

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocations for FY2013-14 Early Childhood Education Innovation Fund

Request: The State Board is asked to approve \$333,699 to be allocated to eight community colleges for the Early Childhood Education Innovation Fund for the period March 16, 2013 through November 30, 2014.

Background: The North Carolina Community College System seeks to improve Early Childhood Education (ECE) through the Early Childhood Education Innovation Fund (ECEIF), which was developed through the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant that was awarded to the State of North Carolina. The ECEIF was designed to provide opportunities for North Carolina community colleges to increase access to and the quality of ECE programs. Additionally, the development of strong literacy and language skills was encouraged. ECE has three important content areas as priorities for attention:

- Reducing barriers to learning;
- Strengthening the early foundations of lifelong learning;
- Enhancing resources and capacities.

The project seeks to solicit proposals and initiate contact with individual community colleges to identify barriers to ECE student success, evaluate strategies to alleviate barriers, pilot the strategies, and disseminate the results to other colleges for replication. Each project will provide a clear detailed assessment of the project results which will ensure its validity.

Rationale: Efforts to improve ECE policies and practices typically emphasize quality of implementation, professional skills development, and expanded student access to services and instruction. These vitally important objectives are promoted through a broad array of activities and offer a critical foundation for improved student success. The mission of the ECEIF is to build on current innovative efforts, mobilize knowledge, and ensure program excellence.

Method of Allocation: Requests for proposals were sent to all community college presidents, chief academic officers, and ECE contacts. Twelve proposals were received. ECE faculty from two accredited community colleges and administrators from NCCCS and Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) read and evaluated each proposal on an individual basis and scored the application based on the following criteria: need for the project, significance of the project, quality of project design, quality of the project evaluation and adequacy of resources. After the initial reviews, each proposal was discussed by the group and a consensus score was reached.

Funding is recommended for eight proposals from North Carolina Community Colleges.

The applications not recommended for funding did not meet a minimum consensus score of 70 points. In each case, the reviewers determined that there were aspects of the proposal that did not meet the intended purpose of the request for proposals. Each of these proposals was identified as not meeting the expectation of providing opportunities to improve early education that are of statewide significance.

Colleges Recommended for Funding	Requested Amount*	Amount of Award
Blue Ridge Community College	\$50,000.00	\$50,000
Craven Community College	\$49,951.30	\$49,952
Durham Technical Community College	\$49,834.00	\$38,984
Gaston College	\$40,342.00	\$26,942
Haywood Community College	\$50,000.00	\$50,000
Stanly Community College	\$43,118.00	\$43,118
Wake Technical Community College	\$50,000.00	\$50,000
Wayne Community College	\$41,303.00	\$24,703
Total	\$374,548.30	\$333,699

Colleges Not Recommended for Funding	Requested Amount	Amount of Award
Cleveland Community College	\$50,000.00	0
Fayetteville Technical Community College	\$50,000.00	0
Richmond Community College	\$28,960.00	0
South Piedmont Community College	\$45,727.09	0
Total Requested	\$174,687.09	0

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from a grant titled Race to the Top/Innovation awarded by the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: \$333,699 for the period March 16, 2013 through November 30, 2014.

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