

Children and Youth Partnership for Dare County
Child Care Resource and Referral

Project EDU, Spring 2009
Education Lift-Off

INFORMATION SHEET FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

Research shows that education is one of the leading indicators of quality in early care and education. For many child care professionals, enrolling in classes is difficult because of the increasing costs of tuition, activity fees, and textbooks. Children & Youth Partnership for Dare County will be offering *Education Lift-Off* as part of Project EDU to help with the initial cost of enrolling in Early Childhood Education classes.

What is *Education Lift-Off*?

Early childhood providers who are actively working in licensed child care programs *and* committed to pursuing higher education in Early Childhood are eligible to participate in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program. T.E.A.C.H. helps providers pay for classes and books but the application process can be lengthy for first time applicants and usually cannot be completed prior to registration for classes. Therefore, providers initially have to pay for classes themselves and then wait for reimbursement. *Education Lift-Off* will offer one-time financial assistance for initial cost of tuition and books to child care providers who are willing to enroll in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program in order to continue to take classes.

Who is eligible for *Education Lift-Off*?

Dare County Child Care Providers planning to enroll in at least one class leading to a degree in Early Childhood Education are eligible to apply. They must be willing to enroll in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program for assistance with future courses. Previous participants of TEACH Plus or Education Lift-off are not eligible.

What are the Criteria?

The participants must agree to the following:

- Meet with the Professional Development Specialist to develop a written plan that will track and encourage their educational and professional goals.
- Complete and submit a T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship application and provide a copy of the T.E.A.C.H. contract to Children and Youth Partnership (CYP).
- Submit copies of grades or transcripts to CYP at the end of the semester and be willing to pay back funds if they do not complete the class or if they earn less than a grade of "C".
- Remain licensed and continue to operate throughout the grant period.

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What are the procedures for participating in *Education Lift-Off*?

- An application provided by Children and Youth Partnership for Dare County must be completed by the child care professional and must be received by Children and Youth Partnership no later than **5 PM on Monday, November 17, 2008** in order to be considered.
- A selection committee will review all eligible applications to determine how *Education Lift-Off* funds are distributed.
- The Professional Development Specialist will assist participants with registration for classes and arrange for payments to be made directly to the educational institution. The educational institution must be willing to work with CYP on payment arrangements.
- Depending on the amount of funding available and the number of applicants, Children and Youth Partnership for Dare County reserves the right to pay for a limited number of classes per participant. Providers taking classes for the first time may be limited to receiving funds for one class.
- All parties involved will sign an agreement outlining the responsibilities of each party.

Education Lift-Off is subject to availability of funds. Program may change as needed.