

Overview of Quality Enhancement Grants: *Equipment • Professional Development Program • Individual Achievement*



**Child Development Division (CDD)
Department for Children and Families (DCF)
Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS)**

Dear Professional,

Please review the information below and on the following pages. It is a critical resource to help you determine if you are eligible to apply for a CDD Quality Enhancement Grant. You will also be able to determine if there is a grant type that can contribute to the quality of services that you and/or your program provide. The CDD is very pleased to provide a variety of personal and program achievement grant opportunities in support of increasing access to high quality child development services throughout Vermont.

Sincerely,

Kim Keiser
Deputy Commissioner
Child Development Division

Purpose of CDD Quality Enhancement Grants

The purpose of the CDD Quality Enhancement Grants is to improve the quality of child development services in licensed and registered programs serving Vermont children and families. These grants improve quality in these CDD regulated programs through:

- Support for professional development.
- Support for overall program quality achievement such as program accreditation and STARS.
- Support for additional equipment

Research has shown that an important way to increase the quality of child development services is through the education of the provider. Financial rewards, linked to quality, have also been shown to contribute to retention of qualified professionals and to program stability.

Who may apply for CDD Professional Development Grants?

- CDD regulated registered family child care home providers.
- Staff of CDD regulated licensed programs. CDD licensed programs include early childhood and school age child care as well as Head Start programs.
- Individuals who provide health and mental health consultation.
- Individuals who provide intervention for infants/toddlers, preschoolers, or school-age children and their families.

Public school employees are not eligible for these types of grants.

What type of Program can apply for CDD Quality Enhancement Grants?

- CDD regulated licensed or registered programs serving, or willing to serve, low income children.
- Not-for-profit organizations who apply on behalf of regulated programs for regional or state-wide professional development.

Funding for CDD Quality Enhancement Grants

Funds for these grants may come from:

- The Federal Child Care and Development Fund Grant to the State of Vermont,
- The Federal Department of Education Office of Special Education Grant to the State of Vermont,
- Vermont's (Federal) State Head Start Collaboration Grant, and
- Vermont State General Funds.

The actual funding stream used for each grant award will depend on the type of grant and the work or position of individual applicants.

Process for Submitting and Awarding Grants

Instructions are on each application, but, in general, two copies of each application should be submitted to:

Linda Clark
Child Development Division,
103 S. Main Street, 2 North
Waterbury, VT 05671
linda.clark@ahs.state.vt.us

Applicants should keep one copy for their own records.

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There are grant review committees composed of CDD staff, program specialists and community partners who do not have a conflict of interest in the applications(s) under consideration. The committees also consider local regional input where appropriate. The committees make funding recommendations to the Deputy Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families. *Awarding of grants will depend on committee recommendations, the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner and the availability of funds. Submission of an application does not guarantee a grant award.*

Typically grants will be paid through the CDD Bright Futures Information Payment System (BFIS). Notice to the applicant regarding the award decision and the payment will generally be within 30-60 days of CDD receiving the completed application.

Obtaining an application

You may obtain an application by requesting an from:

Linda Clark

802-241-1215 or 1-800-649-2642, ext. 1215

linda.clark@ahs.state.vt.us

Linda is in the CDD Workforce Development Unit of CDD. If you leave a message, be sure to specify the type of application you are requesting, and leave your name, phone number and mailing address.

Applications are also available at the CDD web site www.cddvt.org. At this site:

- 1) Click on the “Bright Futures Information System” box.
- 2) Then at the BFIS site, click on “Resources,”
- 3) Click “Download Forms and Literature.”

The document you are currently reading is an overview of all the available grants for professional development and quality improvement initiatives which are also on the BFIS site. Read this overview document and the specific application carefully, and then get in touch with the appropriate contact person on the application if you have questions.

