

Professional Development - Options for Financial Assistance

There are a number of sources to explore for financial aid for early childhood teachers and administrators working on their degrees. At the state and local levels, educators and programs should check with

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies like the Michigan 4C Association at <http://www.mi4c.org/>

The local **licensing agency** may also have information on scholarships in the state and community. http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5455_49572---,00.html

T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood Project. Scholarships are now available in a number of states. To learn more about the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project in Michigan please visit <http://www.mi4c.org/teach/>

There are also a variety of federal grants and loans available for early childhood educators:

Pell Grant. Typically awarded to undergraduate students, but in some limited cases, a student can receive this grant if enrolled in a post-baccalaureate teacher certificate program.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. Grant for undergraduates with exceptional financial need—students with the lowest Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Priority is given to students who receive federal Pell Grants.

Federal Perkins Loan. Low-interest (5 percent) loan for both undergraduate and graduate students with financial need. This loan can be forgiven (up to 100 percent) for full-time teachers in designated elementary or secondary schools serving students from families with low incomes, for Head Start education component staff, and for those in some other categories.

Stafford Loan. A variable interest rate loan for both undergraduate and graduate students. Students must be attending school at least half time to be eligible for a Stafford Loan. Half-time enrollment is not a requirement for the other federal grant and loan programs.

For more information on financial assistance for early childhood educators, visit the National Child Care Information Center Web site: <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/poptopics/financialassist.html>.