



Free ECE 101 and 103 Coursework

In partnership with the Office of Early Childhood within the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Colorado Department of Higher Education is collaborating with the Colorado Community College system and public institutions of higher education to pay the tuition for ECE 101 and 103 (excluding fees and at the Community College System rate) for students who need these courses to meet minimum child care licensing qualification requirements for [early childhood teacher](#).



How do students access these funds?

To access these funds, students need to be registered for ECE 101 and/or ECE 103 at a community college or equivalent courses at a public four-year institution of higher education. The Colorado Department of Higher Education will work directly with colleges to apply these funds toward the student's tuition. If a student already took either of these courses during the Fall 2021 semester they can qualify to be reimbursed through their college.

Frequently Asked Questions

See responses to frequently asked questions below. Please send additional questions about this funding opportunity, to Sondra Ranum @ Sondra.ranum@dhe.state.co.us and this FAQ will be updated. Questions related to the status of these funds for individual student accounts, should be directed to the institution's office of financial aid.

Can courses other than ECE 101 or ECE 103 be covered?

These funds can only cover tuition for ECE 101 and ECE 103 at community colleges and the equivalent courses at 4-year universities. However, if the local community college does not offer ECE 103, the course that is offered in its place can qualify for these funds. CDHE is working directly with each institution to be sure all qualifying equivalent courses are included. Additionally, the Office of Early Childhood at CDHS has other [workforce funds](#) that will be available for additional courses.

Do students need to be enrolled in a degree program?

Students do not need to be enrolled in a degree program to receive these funds. The only requirement for the funds is that the student needs these courses to meet the minimum child care licensing requirements for early childhood teacher and that they enroll in the courses following their institution's enrollment process. So that these funds can reach the greatest number of students who aren't yet early childhood teacher qualified, individuals who earn credit for ECE 101 or ECE 103 through a prior learning assessment do not qualify.

Is a completed FAFSA required?

A completed FAFSA is not required, however, all students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA or [CAFSA](#) so that they may access additional financial supports.

What expenses are covered by this grant?

These funds will cover tuition, excluding fees, for both in-person and online courses at the community college post-Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) rate at Colorado community colleges and public IHEs. Additional costs for fees, textbooks and/or other coursework materials are not covered.

Will this cover out-of-state tuition costs?

Only resident tuition rates are covered.

How will reimbursements for Fall 2021 work?

Each college will send CDHE a roster of students who completed these courses during this semester. CDHE will issue funds to the college and the college will manage the reimbursement process. Students should contact their school's third-party billing/financial aid office for further information on the institution-specific process. For the Spring 2022 semester and beyond, CDHE will work with financial aid offices to pay the tuition directly so that students do not need to be reimbursed.

Can students receive these funds if another entity is paying their tuition, or if they qualify for a tuition waiver?

The intent of these funds is to support as many new aspiring early childhood educators as possible. These funds should be applied in the manner that most benefits the students. They should not supplant other sources of tuition assistance for which students already qualify (for example, the Fort Lewis Native American Tuition Waiver, military-spouse tuition waivers, or concurrent enrollment funds through a school district should all be applied prior to these grant funds). However, other institutional aid may be applied after this grant funding so that it may go towards costs not covered by the grant.

How long are these funds available?

This grant opportunity is available through the Spring 2023 semester.

For More Information

Colorado Department of Higher Education <https://highered.colorado.gov/>

Colorado Rises: Advancing Education and Talent Development <http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/>

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