



## Report re 4-Year Old Program (Best in Class) and DHS Early Childhood division

*Senator Judy Lee, Chairman | Interim Human Services Committee | June 30, 2022*

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# EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION

## Purpose

The purpose of the Early Childhood division is to build greater access to quality early childhood experiences so kids age 0-5 from all backgrounds and circumstances have the opportunity to reach their potential.



# 2022-2023 BEST IN CLASS PROGRAMS

Where are they?

## Cohort 1

2021-2022

23 programs

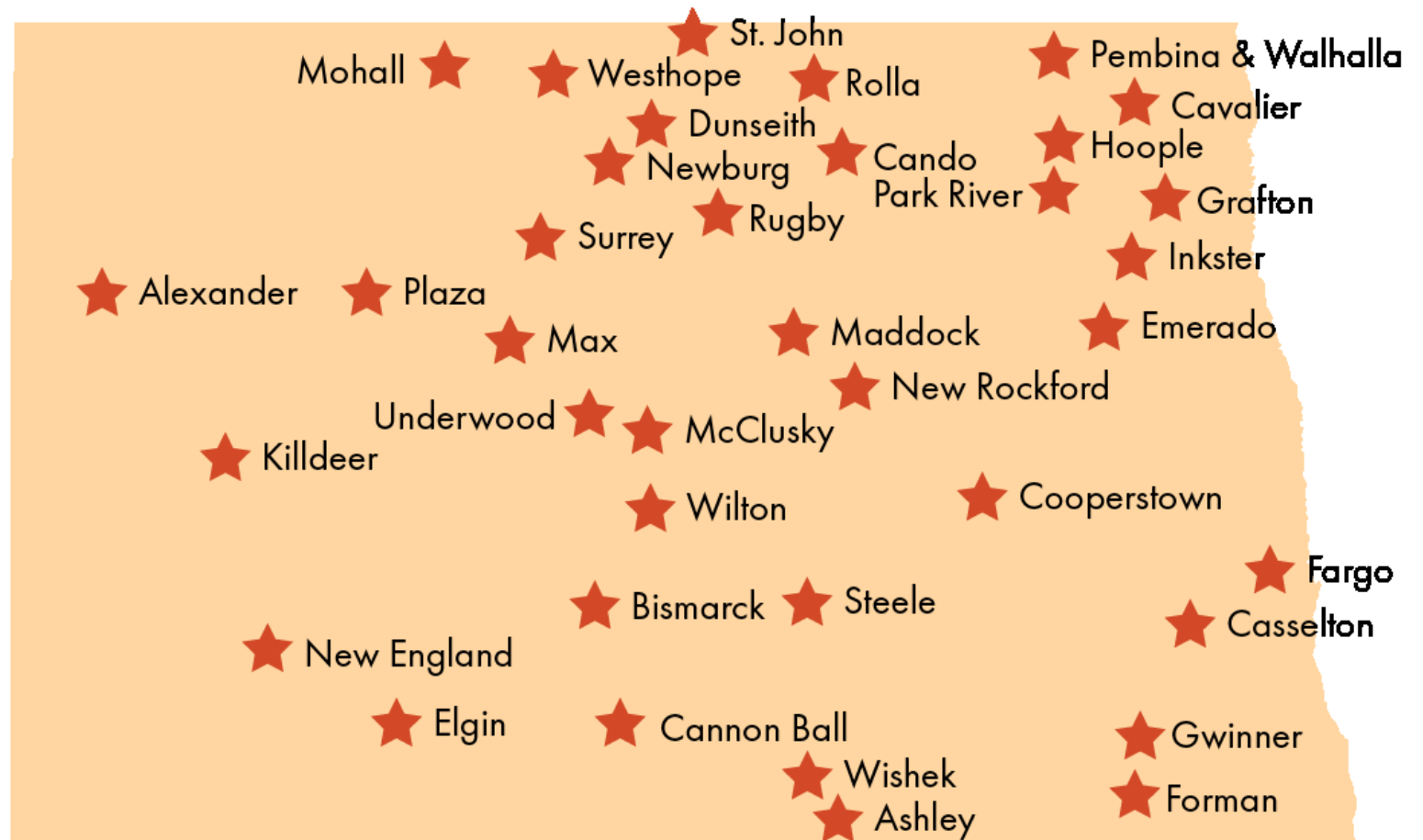
29 classrooms

## Cohort 2

2022-2023

38 programs

50 classrooms



# WORKFORCE INCENTIVES AND STIPENDS

Special grants supporting Workforce Retention, Workforce Training, and Career Pathway



