

# WHAT SCHOLARSHIPS DOES TEXAS OFFER FOR CHILD CARE TEACHERS?

*Supporting the educational goals of early childhood teachers*

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- *Highly qualified teachers are trained to help the children in their care be successful.*
- *There are several ways early childhood educators in Texas can get their Child Development Associate (CDA), and sometimes even an early childhood degree, funded.*

Child care providers cannot meet the highest levels of Texas Rising Star (TRS), our state's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) without having qualified teachers—those who have an early childhood education (ECE) certification, some college or a degree in a relevant field, or years of experience in quality settings. Realizing this, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has invested in these opportunities for teachers to continue their education:

- The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® TEXAS scholarship program provides financial assistance for those seeking a Child Development Associate Credential™ or associate's degree as they progress through their training or coursework. When teachers complete their CDA or associate's degree, they must commit to staying with their employer for period of time, which varies based on the degree type.
- Through the Children's Learning Institute at UTHealth, eligible early childhood education (ECE) professionals—teachers at TRS child care settings, school districts, Head Start, and more—can complete all CDA coursework online for free.
- The Texas CDA Training Partnership Program with Frog Street, a provider of curriculum and professional development, offers teachers free online coursework with extra coaching and support throughout the process.<sup>1</sup>

At least eight of the 28 Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Boards) and contractors also provide CDA courses in their regions, and many other

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Local Boards provide scholarships or tuition assistance to child care teachers who wish to pursue CDAs at local community colleges. At least one-third of Local Boards in Texas award college tuition scholarships in partnership with local community colleges for child care staff working toward an associate's degree in early childhood, and some even support those pursuing a bachelor's degree.<sup>2</sup>

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## NOTES:

1. Texas Workforce Commission. (2018). *Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) 2019-2021 state plan preprint*.
2. Children at Risk. (2018). *Building brains & economies: Quality child care as an engine for economic development in a 21st century Texas*. Retrieved from <https://childrenatrisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CaR-Kellogg-Full-Report-2018-web-rev.pdf>



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