

Project REWARD

\$\$\$ CASH STIPENDS \$\$\$ FOR ALL QUALIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Project REWARD (Retaining Experienced Workers and Reinforcing Development) encourages experienced and educated child care providers to remain in their current employment and continue their development as professionals. The Project promotes longevity and continuing education and applies to all licensed center-based and family child care programs. The Project provides cash incentives to all qualified child care providers.

1st Year Participants must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

- Currently work at least 15 hours per week in a child care facility with children 0-12 in Butte County
- Currently a licensed provider, or work in a licensed facility, or work at a public school-based site (the program must be part of the public school and receive state funding), or employed in a facility exempt from licensing administered by a Tribal Council
- Employed/licensed with the same program for the last 9 months or program's complete year
- Minimum requirement for Family Child Care Providers: Has completed a minimum of 6 Early Childhood Education/Child Development academic/semester units, or has completed 80 hours of equivalent professional training/education, or a combination of units and training, or Child Development Permit Matrix alternative qualifications
- Minimum requirement for Center-Based Providers: Has completed a minimum of 12 Early Childhood Education/Child Development academic/semester units, or has completed 160 hours of equivalent professional training/education, or a combination of units and training, or Child Development Permit Matrix alternative qualifications
- Additionally, your income must not exceed \$60,000 a year

Returning Participants in addition to the above must either:

- Complete 3 additional academic/semester units or 40 hours of professional growth activities between June 2004 to May 2005

All stipend amounts may vary depending on funding. Base stipend amounts range from \$250 to \$1,500. You may also apply for an additional stipend worth up to \$250 (1 maximum) if you: 1) have worked five or more years with the same program, 2) hold a Child Development Permit from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing or hold a letter from the Child Development Training Consortium stating that your application has been received. Returning participants are also eligible for a returning bonus stipend worth up to \$250, above and beyond their base stipend.

If you do not currently meet the eligibility qualifications, call Valley Oak Children's Services to meet with a career counselor who will assist you in developing a plan to meet eligibility requirements.

Career Counseling	July 1, 2004-March 2005
Applications Available	March 2005
Two Application Due Dates	April 15, 2005 and May 15, 2005
Stipends Released	June 2005

- To meet with a career counselor, call Valley Oak Children's Services 895-3572 or 1-800-345-8627.
- For information or questions, please call Cari Freeman at Valley Oak Children's Services at 895-3509, ext. 3043, or Jenny Sharkey at Butte County Office of Education at 532-5695.
- Si necesita más información sobre el Project REWARD en español por favor llame 895-3572 or 1-800-345-8627.