



# Early Childhood Scholarships

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Presentation for Early Childhood Task Force

November 3, 2022

# Presenter

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- Dr. Bridget Murray
- Childcare program owner for 25 years
- Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) program coordinator at Henderson Community College since 2000



# Scholarship History



Kentucky Invests in Developing Success

## Kentucky's Early Childhood Initiative Summary

In order to reach the goal that **all young children in Kentucky are healthy and safe, possess the foundation that will enable school and personal success, and live in strong families that are supported and strengthened within their communities**, 25% of Kentucky's Phase I Tobacco Settlement dollars will fund the early childhood initiative.

**Scholarship Fund for Child Care Providers:** To provide a scholarship fund, administered through the Ky. Higher Education Assistance Authority, to those who work in child care at least 20 hours per week. The funds assist personnel in moving through a credentialing system that begins at entry level and proceeds through post-secondary education. **FACT:** Quality of child care is closely associated with the education and training levels of the child care providers. Early care and education personnel are among the most poorly paid individuals in the workforce and therefore need assistance and incentive to increase their educational achievement and to permit workers to move up the career ladder in early childhood. Contact: Albert Fox – 502/564-8341 or Lee Chance – 502/564-2524



# Initial Scholarship Programs

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- In 2002, the \$1500 scholarship would cover tuition for 8 classes per year at the community college. Scholars were limited to 9 credit hours per term. Completing the degree would take a student enrolled year-round 3 years to earn the associate degree.




# Non- College Scholarship



- Agencies were selected to offer 120-hour training courses to meet the requirements for the National CDA credential.
- Scholars were eligible for a \$420 scholarship to be paid to the training agencies.
- The CDA credential articulated for 3 college classes and meets 50% of the requirements for a Kentucky Director's Credential.

# Changes to Scholarship Program

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- The success of the scholarship led to a shortage of funds.
  - Scholars were required to submit a FAFSA form but did not need to qualify for financial aid.
  - Scholars were reluctant to file the FAFSA but quickly saw the benefits.
  - Using Pell funds, the student could attend full-time and have books paid. In most cases, they also received a refund check.
  - Funding sources could not be blended. Many Pell-eligible students did not continue to apply for the scholarship.

# Money Issues

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- The scholarship only increased \$300 from 2002-2021.
- Colleges were facing funding issues and performance-based funding. Students were encouraged to be full-time.
- College costs have steadily increased, and fees have been added.
- The scholarship at current rates will only cover 9 credit hours per year (3 courses) at the community college.





# Non-Pell Eligible Students

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Gena is married with two children. One of her children has special needs. She does not qualify for financial aid but does not have disposable income to pay for college. She will use the Kids Now scholarship. She has completed her CDA credential and wants to earn a Director's Credential and the AAS degree. She does not need to complete any developmental classes.

Her Degree Plan for the AAS Degree

Year 1 – IEC 230, IEC 240, Gen. Ed. (Earns Director Credential)

Year 2 – IEC 130, IEC 170, Gen. Ed.

Year 3 - IEC 180, IEC 200, Gen. Ed.

Year 4 – IEC 216, IEC 221 Gen. Ed.

Year 5 – IEC 246, IEC 235 Gen. Ed.

Year 6 – IEC 291, Gen. Ed. Gen. Ed.

