

# T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Vermont Times

A project of Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children

Winter 2015

## Welcome to the Green Mountain State



### What is T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® VERMONT?

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is designed to provide a comprehensive and integrated structure for a variety of scholarship initiatives.

The Project was created to improve the education of people working in child care centers and family child care homes while increasing their compensation. Developed through Child Care Services Association in North Carolina in 1990, T.E.A.C.H. was created to upgrade the level of education of teachers working with young children while making the educational process affordable, increasing wages and reducing turnover.

Funding for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® VERMONT has been provided by The Henderson Foundation for startup funds and the Vermont Early Learning Challenge/Race to the Top grant.

### The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® 5 C's

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Comprehensive Scholarships

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College Education

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Compensation

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Commitment

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Counselor



## More About the C's

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

#### Comprehensive Scholarship –

**For the inaugural T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® VERMONT contract year, we have 35 Associate degree scholarship recipients and have 7 applicants on our wait list who are interested in scholarships as funding becomes available. We have recipients or wait list candidates in every county except Orleans. With the passage of Act 166, we are currently working on securing funding to add another scholarship option to assist with early childhood teacher licensure.**

#### Comprehensive Scholarship –

*Provide support to early educators to access college courses, certificates and degrees in child development or early childhood education resulting in no student debt.*

Contact us at: 802-244-6282

or

[teachearlychildhoodvermont@vaeyc.org](mailto:teachearlychildhoodvermont@vaeyc.org)

Visit us at: <http://vaeyc.org/quality-improvement/teach/>

## **College Education –**

Each recipient can take up to 15 credits in a contract year (3 semesters). Recipients enrolled in a total of 159 credits for the fall 2014 semester and earned an average GPA of 3.78. For the spring 2015 semester recipients are enrolled in 150 credits. This equals out to be about two classes per recipient.

## **College Education –**

*Require 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 resources and increase core knowledge.*

## **Compensation –**

Each recipient who successfully completes their contract is awarded a \$300 bonus from T.E.A.C.H. In addition, recipients who work for licensed centers will receive either a bonus or a 1.5% raise from their employer/sponsor. Currently we have 33 programs who are sponsoring recipients. There is almost a 50/50 split between who will be receiving 1.5% raise and who will get a bonus from their employer at the end of their contract year.

*Compensation – Increase earnings 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 –**

Our scholarship recipients agree to remain in their sponsoring program or family childcare home for at least 1 year following the completion of each contract. Because recipients can serve their commitment year while under a consecutive scholarship contract, we anticipate our scholars will stay in their programs for the duration they are pursuing their AA degrees plus one additional year.

*Commitment – Establish 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 raise and/or bonus to reduce staff turnover.*

*Counselor– Support each recipient by providing a state-based T.E.A.C.H. Counselor able to assist the student in securing a scholarship, navigating the college processes and monitoring progress and needs.*

## **Counselor-**

Our T.E.A.C.H. counselor works to support recipients on the road to attaining their degree. Navigating the college and financial aid application process can be intimidating. Our counselor has assisted applicants with the Higher Education processes by: (1) sitting down with them to complete paperwork, (2) answering calls and questions, and (3) calming the nerves of recipients as the start of the fall semester approached. Our counselor feels the foundation for supporting successful working students is getting to know them and being a sounding board for the questions and concerns they may have.