

**Early
Childhood
Council**



OF LARIMER COUNTY

Early Childhood Professional Development
3000 South College Ave. #206
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970-377-3388
Fax 970-377-2866
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Dear Early Childhood Professional,

Thank you for your contact to the Professional Development Office of the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County. This office has a grant award from The Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation to increase the professional development of early childhood providers in Larimer County. Some of the services we offer are described in the *Matrix of Services* I have included in this package. This opportunity has provided financial assistance to Early Childhood Professionals since 2002. This letter will explain some of the basic features of the application and services that are provided.

Eligibility: To be eligible for a Temple Hoyne Buell Scholarship you must live, work or attend school in Larimer County. You must currently be – or are preparing to – serve children and families in a “community based” environment. This includes both center and home based environments but DOES NOT include public school programs or Head Start programs that are under the public school district (as in Larimer County). Also, you must be, or must be planning to provide direct early childhood service to children rather than to the family (such as a family services coordinator). If you have a question about these requirements, please call.

Development of a Professional Plan: The first step is to develop a personal plan. For some people planning for professional growth may be investigating their options. For instance, a person just starting out in the field of early childhood might want to explore various career options. If the person has thought about becoming a Family Home Child Care Provider, the Professional Development Project might begin by helping to develop a plan that includes exploring the world of Family Home Child Care. An observation and interview with an experienced FHCC Provider might be arranged as an initial step in exploration. Based on the outcome of the exploratory process, additional resources could be offered to help the person define and implement his or her plan for professional growth. The requirements for participants at this level are:

- A commitment to participate in the development of a Professional Growth Plan and evaluation of goals

Coordination of Training and Workshops: Other Early Childhood Providers with experience in the field simply need direction in finding and planning enrollment at workshops and trainings. At this level, the plan typically focuses on ways to improve and support the work providers are currently doing. It is often a temptation to enroll in workshops with little more than a sense of curiosity or without a real plan of implementing the new knowledge gained in those workshops. Here the Project offers Rating Scales (ECERS, ITERS, SACERS, FDCRS and Qualistar) as a way to target goals. Requirements for participants at this level are:

- A commitment to participate in the development of a Professional Growth Plan and evaluation of goals
- Consider participation in a rating scale activity

College Level Courses: For many providers a primary goal is enrollment in college level course work in order to complete a degree or certificate program. The Professional Development Project is available to assist in locating funding sources to cover the costs associated with college level course work. Temple Hoyne Buell has also designated a scholarship fund directly for those providers who do not qualify for other funding or to supplement other funding. Other available services include leadership activities and on-going individual support. At this level participants are required to:

- A commitment to participate in the development of a Professional Growth Plan and evaluation of goals
- Consider in participating in a rating scale activity.
- A license or proof of application for license or appropriate support from their employer

Hopefully, the above description of the levels and types of support available from the Early Childhood Professional Development Project will provide a clearer picture of the services available as you reflect on your early childhood career. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have additional questions.

Please complete **all forms in the application packet.** A **FAFSA application** is the first step in **determining eligibility** for a number of grants and scholarships. Eligibility for Pell grants, available to qualified applicants enrolling in college, is determined based on FAFSA applications. Please remember that Temple Hoyne Buell Scholarships are considered a last resort funding. You must apply for other funding sources as well as seeking a Temple Hoyne Buell scholarship.. However, one semester of Temple Hoyne Buell scholarship assistance can be awarded while you await a response from other applications for financial assistance. Most colleges with available Colorado Opportunity Funds will advise you of these vouchers when you register. It is highly recommended that you complete the FAFSA application on-line rather than by mail. This application can be accessed at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you have already completed this application, please provide the SARS information indicating your eligibility for other financial aid. If you need assistance with this process, The Educational Opportunity Center in Ft. Collins is available to help, or you may come into the Professional Development Office to use the computer. Most financial aide offices at colleges and universities also offer assistance in applying for scholarships. **Do not return the FAFSA application to this office. We request a copy of the response from FAFSA indicating PELL eligibility.**

You are to be applauded for your commitment to the Early Childhood Profession. It is well known that increased quality of services in early childhood begins with dedicated, well trained, professionals. I will watch for your application and I look forward to talking with you personally.

Sincerely,

Lorna Greene

Lorna Greene

Project Coordinator

Early Childhood Professional Project

Please complete and return applications to:

Early Childhood Professional Development

3000 South College Ave. #206

Fort Collins, CO 80525

Temple Hoyne Buell Scholarship Application Requirements
Updated March 2006
Continued for use through 2007-2008

As of March 2006, the following procedures, policies and guidelines have been approved by the Professional Development Steering Committee for all current and future scholarship applicants. Those items marked with an asterisk (*) will NOT affect continued funding for current scholarship recipients until their current development plan is completed. Please note however, that **not all** new policies are “grandfathered” for current recipients.

All scholarship recipients must live, work or go to school in Larimer County and they must be working in or be preparing to work in a “community based” early childhood/childcare setting. This excludes public school districts and Head Start programs.

All applicants must apply for FAFSA assistance and may receive up to one semester of funding while they await the FAFSA determination.

FAFSA applications must be updated annually.

All applicants must apply for TEACH funds, if applicable, and for Colorado Opportunity Funds if applicable.

Documentation of these applications must be submitted to the Professional Development Coordinator within one semester of Temple Hoyne Buell Funding.

First time funding is limited to \$500.

First time funding must be for an Early Childhood class.

Continued funding for a degree, including general education classes, is limited to no more than **one** (1) general education class per funding cycle and must be accompanied by at least **one** (1) ECE class. *

Total funding for any one individual is limited to \$5000. *

All applicants must indicate the name and approximate cost of the classes they intend to take for the upcoming semester. The estimated cost should reflect all other funding sources.

Funding for books is limited to \$100 per semester.

All applications will be considered on a first come/first serve basis. ***Current applicants will have this requirement waived for the Fall Semester 2006 only.**

Deadline dates for **all** applications are:

Fall Semester	August 15 th
Spring Semester	December 15 th
Summer Semester	May 15 th

No applications will be considered if they are received after the deadline.

In order to be considered for continued or renewed funding, applicants must be up to date on submission of all materials, including most recent grade reports, FAFSA applications and updated personal information.

The Temple Hoyne Buell scholarship funds are available as a source of assistance to students pursuing professional development in Early Childhood Education. They are not intended (nor are there funds available) to be a students only source of financial support and in most instances will not cover all expenses.

Adhering to these guidelines will allow the Early Childhood Council Professional Development Program to maintain a scholarship program that assists as many persons as possible and to continue our efforts to enhance professional development in Larimer County.

Lorna Greene

Lorna Greene
Coordinator
Professional Development

