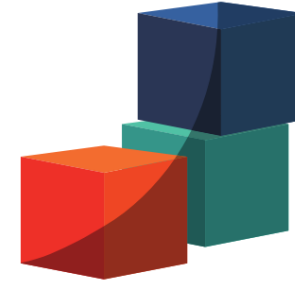


Welcome to the Step Up to WAGE\$ Pilot Information Session



Step Up to WAGE\$ Rhode Island

A demonstration program of
Child Care Services Association



Rhode Island Association for the
Education of Young Children



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What is the Step Up to WAGE\$ RI Pilot?

- Education-based salary supplements for those working with young children in early childhood settings.
- The program helps to increase retention, education and compensation of early childhood professionals.
- Step Up to WAGE\$ RI is a demonstration program of Child Care Services Association (CCSA) in North Carolina and is based on the Child Care WAGE\$[®] Program.
- This Pilot is managed by RIAEYC with funding from DHS.

The Goals of Step Up to WAGE\$ RI

Teacher education and stability are critical to the successful growth and development of young children

Three primary factors are associated with teacher quality:

- Education
- Stability
- Compensation

How is the Step Up to WAGE\$ Pilot funded?

- Step Up to WAGE\$ is fully supported by the RI Department of Human Services, with funding by a PDG Planning Grant.
- Funding for this pilot is LIMITED. Although we want to award every RI early childhood educator, we are only able to fund a limited number of educators.
- At this time, funding is available through end of December 2023.

Who is Eligible?

- Early childhood professionals earning at or below \$23 per hour
- Must work with children in an early childhood setting
- Work at least 10 hours per week
- Employer must be DHS-licensed, BrightStars Rated and a CCAP-participating program
- Must meet educational level per the salary supplement scale
- Must work at least six (6) months in the same child care program before receiving payment

How much will you receive if Eligible?

- Award is based on the education earned **AND** the eligible hours worked.
- Awards are issued in two six-month installments per year.
- Each award is issued after six-month commitment periods are complete.
- Supplement is based on average hours worked during commitment period.
- Awards are based on limited time and funding.

How to apply for the Step Up to WAGE\$ RI Pilot?

- Fill out and submit Step Up to WAGE\$ application
 - Include any **OFFICIAL** Transcripts and/or CDA Credential
 - Do not include Training Certificates
 - Include Income verification:
 - Most recent Paystub
 - For Family Child Care Educators: Schedule C from most recent tax year
 - For Center Owners: Most recent Tax documentation
- Don't forget to sign application.

Make sure application is **COMPLETE** before submitting!

A word about Official Transcripts...

- Hard-copy transcripts and other academic records are considered "official" when they arrive in a sealed, stamped, official envelope with the seal and any other security feature intact. Electronic transcripts are considered "official" when we receive them from a secure site formally linked to the sending institution or testing service.
- Academic records received in any other condition, such as transcripts that arrive in an unsealed envelope, or that are emailed or uploaded by the student, or that are printed from the university portal, are not considered "official."

Frequently asked questions:

- Do I have to pay taxes on the supplements I receive?

Yes, this salary supplement is considered income. If you receive \$600 or more in one calendar year, you will receive a 1099 from RIAEYC at the end of the year. You are responsible for reporting this additional income when you file your taxes.

- If I work for a child care center, what is my center's responsibility?

Your employer must agree to provide verification of the applicant's employment status and wages and agree not to use participation as a way to offset normal wages or increases. This also applies to FCC assistants.

- Will I receive a supplement if I move to another child care program?

Wage supplements are sent to participants after each six-month period worked in the same program. If a participant moves to a new program within that six-month commitment period, no supplement will be sent until they meet a new commitment at their new place of employment.

Frequently asked questions:

- I receive government assistance. Will this wage supplement push me out of eligibility?
Yes, this is possible, unfortunately. The government considers this supplement in addition to your salary when considering eligibility. This will need to be a personal decision you make based on your situation.
- Are school-age educators eligible?
We are working with DHS to determine if school age staff are eligible based on this Federal Funding.
- I am a family child care provider and I have an extension to file my taxes. Can I still apply?
Once you file your taxes and you have tax documentation to share, you can apply.
- What income information do I need to submit if I am an Incorporated family child care provider or if I own my own center?
You must submit full federal tax forms (i.e. 1040 and all supporting schedules)
- BrightStars has copies of my transcript, can you get them from BrightStars?
No, your application must include all required documentation.



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Visit [www.teach-ri.org/wage\\$](http://www.teach-ri.org/wage$) for more information, including application, salary supplement scale, information in Spanish and much more!

Questions? Email us: WAGES@RIAETC.ORG

Thank you!

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