

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Overview

What is T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®?

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® (T.E.A.C.H.) Initiative is a national, evidence-based strategy that creates access to higher education for teachers, directors and family child care providers (early educators) working with young children in out of home settings. T.E.A.C.H. provides comprehensive scholarships to enable these early educators to take coursework leading to credentials and degrees by making it possible for them to afford both the time and expense of going to school. At the same time T.E.A.C.H. helps states leverage the financial resources necessary to provide access to higher education and support for the ECE workforce. And it creates new and diverse teacher and program leaders. From building capacity in higher education to helping individuals attain their educational and career goals, T.E.A.C.H. is a change agent for the early care and education (ECE) workforce and system.

Why is T.E.A.C.H. Needed in Every State?

An estimated 2.3 million early educators work with children under the age of five in out of home settings in the United States. The ECE workforce is largely female, receives poverty-level wages and lacks the employment benefits afforded to most professions. Early educators need and may be required to attain college credits and degrees. However, early educators are challenged in their pursuit of higher education by the obstacles of money, time, location, dependent care needs, lack of incentives and systemic barriers. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® model allows states to address the issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover within the ECE workforce.

T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Components

Comprehensive Scholarships

Provides support for the ECE workforce to access college courses, certificates and degrees in early childhood education resulting in no student debt, using a shared cost approach.

College Education

Requires completion of a specified number of credit hours per contract at a participating college or university coupled with support from T.E.A.C.H. counselors who aid recipients in successfully navigating college processes and finding needed resources to increase core knowledge.

Compensation

Mandates increased compensation through the provision of a bonus and/or a raise for recipients who complete their education in a prescribed period of time to support economic viability of staff.

Commitment

Establishes a contract between employee, employer and T.E.A.C.H. that requires the recipient to remain in the sponsoring program for a specified period of time (generally a year) after they receive their education to reduce staff turnover.

Counselor

Supports each recipient with a state-based T.E.A.C.H. Counselor able to assist the student in securing a scholarship, navigating the college processes, setting goals, and monitoring progress and needs.

T.E.A.C.H. FY16 By the Numbers

Investments

- \$31.1 million public and private dollars funded T.E.A.C.H. scholarships

Impact

- 7,872 Child Care, Prekindergarten and Head Start employers sponsored T.E.A.C.H. recipients; 17% were family child care home providers

Education

- 15,523 recipients were awarded scholarships
- 95,042 credit hours were completed
- 3.26 GPA earned on average for recipients on Associate degree scholarships
- 3.49 GPA earned on average for recipients on Bachelor's degree scholarships

Diversity of the Workforce

- 46% of recipients were people of color and/or Latina
- 16.5% of recipients were Latina/Hispanic
- 52% of recipients were first generation college students

Colleges and Universities

- 353 two-year and 186 four-year higher education institutions provided college courses and benefitted from enrollment

How does T.E.A.C.H. Work?

Eligibility criteria for access to a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship will vary by state and by scholarship model. Most scholarship models require recipients to work a minimum number of hours per week in a program licensed or registered by the state child care facility licensing entity. T.E.A.C.H. Programs are administered by a single non-profit organization licensed to implement the model in a state. Programs are guided by the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center to ensure all Programs are accountable, effective and high performing. Each Program develops tailored scholarship models to address the specific needs of their ECE workforce. Programs are guided by common principles, policies and a set of core values that foster the implementation of the evidence-based model to fidelity and are guided by a rigorous data collection and evaluation process.

A product of the
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center

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