

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CREDENTIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)
MINI-GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Grant Funding Available: \$30,000

Timeframe: End Date of December 31, 2026

Introduction

United Way of the Wabash Valley has announced a long-term bold goal for the community of moving 10,000 households out of financial struggles and into stability. In the United Way service area (Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo Counties in Indiana and Clark County in Illinois) more than 33,000 households live below a bare bones financial income referred to as ALICE (see [Indiana ALICE Data](#)). The UWWV Success By 6 Impact Council (UWWV SB6) will impact the ALICE population by investing in efforts intended to promote healthy early childhood development to ensure children enter school ready to succeed. The UWWV SB6 believes that the availability of high-quality child care will positively impact the measurements for “kindergarten readiness.”

Early education program administrators have expressed a need for higher qualified staff. Unfortunately, for many students working toward attaining their credentials/degree, cost is a significant barrier. Also, for many Early Childhood Education programs, it can be costly to support student employees in attaining their education.

Program Offering

UWWV will provide an incentive award payment for qualified applicants to help them attain their Childhood Development Associate (CDA) Credential, Associates or Bachelor’s degree in ECE or a related field. Additionally, United Way will offer an incentive payment to ECE programs that are supporting their employees as they attain their education.

Program Funding Available

The UWWV SB6 Impact Council has made available \$30,000 in funding to be provided to eligible qualifying applicants and their employers according to the following credential attainment:

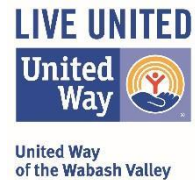
Student Incentive Award:

- CDA - \$1,000
- Associate’s Degree - \$1,500
- Bachelor’s Degree - \$2,000

Early Childhood Education Program Incentive:

- CDA - \$500
- Associate’s degree - \$750
- Bachelor’s degree - \$1,000

UWWV reserves the right to evaluate the grant funding available for this program based upon overall program effectiveness. This program offering will end on December 31, 2026 or when the available funding is exhausted.



Program Eligibility and Application Criteria

Eligibility for Student:

- Must submit *UWWV ECE CAP* Application for consideration prior to the start date of the final term of coursework. No incentive awards will be paid for applications received after this date.
- Must work in an early childhood education setting within the United Way service area of Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion or Vigo Counties in Indiana or Clark County in Illinois.

Payment Criteria for Student:

- Must provide proof of completed credential/degree.
- Must be employed in an early childhood education setting within the UWWV service area.

Eligibility for Early Childhood Education Program:

- Must agree to support employee during credential/degree process. Examples of support include but are not limited to providing: flex time, release time, bonus upon completion of credential/degree, funds to offset cost of course materials.
- Must be located within the United Way service counties of Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion, or Vigo Counties in Indiana or Clark County in Illinois.

Payment Criteria for Early Childhood Education Program:

- Must provide proof of student's work history, including dates of employment.
- Must provide verification of support for employee's education.

The award incentive and ECE Program funds will be distributed at the completion of the required coursework leading to the attainment of a CDA Credential, Associate's Degree or Bachelor's degree in the field of Early Childhood Education or a related field.

Expected Program Outcomes

By providing the ECE Credential Assistance Program (CAP), UWWV and SB6 expect to advance the following outcomes:

- Higher qualified ECE professionals completing ECE-related credential and degree programs will increase the level of care and grow "kindergarten readiness."
- With financial assistance, ECE programs will be more inclined to support their staff in the attainment of higher education.
- ECE staff support for advanced certifications will build a stronger workforce within the field.
- Students who attain credentials/degrees will benefit from potential wage increases.

How to Apply

To download instructions for application, go to <https://liveunitedwv.org/grants/> and click on the Early Childhood Education Credential Assistance Program for a download link. Follow the guidelines provided and submit the application and all required documentation via the email provided.