

# Early Care & Education (ECE) Scholarship Opportunities in Illinois

JANUARY 2025



	<u>Chicago Early Learning Workforce</u>	<u>Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE)</u>	<u>Gateways to Opportunity</u>
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Chicago Early Learning, Head Start, or Preschool for All staff</li> <li>• Chicago residents interested in becoming early childhood educators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be a member of the ECE incumbent workforce</li> <li>• Must enroll in at least 3 credit hours of coursework at an <u>ECACE participating institution</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be employed by a DCFS licensed child care program or an ISBE Preschool for All program for at least 1 year</li> <li>• Must be a member of the teaching staff, an assistant director, or director</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Programs of Study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic &amp; advanced certificates</li> <li>• Associate degree</li> <li>• Bachelor's degree</li> <li>• Professional Educator License (PEL)</li> <li>• Coursework for endorsements Or Gateways Credentials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associate degree in early childhood education</li> <li>• Associate degree with a concentration in early childhood</li> <li>• Bachelor's degree</li> <li>• <i>Post-baccalaureate students are NOT eligible for the 2024-2025 academic year</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gateways credential</li> <li>• Coursework to advance on the Great START Wage Supplement Scale</li> <li>• Associate, Bachelor, or Master's degree in ECE</li> <li>• Bachelor's or Master's degree in program administration for early childhood education or child development</li> <li>• Professional Educator License (PEL)</li> </ul>
<b>Scholarship Award</b>	100% of tuition/fees and up to \$250 for books per course	\$7,500 maximum	Up to 100% of tuition/fees. Award will depend on awardee's income level.
<b>Teaching Requirements</b>	3-year work commitment in a Chicago Early Learning program	None	Ranges from 6-12 months.
<b>Repayment Clause</b>	Yes	No	Yes
<b>When to Apply?</b>	Applications open January 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year on <u>Chicago Early Learning Website (cps.edu)</u>	Priority application opens during the summer	Open all year