

Butte County C.A.R.E.S. Program
(Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards)

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What Is The CARES Program?

The Butte County CARES Program is designed to reward Family Child Care providers and Center-Based providers with incentives and stipends for education attainment and professional development. The program is administered by Valley Oak Children’s Services and incorporates funding from First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission and First 5 California.

Who Is Eligible For Butte County CARES?

If you are a Family Child Care provider or Center-Based provider you may be eligible!

Am I Eligible?

1. Are you employed at a licensed or license-exempt child care program in Butte County for pay at least **15 hours per week** where:
 - The children you work with are 5 years old or younger? (Not including Kindergarten)
 - License-exempt programs are considered those who are working at a public school-base site, or those administered by a Tribal Council

2. Will you **work 9 months** at the same child care program **between July 1, 2008 and May 2009?**
 - **Migrant Programs Only:** You must be currently working in a Migrant Program (2009) and also have worked the entire program year last season (March/April-Oct 2008) in order to participate and qualify

3. Do you earn **less than \$60,000** (gross income) annually working as a Child Care/Center-Based provider?

To participate in Butte County CARES, you must have answered “yes” to all of the “Am I Eligible?” questions above and in addition:

- Complete a 2008/2009 pre-entry application and provide supporting documents for proof of which Track that you wish to participate in
- Must attend one **Mandatory** Kick-Off meeting in September 2008 (held on a Saturday morning)

Which Track Is Right For Me?

Butte County CARES is built around 5 program Tracks: Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Track, Entry Level Track, Permit Track, Degree Track and Professional Track.

Must have the following by July 1, 2008 to enter in a Track:

Follow the guidelines for...	If you...	And would like to...
Family, Friend, & Neighbor (FFN): Track 1	Are a License-Exempt provider who provides care for at least <u>one child other than your own...</u>	Attend trainings and activities to further professional development...
Entry Level Track: Track 2	Are a Family Child Care provider or Center-Based provider with <u>less than 6 ECE units...</u>	Earn a Child Development Permit or further professional development...
Permit Track: Track 3	Are a Family Child Care provider or Center-Based provider <u>with 6 or more ECE units...</u>	Progress along the Child Development Permit Matrix and or be working toward AA/AS degree in ECE/CD...
Degree Track: Track 4	Are a Family Child Care provider or Center-Based provider with an <u>AA/AS Degree or equivalent in ECE/CD (2 year degree) or have a minimum of a Teacher Level Permit...</u>	Work toward a Bachelor’s Degree or Master’s Degree/Teaching Credential in ECE/CD...
Professional Track: Track 5	Are a Family Child Care provider or Center-Based provider with a <u>Bachelor’s Degree in ECE/CD or a minimum of a Master Teacher Level Permit or higher...</u>	Be a CARES Advisor and support other CARES participants (up to 10) in the program...

Annual Track Requirements must be met by May 15, 2009:

Track 1: \$150 Supports & Stipend: Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Track

One can choose one or more options:

Attend Caregiver Workshop, Home Visit, Individual Career Advising, Health and Safety Training, Training and Licensing Incentives

Track II: \$850 Stipend: Entry Track

- **Center Base:** Must complete 3 ECE/CD college units annually (GE, ESL, Study Skills courses may count pending approval)
- **FCC:** Must complete 3 ECE/CD college units or 54 hours of approved Professional Development Activities (or combination) annually and if not licensed, must become licensed before May 15, 2009
- Meet QUARTERLY with your assigned CARES Advisor, develop & complete a Professional Development Plan
- All activities must be written on your Professional Development Plan that you complete with your CARES Advisor
- New Center Based participants: required to take the 1 unit ECERS/ITERS course through Butte Community College
- New FCC participants: required to take the 5 hour FCCERS training through Valley Oak Children's Services
- Returning participants: must complete a 2 hour ECERS/ITERS/FCCERS refresher training
- All participants are required to complete the ERS tool (ECERS/ITERS/FCCERS) on their environment and turn into the CARES Coordinator along with a Plan of Action

Track III: \$1300 Stipend: Permit Track

- Must complete a minimum of 3 college units annually – units must be working toward the Child Development Permit and / or AA/AS degree in ECE/CD (GE, ESL, Study Skills courses may count pending approval)
- Meet QUARTERLY with your assigned CARES Advisor, develop & complete a Professional Development Plan
- All activities must be written on your Professional Development Plan that you complete with your CARES Advisor
- Must complete and have a College Education Plan if working toward ECE/CD degree or Permit Plan if working up the Child Development Permit Matrix
- New Center Based participants: required to take the 1 unit ECERS/ITERS course through Butte Community College
- New FCC participants: required to take the 5 hour FCCERS training through Valley Oak Children's Services
- Returning participants: must complete a 2 hour ECERS/ITERS/FCCERS refresher training
- All participants are required to complete the ERS tool (ECERS/ITERS/FCCERS) on their environment and turn into the CARES Coordinator along with a Plan of Action
- Must hold or apply for a Child Development Permit – CARES will not accept an expired permit

Track IV: \$1600 Stipend: Degree Track

- Must complete a minimum of 6 college units annually toward BA in ECE/Child Development or for Masters Degree or Credential – Must be in Early Education or Multiple Subject Elementary School
- Meet QUARTERLY with your assigned CARES Advisor, develop & complete a Professional Development Plan
- All activities must be written on your Professional Development Plan that you complete with your CARES Advisor
- Must meet with a College Counselor & complete a College Education Plan or Education Plan must be **CURRENT**
- New Center Based participants: required to take the 1 unit ECERS/ITERS course through Butte Community College
- New FCC participants: required to take the 5 hour FCCERS training through Valley Oak Children's Services
- Returning participants: must complete a 2 hour ECERS/ITERS/FCCERS refresher training
- All participants are required to complete the ERS tool (ECERS/ITERS/FCCERS) on their environment and turn into the CARES Coordinator along with a Plan of Action
- Must hold or apply for a Child Development Permit – CARES will not accept an expired permit

Track V: \$1900 Stipend: CARES Advisor / Professional Track

- Must complete a minimum of 18 hours of Professional Development Activities
- Must attend **all** required trainings and QUARTERLY meetings with CARES Staff
- Meet QUARTERLY with assigned CARES Staff, develop & complete a Professional Development Plan
- All activities must be written on your Professional Development Plan that you complete with your CARES Advisor (Staff)
- Meet QUARTERLY with assigned CARES participants (up to 10) in Tracks II-IV, develop & complete a P.D.P.
- New Center Based participants: required to take the 1 unit ECERS/ITERS course through Butte Community College
- New FCC participants: required to take the 5 hour FCCERS training through Valley Oak Children's Services
- Returning participants: must complete a 2 hour ECERS/ITERS/FCCERS refresher training
- All participants are required to complete the ERS tool (ECERS/ITERS/FCCERS) on their environment and turn into the CARES Coordinator along with a Plan of Action
- Must hold or apply for a Child Development Permit – CARES will not accept an expired permit

Additional Supports for Track II-V:

- \$200 gift certificate for quality enhancement funds for completion of ECERS/ITERS/FCCERS course or refresher training; the self assessment must be done at your site that you are working at in order to receive the gift certificate
- \$250 additional stipend for returning participants
- \$250 additional stipend for five years or more of continuous employment at one site or program
- \$250 additional stipend for returning Track V CARES Advisor