Early Childhood Council
of La Plata County

La Plata Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program

Professional Eligibility Checklist

On behalf of the La Plata County community, thank you for the work with young children and families. The pilot rounds of the La Plata Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program will provide stipends to eligible educators to close the wage gap, with the goal of all educators earning a livable wage in La Plata.

Application will be available on November 2nd, 2026.

Professional Eligibility

☐ Confirm with your Director that your program is eligible to apply for the stipend.

☐ Work full-time* in an infant and/or toddler classroom.

☐ Worked in your role for at least twelve months**.

☐ Hold one of the following position titles:

a. Early Childhood Teacher***
b. Early Childhood Teacher Assistant***

☐ Make less than $24 per hour (La Plata's liveable wage).

☐ Complete Professional Development annual hours requirement (15 hours).

☐ Maintain a PDIS Level 2 or higher.

☐ Consent to the Early Childhood Council of La Plata County to verify the information with my employer.

☐ If you received a June 2026 stipend payment, you must also complete a ECE Wage Stipend Survey.

*Full time is defined as a minimum 32 hours per week. Professionals are not eligible for stipends during extended (more than 2 weeks) medical or family leave, or summer school closure. If a program is not open year round, educators will be eligible for a pro-rata stipend rate.

**Professionals meeting all other eligibility requirements are eligible for a 6-month, 50% stipend. They may only qualify for the benchmark stipend one time.

***If an early childhood professional holds the position title of Early Childhood Teacher, Early Childhood Teacher Assistant or Assistant Director, they must work the majority of

Please note: This program is contingent upon the availability of funding, and future cycles are not guaranteed.

their full time hours in the classroom directly providing care and education to children in an infant and/or toddler classroom.

Funding Structure

Eligible and certified employees will receive up to $2000 per six-month period completed (if eligibility criteria are met and verified by employer) based on their PDIS Early Childhood Professional Credential (ECPC):

a. Full stipends will be administered at different levels per credential:
    i. ECPC Level 2: $1200/6 months
    ii. ECPC Level 3-4: $1600/6months
    iii. ECPC Level 5-6: $2000/6 months
b. 6-month employment benchmark stipends will be administered at different levels per credential:
    i. ECPC Level 2: $600
    ii. ECPC Level 3-4: $800
    iii. ECPC Level 5-6 $1,000

Application Process

Applications will be released to eligible early childhood professionals every six months. You will need to fill out a new application every six months. **Second Round Stipend Applications are due Monday, November 30th, 2026.** No late applications will be accepted.

Have the following documents ready when starting an application:

 Copy of a paystub from the last 60 days.

 Screenshot of your PDIS homepage showing 15 hours of professional development in the last 12 months.

 Completed and signed W9. If you provided a W9 for the June 2026 payment, you do not need to submit another *unless* your address has changed.

 Completed ECE Wage Stipend Survey (only if you received a June 2026 stipend payment.

Note: Providing any falsified documentation will automatically disqualify you from participating in any future stipend program funding.

Applications will be available November 2nd, 2026.

For questions about the EC Stipend Program or how to apply contact Stephanie Milner qinavigator@ecclaplata.org.

Please note: This program is subject to the availability of funding, and participation in future funding cycles cannot be guaranteed.