

AWARDS *for* EARLY EDUCATORS

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is proud to support Georgia's early care and education professionals through the **AWARDS for Early Educators** program. This time-limited program is intended to encourage individuals to pursue higher early childhood education (ECE) credentials and degrees. In conjunction with the Department's **SCHOLARSHIPS** program which provides tuition assistance, the **AWARDS for Early Educators** program provides qualified early care and education professionals a unique opportunity to be acknowledged for increasing their knowledge and skills. This program will award a **single bonus at each of the three levels** to eligible applicants who earn any of the following **ECE credentials or degrees** from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017:

1st LEVEL	Single Payment of \$1,200 for CDA Credential issued by the Council for Professional Recognition or a Technical Certificate of Credit
2nd LEVEL	Single payment of \$1,500 for a Technical College Diploma or Associate of Applied Science Degree
3rd LEVEL	Single payment of \$2,500 for a Bachelor's or Master's Degree

Who is Eligible?

Payment Level	Licensed/Registered Facility					GA Pre-K in Public School	
	Director	Assistant Director	Lead Teacher	Assistant Teacher	Family Child Care Provider	Lead Teacher	Assistant Teacher
1st Level	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
2nd Level	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
3rd Level	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

(See reverse side for full eligibility requirements)

PRE-APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE July 1, 2014

at www.DECALscholars.com or by calling
Care Solutions, Inc. at
800-227-3410 (toll-free) or 770-642-6722



Applicant Eligibility Guide

- ▶ You must be able to document that you are a United States citizen, legal permanent resident, qualified alien or nonimmigrant.
- ▶ You must be a teacher, assistant teacher, director or assistant director (all other positions do not qualify) employed with a child care learning center or group day care home that is licensed by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning or the Department of Defense (DOD) **OR** you must be a registered family day care provider or work in a registered family day care home **OR** in a **GA Pre-K classroom as an assistant or lead teacher** in a public school.
- ▶ You must work a minimum of 25 hours per week as a teacher or assistant teacher in an infant, toddler, three-year-old **OR** Pre-K classroom in the instructional part of the day (before/after school program personnel do not qualify) or 40 hours per week as a director, assistant director, or family child care provider. Volunteer work does not qualify.
- ▶ You must earn \$15.50 per hour or less (or if self-employed \$32,240 or less **net** income on Schedule C).
- ▶ You must have been employed with your current employer at the time of the application for at least three consecutive months in an eligible position or have been a registered family day care provider for at least three consecutive months.
- ▶ You must submit a copy of your Georgia Professional Development Registry (PDR) Profile.
- ▶ Your work setting must be **ONE** of the following:
 - ✦ A program that is participating in or has earned a Quality Rated designation
OR
 - ✦ Is a Georgia Pre-K program in a public school
OR
 - ✦ A participant in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
OR
 - ✦ Serving children of whom 25% or more receive a child care subsidy from the Child and Parent Services (CAPS) program
- ▶ You must earn an early childhood education, child development or child care administration credential or degree between January 1, 2014 and June 30, 2017.



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Program Administrator: Care Solutions, Inc.