



Investing in T.E.A.C.H. Critical Resources for Vermont's Early Care and Learning Workforce

Overview

Vermont continues to face a serious shortage of qualified early childhood licensed teachers, teachers, and assistants. There are not enough resources available to help early childhood educators attain degrees and credentials necessary to meet the massive demand. T.E.A.C.H. Vermont provides scholarships, book and travel funds, release-time funds, contract completion bonuses, and counseling to non-traditional students seeking degrees and credentials in the field of early education. Funding for T.E.A.C.H. Vermont has been declining as federal funds decrease. Planning is underway for long-term sustainability, and in FY 19 TEACH will begin collaborating with the Vermont Apprenticeship Program to more efficiently utilize our current resources. However, T.E.A.C.H. will still need additional resources to continue current program levels in FY19.

What is T.E.A.C.H.?

T.E.A.C.H. VERMONT is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce with affordable access to educational opportunities that lead to degrees and credentials. The Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC) is the administrative home and licensee for the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program in Vermont. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is a national, evidence-based initiative that is currently implemented in 26 states.

How Do T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships Work and Why Do They Matter?

T.E.A.C.H. VERMONT currently offers scholarships for Early Childhood Education Associates Degree and Early Childhood AOE licensure/endorsement programs. Both types of scholarships are available for a variety of early care and learning professionals including: Family Child Care Providers, Center Teachers, Center Employer Directors and Center Director/Owners.

The professional development and education of early childhood care and education providers has been directly linked to quality of care in numerous studies and reports. By promoting higher education, T.E.A.C.H. VERMONT is helping to establish a well-qualified, fairly-compensated and stable workforce to provide Vermont's young children the strongest possible start.

How We Can Support T.E.A.C.H.?

T.E.A.C.H. VERMONT scholarships are funded by Vermont's Early Learning Challenge Race to the Top Grant. Unfortunately, these grant funds will end in December 2018. While T.E.A.C.H. will receive some support from Vermont's Child Development Division starting in 2019, the program will still need additional resources to continue current program levels. Let's Grow Kids supports VAEYC's efforts to secure **\$320,000 for FY19 to sustain the current level of support that T.E.A.C.H. Vermont offers** (50 AA degree students and 20 licensure recipients) for one additional year while plans are developed for the project's long-term sustainability and expansion.