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**GET READY**

## Early Childhood Workers Individual Incentives and Stipends are COMING!

Quality early learning experiences begin with a qualified and trained workforce

**If you work with children in an early childhood setting, you can Get REWARDED for:**

- Completing training leading to an Early Childhood Credential or Early Childhood Education degree
- Completing your Early Childhood Credential
- Completing the Getting Started training course and working in a single licensed child care program during the previous 90 days

### WHO:

- Early childhood professionals registered in N.D.'s [Growing Futures Registry](#).
- Register or Log-in and update your existing Growing Futures Registry Account

### WHEN:

- **ACT NOW.** Create or update your individual Growing Futures Membership account at [www.ndgrowingfutures.org](http://www.ndgrowingfutures.org)
- APPLY for Stipends and Incentives when they become available

### WHAT: See ALL Stipend and Incentive Details at:

[www.nd.gov/dhs/services/earlychildhood/ec-stipends-incentives.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/earlychildhood/ec-stipends-incentives.html)

- Career Pathways Incentive:**
  - Receive one (1) Career Pathways incentive award ranging from \$900 to \$1,600 for completing an approved Early Childhood credential or degree
- Workforce Training Incentive:**
  - Receive multiple Workforce Training Incentives for completing specific coursework and training requirements.
- Workforce Retention Stipend:**
  - Receive quarterly stipends for completing the required Getting Started training course AND working in a licensed child care program for the previous 90 days (minimum 15-hours per week). Your employer must have verified your employment in the Growing Futures Registry.

### NEED HELP?

- Visit the Growing Futures Help Center at [www.ndgrowingfutures.org/help-center](http://www.ndgrowingfutures.org/help-center)
- For help getting your account ready for the application period, please contact [registry@ndgrowingfutures.org](mailto:registry@ndgrowingfutures.org) or contact the Early Childhood Division at 701.328.2115, 711 (TTY) and [dhsec@nd.gov](mailto:dhsec@nd.gov)

# CHILD CARE WORKFORCE RETENTION STIPENDS

Special grants supporting Workforce Retention, Workforce Training, and Career Pathway

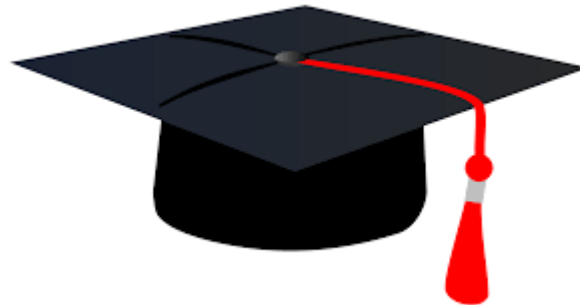


Criteria	Award Amount
15-19 hours of continuous employment per week in the previous 90-days	\$150
20-30 hours of continuous employment per week in the previous 90-days	\$300
31-40 hours (or more) of continuous employment per week in the previous 90-days	\$600

# EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE TRAINING INCENTIVES

Special grants supporting Workforce Retention, Workforce Training, and Career Pathway

Training incentives are designed to assist an individual toward achievement of a designated Early Childhood professional credential or degree and/or completion of high priority training content.



# CAREER PATHWAY PLACEMENT INCENTIVE

Special grants supporting Workforce Retention, Workforce Training, and Career Pathway

Career Pathway incentives acknowledge and reward completion of recognized professional qualifications in the early childhood field.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE

## What's Next



## August 2022

- Licensing Specialists receive training on Child Care Licensing System
- Market ND3 cost sharing model and utilization of Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts

## July

- 2022/23 Best in Class cohort begins
- Research partner assists Best in Class programs to market and recruit their community
- Open grant applications for workforce retention, training and career path incentives
- ECIDS Charter and Executive Steering Committee launch

## September 2022

- Training for providers on Child Care Licensing (CCL)
- Launch September QRIS Bright & Early ND Cohort
- Early Childhood Council meets





During the **first 5 years** of life, emotionally nourishing relationships lay the **foundation** for lifelong health and well-being.

The caring adults who touch the lives of infants, toddlers and preschoolers can maximize our long-term impact in ensuring all children have an **opportunity to realize** their **full potential.**





## Contact Information

Kay Larson, Director  
Early Childhood Division  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Ste 325  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Phone: 701-328-7564

E-mail: [kaylarson@nd.gov](mailto:kaylarson@nd.gov)

