



ECE Stipends 1011 and 1031 Coursework

In partnership with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, the Colorado Department of Higher Education is collaborating with the Colorado Community College System and public institutions of higher education to pay the tuition and fees for ECE 1011 and 1031 for students who need these courses to meet minimum child care licensing qualification requirements for [early childhood teacher](#).



How do students access these funds?

To access these funds, students must register for ECE 1011 and/or ECE 1031 (or the equivalent) at a community college or at a public four-year institution of higher education. The Colorado Department of Higher Education works directly with college financial aid offices, and those institutional offices apply these funds toward the student's tuition and account. **Note**, these funds are intended for students who *do not* yet meet [Early Childhood Teacher \(ECT\) qualification requirements](#) for child care licensing and who want to teach in an early childhood classroom. Students who are already ECT qualified or who are interested in these courses as an elective for an unrelated degree do not qualify and will be responsible for paying their own tuition and fees.

Eligible students are required to register in Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System (PDIS) – <https://www.coloradoshinespdis.com/s/login/>. PDIS is a professional tracking system for ECE educators. It will give registrants access to professional development and networking opportunities and allow us to collect important data about the possible impact of the stipend dollars on the ECE workforce in Colorado. If the student is setting up an account in PDIS for the first time, they will receive a registration confirmation email that includes their username. If a student has an existing account but doesn't remember their sign in details, they can request a password reset and the username will be listed in the auto-generated email they receive.

Frequently Asked Questions

See responses to frequently asked questions below. For additional questions about this funding opportunity, email CDHE: ECFEducatorFunding@dhe.state.co.us. Questions related to the status of these funds for individual student accounts should be directed to the institution's office of financial aid.

Can courses other than ECE 1011 or ECE 1031 be covered?

These funds can only cover tuition and course-related fees for ECE 1011 and ECE 1031 at community colleges and the equivalent courses at four-year universities. However, if the local community college does not offer ECE 1031, the course that is offered in its place can qualify for these funds. CDHE is working directly with each institution to be sure all qualifying equivalent courses are included. Additionally, [ECE Scholarships](#) are also being made available through some institutions and may be used for additional courses if the student qualifies. Check with your institution for more information.

Do students need to be enrolled in a degree program?

Students do not need to be enrolled in a degree program to receive these funds. The only requirement for the funds is that the student needs these courses to meet the minimum childcare licensing requirements for early childhood teacher and that they enroll in the courses following their institution's enrollment process. So that these funds can reach the greatest number of students who are not yet early childhood teacher qualified, individuals who earn credit for ECE 1011 or ECE 1031 through a prior learning assessment do not qualify.

Is a completed FAFSA required?

A completed FAFSA is not required, however, all students are encouraged to complete the [FAFSA](#) or [CAFSA](#) so that they may access additional financial supports.

What expenses are covered by this grant?

These funds will cover tuition and course-related fees, for both in-person and online courses. Additional costs for textbooks and/or other coursework materials are not covered.

Will this cover out-of-state tuition costs?

Individuals who don't qualify for in-state tuition but who work in a Colorado early childhood program can submit an appeal to receive funds up to the cost of in-state tuition. Please complete [THIS FORM](#) to submit your appeal within six weeks of the last day to drop the course at your institution. *For students on immigrant/refugee visas, please contact [CDHE](#) for more information.

Can students receive these funds if another entity is paying their tuition, or if they qualify for a tuition waiver?

The intent of these funds is to support as many new aspiring early childhood educators as possible. Funds should be applied in the manner that most benefits the students. They should not supplant other sources of tuition assistance for which students already qualify (for example, the Fort Lewis Native American Tuition Waiver, military-spouse tuition waivers, or concurrent enrollment funds through a school district should all be applied prior to these grant funds). However, other institutional aid may be applied after this grant funding so that it may go towards costs not covered by the grant.

How long are these funds available?

This grant opportunity is available through the Spring 2024 semester.

Where can these courses be taken?

At any community college that offers ECE 1011 and/or ECE 1031 or one of the four-year institutions that offers equivalent courses.

College	ECE 101 equivalent	ECE 103 equivalent
University of Northern Colorado	EDEC 1011	EDEC 1031
University of Colorado-Colorado Springs	IECE 1000	IECE 2500
University of Colorado Denver	ECED 2000	ECED 4202
Fort Lewis College	ED 204	ED 203
Colorado Mesa University	ECE 1011	ECE 1031
Colorado State University	EDUC 275	HDFS 375
Colorado State University Pueblo	ECE 1011	ECE 1031
Metropolitan State University of Denver	ECE 2100	ECE 2970
Colorado Mountain College	ECE 1011	ECE 1031
Colorado Community Colleges, including AIMS	ECE 1011	ECE 1031
Western Colorado University	EDUC 297	EDUC 397

For More Information

Colorado Department of Higher Education <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/>

Strategic Plan: Building Skills in an Evolving Economy <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/about-us/cche/strategic-plan>

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