Generally grants to individuals require a currently completed Individual Professional Development Plan. Forms are available on the BFIS website, www.brightfuturesinfo.org; and at Vermont Northern Lights Career Development Center: <http://northernlights.vsc.edu>

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Child Development Division Quality Enhancement Grants *List and Description of Grants for 2007-2008*

Equipment Grants (page 4)

Professional Development Grants: (page 4)

- 1) College Tuition: Individual*
- 2) Credential Seeking: **Fees**
 - a. Child Development Associate (CDA)
 - b. Certified Childcare Professional (CCP)
 - c. Peer Review Assessment for Early Childhood Educator Teacher Licensure
- 3) Credential (or Degree) Achieved: **Bonus**
- 4) In-Services Training (conference or other appropriate learning opportunity)
 - a. Individual In-service grant
 - b. Regional Collaborative Training Grants
 - c. Statewide Collaborative Training Grants

Quality Improvement Initiatives (Program Quality Grants): (page 6)

- 1) Quality Recognition-Seeking Fees for Accreditations:
 - National AfterSchool Association (NAA and formerly NSACA);
 - National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC);
 - National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC);
 - National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA);
- 2) Quality Recognition – Achieved **Bonus for Accreditations** listed above
- 3) Quality Recognition-Achieved **Bonus for STARS Recognition** (Requires successful completion of a STARS application available at STARSstepahead.org).

**Frequently, tuition-free or low cost courses are available throughout the state. Grants for individual course assistance will not be awarded if there is a comparable tuition-free course accessible to the applicant. Before seeking the College Tuition: Individual grant, please contact the following individuals, organizations or websites to search for such courses:*

- The BFIS course calendar – go to www.brightfuturesinfo.org
- The Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council, 802-660-2914.
- The Resource Development Specialist in your area or
- The Vermont Northern Lights Career Development Center, 802-241-4661.

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Description of CDD Quality Enhancement Grants

Equipment Grants

CDD regulated licensed and registered programs may use this grant to purchase high quality durable equipment to be used by children in the program. Priority is given to licensed and registered child care programs that are in need of critical equipment and are serving or willing to serve children from low-income households; are at-risk; have other special needs; infants and toddlers; or school-age children. Programs in the process of becoming regulated are also eligible to apply. In addition to serving children in the priority groups, programs that provide early care and education in the context of full-day and full-year services are also prioritized. Announcements about equipment grants are generally made in the spring.

For applications contact:

- Linda Clark at 802-241-1215; 800-649-2642 ext. 1215; linda.clark@ahs.state.vt.us or
- Jan Walker at 802-241-2198; 800-649-2642 ext. 2198; jan.walker@ahs.state.vt.us or
- The CDD Main Desk 1-800-649-2642, press 0 or
- Download through BFIS that can be accessed through the CDD website www.cddvt.org.

Professional Development Grants

College Tuition: Credential Seeking: Fees

Early childhood and after-school professionals, Head Start teachers, health and mental health consultants, and early interventionists who are not employed by public schools are eligible to apply for financial assistance with under-graduate or graduate college coursework. Contact CDD for most current information on this type of grant. For applications contact: Linda Clark, 802-241-1215 or 1-800-649-2642, ext. 1215; linda.clark@ahs.state.vt.us

Credential Seeking: Fees

• **Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Assessment Fees**

These grants cover the assessment and renewal fees related to the CDA credential for child care providers. The CDA is a nationally managed and awarded credential, so

all applicants for the CDD grant must have completed most of the national CDA application kit requirements and be prepared for the Council for Professional Recognition final assessment prior to submitting this CDD grant application. Information about the national CDA program is available at 1-800-424-4310 or www.cdacouncil.org. Individuals who work in licensed programs as well as family child care providers can apply for a CDA credential. As noted above however, every individual applying for the Child Development Division grant must have already obtained the application kit through www.cdacouncil.org. Local community child care support agencies can help identify Vermont resources that will help the provider meet the professional development requirements outlined in the application kit. Contact person – Heather Mattison; 802-241-4551; heather.mattison@ahs.state.vt.us

• **Child Care Professional (CCP) Credential Fees** – Affiliated with the national Child Care Association (NCCA), the CCP is for staff working in licensed early childhood programs only. For information call 1-800-543-7161 or visit the following website www.nccanet.org. Contact person – Heather Mattison; 802-241-4551; heather.mattison@ahs.state.vt.us

• **Peer Review Assessment Fees for Early Childhood Educator Teacher Licensure** – these grants are awarded as needed and upon recommendation by Vermont Early Childhood Educator Licensure (VECEL) consultants. Awards are up to \$500 toward the cost of the peer review assessment leading to teacher licensure and endorsement. For information go to www.vecel.org. Contact person – Janice Stockman; 802-257-8015; jjstock@sover.net

Credential or Degree Achieved – Bonus:

Grants up to \$1000 are awarded to individuals who provide direct service to children in regulated early childhood settings and who are not employed by the public schools. Application requires a copy of the credential or degree earned, proof of employment in an appropriate setting, and individual professional development plan and a statement of commitment to remain in the field in Vermont for at least a year. Grants are awarded as applications are submitted and as funds are available. Contact: Linda Clark; 802-241-1215; linda.clark@ahs.state.vt.us.

