

Santa Clara County CARES Plus Fact Sheet 2015-2016

Overview

The Santa Clara CARES Plus Program (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) provides financial awards to early educators based on their educational achievement and the completion of professional development activities. These financial stipends have proven to be significant incentives to early educators towards furthering their education and enhancing their professional development.

Santa Clara CARES Plus is funded by First 5 California, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, and the California Department of Education, and is operated by the WestEd E3 Institute.

CARES Plus Benefits Participants

- Financial incentives to support individual's professional development goals
- One-on-one advising for professional development planning
- High quality training through multiple delivery methods
- Training materials and online courses
- A unique opportunity for individualized one-on-one video coaching
- Support in earning an Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's degree
- Support for the translation and evaluation of international transcripts and/or degrees for their U.S. equivalencies
- Opportunities to complete professional development requirements and college units to earn and maintain a California Child Development Permit

"The CARES Plus Program has greatly impacted me as a professional early childhood educator. What I appreciate most about the program is the wide range of possible workshops and topics and the diverse group of individuals who participate."

"At each workshop I have learned a great deal about resources because the presenters take time to offer them to us. I am excited to share these resources with the educators I work with in my program and school and others that I am connected with in the community."

-- Teacher from Center-Based Program Who Participated in the Training Component

Enroll in CARES Plus

The Next Enrollment Period is August 1st – August 31st
For a complete list of eligibility requirements and to complete the online enrollment form please go to: www.santaclaracares.org

For more information and questions call (408) 299-1700 or email santaclaracares@wested.org

CARES Plus Activities

Cares Plus has a variety of professional development activities that early educators can complete to earn a stipend each program year. First time participants must complete a series of required online activities when they enter the program. There are also optional activities participants may choose from to increase their stipend amount if they are interested in completing additional coursework or training. If a participant completes the annual requirements he/she may also be eligible for additional incentives that will be added to the total annual stipend amount.

Required Activities

CARES Plus CORE Requirements are required for first year participants.

Three online activities must be completed during the program year to receive a core component stipend. CARES Plus introduces program participants to The Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASS™), an observational tool that provides a common lens and language focused on the classroom interactions that boost student learning. CARES Plus participants will complete two online activities to learn about this tool.

CORE Requirements - \$500		
Introduction to the CLASS	Looking at CLASSrooms	Dangers of Second-Hand Smoke
1. Introduction to the CLASS is an online program that introduces the CLASS™ structure, its uses, and the importance of effective teacher-student interactions to learning (2-hours).	2. Looking at CLASSrooms is a self-paced online program. Participants will identify and analyze effective teacher-child interactions with videos and interactive materials (10-20 hours).	3. Dangers of Second-Hand Smoke is a self-directed online activity (1 hour).

Optional Activities

CARES Plus offers a variety of options for people at different educational levels. Stipend amounts are based on the amount of time it takes to complete each activity.

CARES Plus Component Requirements (choose one component only)		
College Coursework Component \$1,200 - \$1,500 stipend	Training Component \$300	MTP™ Component \$1,200 Stipend
Complete a minimum of 6 semester or 9 quarter units toward a college degree or to obtain or upgrade a California Child Development Permit or credential with a grade of “C” or better. All coursework must be completed between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.	Complete 21 hours of training, which has been certified by the California Department of Education (CDE).	My Teaching Partner is a 10-month, intensive, ongoing coaching program that has been shown to boost effective classroom and program interactions and improve child outcomes.

Additional Incentives	
Child Development Permit Bonus \$250	Retention Stipend \$250
Participants who possess a valid California Child Development Permit by June 15, 2016 will be eligible to receive a \$250 bonus stipend. This stipend will only be available to participants who have successfully completed all of the requirements under the option they have selected. The \$250 stipend will be added to their total stipend amount.	A returning participant is defined as any participant who previously received a CARES Plus stipend during any of the past four program years (2011-2015). Returning participants who successfully complete all of their required activities will receive an additional \$250 Retention Stipend for continuing with the program.