



CHILD CARE WAGES[®] FLORIDA PROJECT – PALM BEACH FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Child Care WAGES[®] FLORIDA Project?

The Child Care WAGES[®] Florida Project is designed to increase stability and improve child care quality by reducing turnover and encouraging continued education of child care practitioners (teachers, assistant teachers in centers and family child care homes). This program provides education based salary supplements for low to moderate wage earners who work with young children ages birth to five.

Where does the funding come from?

The Child Care WAGES[®] Florida Project in Palm Beach County is funded by the Children's Services Counsel through a contract with Palm Beach Community College. The Children's Forum is the licensee for Child Care WAGES[®] in Florida and currently administers this program in 6 participating counties in partnership with local funders.

Who is eligible to participate in the program?

Child care practitioners working directly with children for at least 20 hours per week earning less than \$14.00 per hour may be eligible for a salary supplement if they have some formal child care training and/or education beyond a high school diploma (Note: Directors may work a minimum of 10 hours a week in the classroom). The child care center or family child home where they work must participate in Palm Beach County's Quality Improvement System (QIS).

How much can I receive through Child Care WAGES[®]?

The value of each salary supplement is determined by the level of education and the position held by the child care practitioner. For example, a teacher or family child care provider is eligible for a \$450 annual supplement for possessing a national Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and can earn \$1,500 per year with an AS or AAS in Early Childhood Education. The amount of supplement increases as the level of education increases. Wage supplements for part-time practitioners are prorated based on a 40 hour work week.

How do I sign up to participate in the program?

Interested child care practitioners must complete the Child Care WAGES[®] Florida Project application and provide verification of:

- (1) current employment in a QIS care/early learning program.
- (2) current salary, and (3) educational credential and/or unofficial transcripts.

When will I receive a check?

Each participant who meets the requirements for the Child Care WAGES[®] Florida Project and remains eligible will receive a supplement check in the thirteenth month, after the completion of a full year of employment at her/his center, checks will then be issued in six-month increments. The commitment period means that the practitioner has remained continuously employed in their QIS child care or early learning center or family child care home. The commitment period is established for each individual practitioner based on the application date, date of employment and documentation of education. The amount of the salary supplement is based on one half of the annual award amount and reflects the schedule worked during the six-month period (part-time prorated or full time). All payments are contingent upon funding availability.

How can I increase the amount of money I receive through Child Care WAGES[®]?

Child care practitioners participating in the Child Care WAGES[®] FLORIDA Project may increase their supplement award amounts by successfully completing additional education. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood[®] Scholarship Program offers scholarships to child care practitioners to earn credentials or degrees in early childhood education.

How can I find out more information about this program?

Contact your Early Learning Coalition or the Child Care WAGES[®] at the Children's Forum at wages@thechildrensforum.com or call toll-free

(888) 352-4453

or visit

www.thechildrensforum.com