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• **In-Service Training**

(Conferences, seminars, workshops, or other appropriate learning opportunities presented to early childhood and after-school professionals)

• **Individual In-Service Grants**

Priority recipients for these grants are consultants working with programs and providers regulated by the Child Development Division. These grants may cover or assist with the cost of registration for conferences or other appropriate learning opportunities which would help in training other professionals. Individuals seeking this grant must demonstrate through their application that they are working to achieve one or more competencies related to their consulting work or specific discipline.

Applicants must submit a current Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP), and the application also must include a letter from the individual's supervisor stating that the employer will pay any remaining costs of the conference or workshop. Contact person – Jan Walker; 802-241-2198; jan.walker@ahs.state.vt.us

• **Regional Collaborative Training Grants**

These grants target unmet professional development needs in an AHS region and require collaboration among two or more programs or organizations. The application must demonstrate how this identified regional need links to other training initiatives such as the core areas of knowledge and competencies that support programs and providers regulated by the Child Development Division. Contact person – Janice Stockman; 802-257-8015; jjstock@sover.net

• **Statewide Collaborative Training Grants**

These grants target unmet professional development needs statewide. Funds can contribute to the delivery of a needed statewide professional development initiative or conference. The application must demonstrate how this identified statewide need links to competencies that support programs and providers regulated by the Child Development Division. Contact person – Janice Stockman; 802-257-8015; jjstock@sover.net

Quality Improvement Grants

Quality Recognition-Seeking Fees for accreditation (NAA, NAEYC, NAFCC, NECPA)

Programs seeking recognition of quality through national accreditation are eligible for grants to cover fees required for the application and maintenance of program accreditation. Before requesting funds for initial accreditation, applicants must be familiar with the requirements of the process and have already completed a substantial portion of those requirements. If you are not familiar with the process, the telephone numbers to obtain this information are included below.

• **National AfterSchool Association (NAA) Accreditation** information: 1-800-617-8242 or www.naaweb.org. Grant contact person: Ruth Matthews; 802-241-3107; ruth.matthews@ahs.state.vt.us

• **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** – There are several stages of applying for NAEYC accreditation. Accreditation information: 1-800-424-2460 or www.naeyc.org. Grant contact person: Heather Mattison; 802-241-4551; heather.mattison@ahs.state.vt.us

• **National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation (NAFCC)** – Accreditation information: 1-800-359-3817 or www.nafcc.org. Grant contact person: Heather Mattison; 802-241-4551; heather.mattison@ahs.state.vt.us

• **National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)** – NECPA is affiliated with NCCA (National Child Care Association). Accreditation information: 1-800-505-9879 or www.necpa.net. Grant contact person: Heather Mattison; 802-241-4551; heather.mattison@ahs.state.vt.us

Quality Recognition-Achieved Bonus for Accreditation

Accreditation and Re-Accreditation Bonuses are grants up to \$1,000 awarded to recognize quality in programs that achieve any of the accreditations listed in number 6 above. Programs must be in good regulatory standing, provide a program improvement plan and a copy of the

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accreditation certificate. Grants are awarded as submitted and as funds are available.

Contact person for CDD Accreditation bonuses – Linda Clark; 802-241-1215; linda.clark@ahs.state.vt.us

- **STARS** – Vermont’s Step Ahead Recognition System for child care, early education and school age programs. Applications to participate in STARS can be obtained at www.STARSstepahead.org or 802-479-5261. STARS quality program recognition bonuses range from \$250-\$1550 depending on the STAR level earned. There are no fees associated with this application. Some programs may choose to participate in STARS in gradual steps and then explore program accreditation. Accreditation and/or star level will positively impact on the rate of CDD subsidy payments. Registered and licensed programs are both eligible to participate in STARS.