



## Supports for ECE Professionals in Keystone STARS Programs to Increase their Education



The Office of Child Development and Early Learning is funding the following programs in 2018-19 to help early childhood education directors and staff in Keystone STARS programs continue their education and earn credentials and degrees.

**As of July 1, 2017, all applicants eligible for T.E.A.C.H. must elect that option. Only those applicants not meeting T.E.A.C.H. eligibility requirements will be considered for Rising STARS Tuition Assistance.**

 <b>T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Pennsylvania Scholarship</b>	 <b>Rising STARS Tuition Assistance Program</b>
<p><b>Who is an eligible applicant?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PA Resident working a minimum of 25 hours per week in a PA DHS-certified child care program.</li> <li>✓ Earn \$19 or less an hour (\$25 or less per hour for Directors).</li> <li>✓ Be interested in pursuing coursework at a participating college or university toward a degree or credential in early childhood education (or equivalent).</li> <li>✓ Applicant may apply for scholarships for a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential; CDA Credential Assessment/Application Fee, Associate's degree; Bachelor's degree; Infant/Toddler Credential; PA Director's Credential or PA PreK-4 Teacher Certification.</li> <li>✓ Agree to continue working for a sponsoring employer for an additional year after each scholarship year.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Who is an eligible applicant?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PA resident working a minimum of 20 hours per week in a classroom setting as the director, assistant director or education coordinator working in a Head Start or Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts classroom.</li> <li>✓ Earn up to \$40,000/year– Aides, Assistant Teachers, Teachers, or Assistant Directors (\$50,000/year -- Directors, Family or Group Child Care Home Owners/Operators, Head Start Education Managers, Coordinators, or Site Supervisors).</li> <li>✓ Be enrolled in a CDA, AA, BS/BA or MS/MA in Early childhood Education or related degree providing at least one credit.</li> <li>✓ Agree to continue to work in a Keystone STARS facility for 2 months for every credit supported by Rising STARS Tuition Assistance (maximum commitment of 24 months).</li> <li>✓ Maintain a 3.0 GPA for the classes taken or degree program in which the student is enrolled.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is covered?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Scholarship recipients receive funding for tuition, fees, books, travel and paid release time from their employer.</li> <li>✓ Recipients and sponsoring employers contribute a percentage of tuition and approved fees (usually 5%-10%) for courses at an approved college or university.</li> <li>✓ Recipients receive compensation in the form of a stipend and/or raise provided by the employer and/or T.E.A.C.H. after each successful scholarship year.</li> <li>✓ Sponsoring employers receive reimbursement for paid release time provided to scholarship recipients.</li> <li>✓ Scholarship Counselors provide professional development and career counseling, along with technical assistance to recipients and employers.</li> <li>✓ A variety of scholarship models are available to best meet needs. Release time and compensation vary by model. Details of each model are listed on scholarship applications.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What is covered?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Tuition assistance recipients receive funding for tuition costs only.</li> <li>✓ Rising STARS Tuition Assistance program pays 95% of tuition costs for eligible college coursework taken by early learning professionals.</li> <li>✓ Maximum benefit of \$6,000 per individual each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).</li> <li>✓ Eligible employers may receive reimbursement for paid release time provided to staff to attend class, study or for substitute coverage.</li> <li>✓ Tuition costs net of other funding sources such as scholarships, stipends, discounts or grants (except Pell Grants) are used to determine the amount of assistance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do I apply?</b></p> <p>For more information and to apply, visit PACCA's website at <a href="https://www.pacca.org/how_to_apply.php">https://www.pacca.org/how_to_apply.php</a> or call (717) 657-9000</p>	<p><b>How do I apply?</b></p> <p>For more information and to apply, visit PA Key's website <a href="https://www.pakeys.org/get-professional-development/financial-assistance/">https://www.pakeys.org/get-professional-development/financial-assistance/</a></p>