewal application with the required documentations each year to continue receiving funding.

7. How is the Fund distributed?

Priority for an award will be given to applicants who have not completed any college courses for credit from an accredited college or university. Funds are distributed on an annual basis until an award has been made to each eligible applicant who has submitted a complete application or the funding allocation is exhausted.

8. What does a person have to do once the degree is completed?

Upon the completion of the college course of study and in relation to the number of college credits completed or the degree earned due in part or in whole to receipt of a Fund award, a person is committing to remain employed in the child care field (family child care or child care center) for a period of time of, whichever is less, one month for each college credit successfully completed, two years for a completed associate degree, or four years for a completed bachelor's degree.

9. Can the employment requirement be satisfied while still taking classes?

The employment requirement must be fulfilled after the completion of the course of study is completed.

10. What happens if a person does not complete the employment requirement?

The balance of the award amount must be paid back to the State of Maryland.