



The Early Childhood Education: P-3 & Leadership Financial Assistance Project

Instructions

The Montana Early Childhood Education: P-3 and Leadership Financial Assistance Project was created with funds made available through the Montana Preschool Development Grant. The goal of the project is to build early childhood teacher and leadership capacity statewide through financial assistance to individuals pursuing course work leading to the new Montana ECE: P—3 teacher endorsement or an early childhood master’s degree.

Financial assistance will be awarded through an application process **on a priority basis (see below)**. Financial assistance will pay the full cost of tuition and fees, plus a \$200 book stipend each term. The cost of required background checks for students will also be included if necessary. **These funds will be paid directly to the institution for each recipient.** This Financial Assistance Project is contingent on ongoing grant funding.

The project is a collaboration between the Office of Public Instruction, the Department of Public Health and Human Services Early Childhood Services Bureau, MSU’s Early Childhood Project, the Montana Early Childhood Higher Education Consortium, and Montana institutions of higher education that are regionally accredited. **P-3 Financial Assistance will be available based on the following criteria:**

1. An individual must have a current Practitioner Registry Certificate at the time of application. The ECP will check your registry status online. The Practitioner Registry application is available online at www.mtecp.org. It may take several weeks to become current on the registry depending upon how quickly you verify your application information and submit documentation.
2. Applicants must be working a minimum of 15 hours a week in a licensed child care center, registered family child care home, registered group child care home, Head Start program, tribal child care, preschool program in a public school, or K – 3 in a public school.
3. Applicants must be pursuing course work that leads to the ECE: P-3 Endorsement or EC master’s degree. Students pursuing their P-12 Special Education Endorsement are also eligible for this financial award. It is understood that some students may not complete all of the course work necessary to complete their degree within the grant period. Priority will be given to students who have previously received this funding.
4. You must be taking coursework through the University of Montana, University of Montana Western, or Montana State University, and include transcripts from your university with renewal applications each term.
5. Applicants must be Montana residents. For more information regarding residency requirements visit: mus.edu/Prepare/College/Montana_Residency_Requirements.asp

Please note: The Montana University System requires students to have health insurance. The Montana Early Childhood Education: P-3 and Leadership Financial Assistance Project does **not** cover health insurance and the associated fees.

Priorities for financial assistance awards shall be as follows:

First Priority

- Lead teachers in targeted programs
- Assistant teachers and aides in targeted programs

Second Priority

- Lead teacher, assistant teachers and aides who live in the targeted communities working in a state licensed or registered child care program, Head Start, Early Head Start, Public School Preschool, or Tribal Child Care program
- Special Education P -12 licensed preschool teachers in targeted community school districts

Third Priority

- Non-teachers (such as family engagement coordinators, program directors, education managers, curriculum coordinators, site supervisors, disability coordinators, specialists) working in the targeted programs pursuing an early childhood master's degree at UM (either track)
- Non-teachers working in the targeted programs (see above) pursuing the ECE: P - 3 teacher endorsement
- Non-teachers working (see above) in other early childhood programs (as defined in Priority 2 above) in the targeted communities

Fourth Priority

- Teachers working in a state licensed or registered child care program, Head Start, Early Head Start, Public School Preschool, or Tribal Child Care in other communities.

Fifth Priority

- K – 3 teachers in targeted communities

Targeted Program and Targeted Community Definitions:

- Targeted Programs include all classrooms served by the Cohort Programs.
- Targeted communities include all cities/towns where Cohort Program classrooms are located.
- All targeted programs are listed on the information link about the project at www.mtecp.org/incentives.html

If you have any questions, please contact Cassie Noble at 406.404.1624 ext. 305 or cassandra.noble@montana.edu

Completed applications can be emailed to cassandra.noble@montana.edu

Or mailed to: Early Childhood Project—MSU, P.O. Box 173540, Bozeman, MT 59717





FOR ECP OFFICE USE ONLY
Priority:
PR Level:
Exp. Date:

UM, UMW, or MSU Spring 2019 RENEWAL Form
The Early Childhood Education: P-3 & Leadership Financial Assistance Project

Instructions: This form is ONLY for students who have been previously awarded P-3 & Leadership Financial Assistance.
 Email to cassandra.noble@montana.edu or mail to: Early Childhood Project-MSU, P.O. Box 173540, Bozeman, MT 59717
 Due date: November 16, 2018 at 4:00 P.M.

Please type or print using BLUE OR BLACK ink.

Personal Information

Name: _____ State PS# (If applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

You MUST remain current on the Practitioner Registry to continue to be eligible for financial assistance. We will verify your current status online.

Spring 2019 — PLAN OF STUDY

Each column below must be completed as shown in the example.

Course Number	Course Name	Name of University	Start Date & End Date	Credits
<i>ex: EDEC 405</i>	<i>Assessment in EC</i>	<i>UM-Western</i>	<i>8/24/15—12/16/15</i>	<i>3</i>
Total Credits:				

I am enrolled in this institution and have registered or intend to register for the courses indicated above.

I have discussed or plan to discuss my course of study with an institution contact/advisor.

Name of institution Contact/Advisor: _____ Date Contacted: _____

My expected date of graduation is: _____

I have included a copy of my most recent college transcripts from UM, UM-Western, or MSU with my application.

Have you applied for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2018/2019? Yes No

Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information. This may help you pay for college!

Employment Information— MUST BE COMPLETED EVEN IF YOUR EMPLOYMENT HAS REMAINED THE SAME

Place of Employment: _____ Work Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Is this a Montana state licensed or registered child care facility? Yes No State PV# : _____

Check the program type:

- Child care center Family child care home Group child care home Head Start program
 Tribal Child Care Preschool in a public school K-3 public school

Position Title:

- Teacher Assistant Teacher Aide Non-teaching staff (i.e. Family Engagement Coordinator)
 Director Other: _____

Employer Certification: (Must be completed even if you are the owner/director of the facility)

I certify that _____ is currently working 15 or more hours per week in the program listed above and that all employment information is true and correct.

Signature of Director/Owner/Supervisor: _____ Print Name: _____

Position title of Supervisor: _____

<p><input type="checkbox"/> I certify that all information given is true and correct.</p> <p>Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>

Renewal Forms must be received by 4:00 p.m. November, 2019.

Faxed applications will not be accepted.

Email to cassandra.noble@montana.edu

Or mail to: Early Childhood Project-MSU

P.O. Box 173540

Bozeman, MT 59717