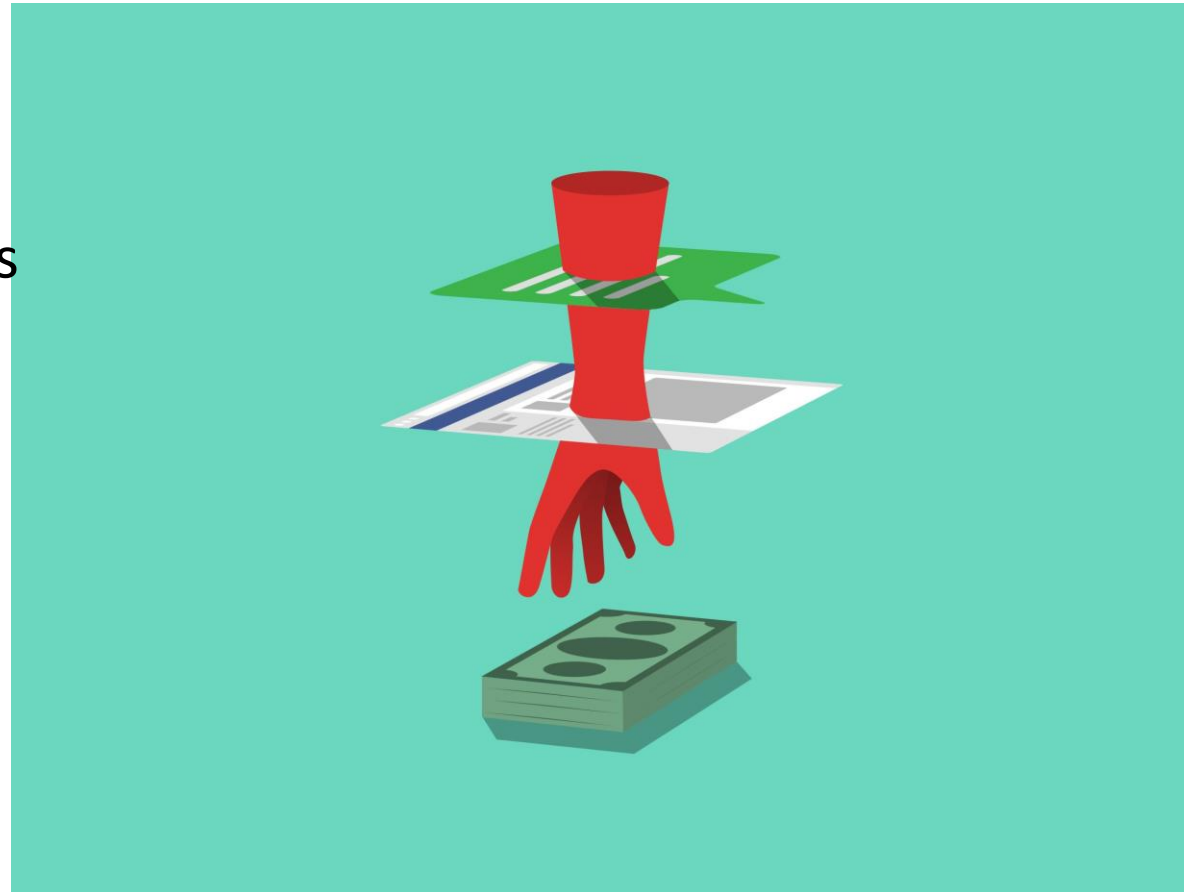
She will be responsible for all fees and books.



# Change in Funding Stream

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In 2016, the Tobacco Settlement Dollars were no longer allocated to the Kids Now Initiative.



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Division of Child Care made the decision to use the civil penalties to fund scholarships. Civil penalties are assessed when a childcare program has a licensing violation.

A \$1000 civil penalty will cover tuition for less than 2 courses.

# Scholarship Comparison

In 2021, when the ARPA funded college scholarship was designed, it met the needs of childcare workers. A separate scholarship supported the underfunded CDA training programs. Regulation changes were approved for KHEAA to administer the college program and the Division of Child Care for the CDA credential program.

Kids Now Scholarship	ARPA Funded Scholarship
Scholar must be working in a regulated childcare program at least 20 hours per week.	Scholar must be working in a regulated childcare program at least 20 hours per week
All scholars are required to complete the FAFSA.	All scholars are required to complete the FAFSA.
Scholars can complete an Associate or Bachelor level early childhood degree.	Scholars can complete an Associate or Bachelor level early childhood degree. Directors or administrators from regulated childcare or Head Start can complete a Master's degree in early childhood.
Preschool Assistants in public school are eligible for the scholarship.	Preschool Assistants in public school are not eligible for the scholarship due to the federal funding for childcare only.
Head Start staff are not eligible for funding.	Head Start staff are eligible if they work in a program that is state licensed and their employer does not offer any tuition assistance
Limited to 9 credit hours per semester, if enrolled in more hours the scholarship could not be used	No limit on credit hours
\$1800 per year, tuition only	Up to \$6,305 per semester for tuition and fees
Employer pays \$50 toward books	Employer pays \$50 toward books
Scholars are eligible for \$100 related expense stipend if all classes are completed with at least a grade of C.	Scholars are eligible for \$100 related expense stipend if all classes are completed with at least a grade of C.

# Who are IECE students?

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Traditional students entering from high school	Many have completed child development coursework. Some have earned a CDA credential
Staff from licensed childcare centers and homes	Some have completed a CDA credential Seeking certificates, AAS, or bachelor's degree
Preschool assistants	Currently employed in the school system working with IECE certified teachers and many intend to earn degrees to become lead teachers
Head Start staff	May be seeking CDA credential, AAS, or bachelor's degree.
Non-traditional students	Many have experience as a parent or with private care for children.
Second career students	Some students have associate or bachelor's degree in another field but are now working in an early childhood setting



# Does the Work Ready Scholarship meet the needs of the IECE workforce?

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- **Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program**

- The Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (WRKS) helps Kentuckians who have not yet earned an associate's degree afford an industry-recognized certificate or diploma. The WRKS program is available to college students and certain high school students who are enrolled in college coursework.

- **Positives (as written)**

Fully funds the AAS degree

Available without work requirement

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## Negatives

Persons with a degree are not eligible

Does not fund the needed IECE Bachelor degrees



*Thank you for your  
support of  
Kentucky's children.*

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