



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

25 SIGOURNEY STREET • HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-5033

TO: Licensed Child Care Centers, Group Child Care Homes and Family
Child Care Home Providers

FROM: Peter J. Palermjino, Program Administration Manager
Division of Family Services, Bureau of Assistance Programs

SUBJECT: Scholarship Assistance Opportunity Announcement

DATE: September 30, 2011

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is pleased to announce that it has entered into an agreement with Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC) for the current state fiscal year. In part that agreement includes \$1 million for scholarship assistance for individuals working in Connecticut licensed child care programs.

As it did last fall with its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for scholarship assistance, the department has directed CCAC to offer the available funds by lottery. The expectation is that there will be more demand for assistance than there will be funds to go around. To insure an equitable distribution of the available funds, CCAC will use the lottery process to create a pool of individuals who want scholarship assistance. There will be a "lottery window." During this time, individuals will be allowed to register for the lottery. The window will open on Monday, October 10 and close on Sunday, October 23. All registration will be done online by accessing the CCAC website (www.ctcharts-a-course.org), selecting the Lottery button and completing the Registration form. Individuals may only **register once**.

If you are a **family home provider**, I urge you, and any assistant(s) you employ, to consider registering. In last fall's lottery, Family Child Care providers and their assistant(s) were 27% of those who received scholarships. If you or your assistant(s) need early childhood education and training leading to a certificate/credential or a degree in early childhood or a related field approved by CCAC or if you need training that will improve your business, all those activities are eligible for scholarship assistance.

If you are a **child day care center administrator**, please let all those who work for you know about this opportunity. Everyone is eligible to register regardless of their title if the person has an early childhood education and training need that will lead to a certificate/credential or a degree in early childhood or a related field degree approved by CCAC.

(over please for more information)

The Process

From the pool of those who register, a “participation number” will be assigned **by random number generation**. An individual’s participation number will determine access to scholarship assistance. ***When all funds are committed, the selection process will end, regardless of an individual’s participation number.*** CCAC will email registrants their participation number on or after October 26, 2011. Current estimates are that scholarships could be awarded to between 1,000 to 2,000 registrants depending on the assistance requested and granted.

Remember, for those who work at licensed child centers and group homes, this opportunity is **NOT** limited to classroom staff. Everyone, regardless of title, who wants early childhood education or training is eligible.

Those selected for scholarship assistance must:

- have registered with CCAC on its website, and
- want financial assistance toward:
 - a Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate,
 - CDA advisor and assessment fees,
 - a 1-year certificate from a CT Community College,
 - an Associate’s, Bachelor’s, or Master’s degree in early childhood education,
 - a degree in a related early childhood field approved by CCAC,
 - pathways examination fees,
 - Connecticut Director Credential (CtDC) fees, or
 - continuing education courses related to the individual’s career in early childhood or the early childhood business.

Remember, registering is simple:

Between October 10th and October 23rd

- 1. Go to www.ctcharts.org,**
- 2. Select the Lottery button,**
- 3. Complete the registration form.**

If there are questions about registering for a participation number, call CCAC toll-free at 1-800-832-7784 or email them at registry@ctcharts.org.

If you have questions about the CCAC scholarship assistance program or any of the other programs and services of CCAC, please go to the CCAC website at www.ctcharts.org.