

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA FACT SHEET



WHAT WE ARE?

The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® Project gives scholarships to complete course work in early childhood education and increases compensation. In 1990, Child Care Services Association (CCSA) began the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project as the first program of its kind in the country. River Valley Child Development Services (RVCDs), located in Huntington, WV, began operating T.E.A.C.H. WEST VIRGINIA in December, 2008.

WHY ARE WE NEEDED?

The most critical indicator of quality care is the level of education of the caregivers. 61% of early childhood caregivers in West Virginia have no degree beyond a high school diploma or G.E.D. and zero to one year of experience. Also, WV ranks 47th in the nation for level of pay for early childhood teachers, which is a major cause for high teacher turnover in the child care field.

HOW WE HELP?

T.E.A.C.H. WEST VIRGINIA assists teachers in returning to school to receive a higher education and require participants to agree to remain at the sponsoring program for a year following completion of the scholarship contract. T.E.A.C.H. WV pays a large portion of tuition and book costs, a travel stipend each semester, partial reimbursement to the sponsoring program for paid release time and a bonus for the recipient. The sponsoring child care program is responsible for a small portion of tuition cost, providing release time and a bonus or raise for the recipient. The recipient is responsible for a small portion of tuition and book costs and must make a one year commitment to their sponsoring program following completion of the scholarship contract.

WHO CAN APPLY AND HOW?

An applicant must be a WV resident who is working at least 30 hours per week in a licensed child care program, Head Start, family child care facility, or family home provider. The applicant must be enrolled in, or would like to be enrolled in an Early Childhood Education program at a participating college or university for their Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree, or Pre-K endorsement. Applications can be downloaded from www.wvearlychildhood.org/teach_wv.html or by contacting 304-529-7603 x118.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Currently, T.E.A.C.H. WEST VIRGINIA has partnerships with the following community colleges and universities in the state of West Virginia: Mountwest Community and Technical College, Marshall University, Pierpont Community and Technical College, West Virginia University, WVU Parkersburg, Concord, Glenville State College, West Liberty University, Eastern WV Community and Technical College, and Southern WV Community and Technical College. The participating schools list will be updated as schools are added. Please visit www.wvearlychildhood.org/teach_wv.html or call 304-529-7603 x118 for an updated list.

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