Early Childhood Council
of La Plata County

La Plata Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between the full stipend and the 6-month benchmark stipend?
The full stipend is available to any professional that has been employed in early care in La Plata County for at least one year. Any professional that has been employed in early care between 6-12 months is eligible for the benchmark stipend.

Do infant/toddler teachers and preschool teachers fill out the same application?
No. If you are an infant toddler educator, please make sure you are filling out the Infant/Toddler application. If you are a preschool teacher, please fill out the Preschool Application.

I received the June 2026 wage stipend, is the application the same?
Yes, however you are required to complete the ECE Wage Stipend Survey in order to qualify for the December payment. You will receive this survey via email on October 19th, 2026.

If I missed the application deadline for the June 2026 payment, can I still apply?
No, the June 2026 stipend application is closed. You may apply for the December 2026 and any future stipends you are eligible for.

I've worked at more than one center in the last year, but they were all in La Plata County, am I eligible?
Yes. As long as you meet the 6 or 12 month eligibility requirement, you can still apply. Early childhood work outside of La Plata County does not count towards eligibility.

I work a school year calendar and don't work during the summer, can I apply for the stipend?
Yes, we will pro-rate awards to educators that are employed at programs that operate on a school year calendar. You must still meet all other eligibility requirements.

I have professional development hours that are not represented in PDIS, can they still count towards the 15-hour PD requirement?
Yes. Please submit any non-PDIS training as "External Training" if you can (this is also a requirement for licensing if you want them to count towards your annual licensing requirement. However, I will manually verify certificates if needed. Please upload them into the "File Upload" section of your application.

Funding for this program is generously provided by the Buell Foundation, the City of Durango, Michael and Elaine Moravan, the Moniker Foundation, and The Payroll Department. Please note: This program is contingent upon the availability of funding, and future cycles are not guaranteed.

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If I'm taking ECE coursework at a 2- or 4-year college or university, can that count towards the professional development requirement?
Yes, please provide a copy of an unofficial transcript that you've passed at least 1 ECE course with a C or higher in the last 12 months. Upload the transcript into the "File Upload" section of your application.

Is the stipend taxed?
Yes. In order to receive an award, you must fill out a W9 for the Early Childhood Council. At the end of the tax year, you will receive a tax form 1099 that you file with your own personal taxes. Please note that the Early Childhood Council is not able to advise on how your award will be taxed; we recommend consulting a qualified tax professional for guidance.

If I provided a W9 with my June 2026 application, do I need to provide another for this application?
No, we have your W9 on file. However, if your address has changed, you'll need to complete a new form. Anyone receiving a stipend payment for the first time must provide a completed and signed W9.

Do I fill out the W9 with my personal information or use my employers information?
Please use your personal information when filling out the W9. Leave *Business Name* (box 2) blank, use your home address (box 5), and provide your SSN or EIN. Don't forget to sign the form!

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