

KS ARRA Grants FAQ

Professional Development FAQ

- Can the *Professional Development Grant* be used to go toward a certification in sign language? **Answer:** The individual must be pursuing a degree/certification in early learning, early childhood education or child development. However, the individual may apply for a grant to cover coursework or training for a degree/certification in early childhood development with an emphasis in working with children with special needs. The degree/certification must be from an accredited institution.
- Can the *Professional Development Grant* (scholarship) be used to take coursework from the University of Kansas toward an early childhood degree? The main campus is in another county (Douglas) but the Edwards Campus is in Johnson County. **Answer:** Yes.
- Can the *Professional Development Grant* be used for a portion of the online CDA training hours? For example, if someone has already completed 60 of the 120 clock hours toward the CDA can s/he enroll in 60 hours of the online training and be awarded a Professional Development Grant to cover the cost? **Answer:** No. The online CDA software is not set up to handle partial clock hours. The individual must take all modules to participate in the eLearning online CDA program and earn all 120 clock hours.
- Can the *Professional Development Grant* (scholarship) be used for coursework taken in the Spring of 2010-11? **Answer:** Yes, as long as all other requirements are met.
- If an individual has already enrolled in and paid for a course for the Fall 2010 semester, can they be awarded a scholarship and be reimbursed? **Answer:** Students will not be reimbursed; the colleges/universities will be paid directly. More than likely, classes Fall 2010 classes that have already started will not be reimbursed. However, if the accredited college/university offers Fall 2 classes (which typically start mid-late October), those classes may be included on the application.
- Can an individual apply for a *Professional Development Grant* for the eLearning CDA training and the CDA certification fee? **Answer:** Yes. Include both on your application for review. The issue is the length of time it takes to complete the eLearning online CDA training hours. The individual has one year to complete 120 hours, compile their profile, and complete the observation before submitting their application for their CDA certification. All funding for this grant must be disbursed by the end of September 2011.
- Will the *Professional Development Grant* pay for the cost of any of the KDHE approved on-line CDA programs? **Answer:** According to the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA), the online CDA program that is KDHE approved is the same as the one issued through The Family Conservancy. When an individual goes to KACCRRRA's website, they have to enter their zip code. If the zip code is for Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami or Wyandotte County, the KACCRRRA website automatically sends the individual back to The Family Conservancy's website for the online CDA program.
- Will the *Professional Development Grant* (scholarship) cover the cost of courses taken online through a degree program being pursued online? (The specific programs asked about were Penn State's world campus and Fort Hays State University (in Hays, KS).) **Answer:** Yes, as long as the college/university is accredited and the individual is pursuing a degree in early learning, early

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childhood education or child development.

- Will the *Professional Development Grant* (scholarship) cover courses taken toward a degree in Child Psychology? **Answer:** No, the individual must be pursuing a degree in early learning, early childhood education or child development.
- If an individual has completed all their clock hours (through college coursework at JCCC or another local accredited college) for their CDA, and has done everything except submit their paperwork to the Council, will the *Professional Development Grant* pay for just the \$325 CDA certification fee? **Answer:** Yes. However, the student will need to provide written documentation from their school advisor, on school letterhead, stating all requirements have been met. Also, the student will need to include a copy of their transcript with their application packet showing all classes have been taken with a passing grade.
- If an individual has been receiving the Pell Grant to cover CDA college coursework, could s/he apply for the Professional Development Grant (scholarship) to cover the remaining classes (tuition and books) AND the \$325 CDA certification fee OR should she continue to use the Pell Grant for the remaining college coursework and only apply for the \$325 CDA certification fee? **Answer:** The individual should continue to use Pell Grant to pay for their college coursework (tuition and books) and use the Professional Development Grant to apply for the \$325 CDA certification fee.

Special Needs, After School and Center Grants FAQ

- If a program director/FCCH owner has a master's degree in special education, does she still have to complete the required 6 hours of training for the *Special Needs Grant*? **Answer:** Yes, the trainings are required for anyone who is awarded the grant.
- If a program has a kindergarten room with school-age children and also a school-age room, can the director apply for an *After-School Grant* for both classrooms? **Answer:** Yes.
- Can a FCCH apply for an *After-School Grant* even if they do not have a separate program for school-age children? **Answer:** Yes, as long as they have at least one school-age child enrolled at the center.
- A FCCH that has kitchen space set aside (separated from the licensed space by a wall) – can they apply for a grant to have the kitchen equipment taken out? **Answer:** No, it is our opinion that that would significantly change the function and purpose of the facility (see the Davis-Bacon Act). No significant changes or facility improvements are allowed under ARRA funding.
- If a program has a vehicle (e.g. 15-seat passenger van), can the director apply for funding for vehicle repairs, as a down payment on a vehicle or to purchase a vehicle (as facility improvements) as part of the *Special Needs, After School or Center grants*? **Answer:** No. The purpose of the grants is for program improvements to classroom learning environments, such as materials, minor facility improvements and/or playground equipment/improvements.

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Miscellaneous FAQ

- If a program has 2 separate classrooms, but there are different children and teachers in the classrooms at different times of the day, how is the program counted in terms of applying for grants? **Answer:** If the director is applying for the *Special Needs, After School and/or Center Grants* for equipment and/or educational materials to improve the physical space and/or learning environments, each physical classroom would be counted as one. However, if the director is applying for the *Professional Development Grants*, the classrooms can be counted separately if different teachers are teaching the children at different time periods for the day. **FOR EXAMPLE**, if one physical classroom has a M,W,F a.m. class and a M,W, F p.m. class but the classes have different children AND different teachers, the program is eligible to apply for the following grants (*as long as the eligibility requirements are met for each grant*) for each physical classroom: one Special Needs Grant (\$2,000), one After School grant (\$2,000) and/or one Center Grant (\$2,000), PLUS two Professional Development Grants (\$4,000).
- How will directors know which trainings are required with each grant (Center, Special Needs or After School) so they avoid applying for those trainings as part of the Professional Development grant?. **Answer:** Laura will follow-up with those directors who apply for Center, Special Needs or After School grants to ensure that are not applying for required trainings as part of their Professional Development grant. If so, they will be allowed to apply of other optional trainings or scholarships.
- If a grant request requires a contractor, does the contractor have to be a licensed contractor? (The specific question was related to either a husband or a friend doing the work -- neither of which, as we understand it -- are licensed). **Answer:** Licensed contractors are required for all repair work.
- Should a director still submit an application if the registered program only has its “temporary license”? **Answer:** The eligibility requirements state that a program must be “licensed”. However, the provider may still apply but should include detailed information with the application about licensing status and decisions will be made on a case by case basis.
- Can a program apply for funding for classrooms that they plan to open during the course of the grant? **Answer:** No. Programs may only apply for grant funding for classrooms they are currently licensed to operate and that have children enrolled at the time of the application deadline.
- For those grant applications that include a request for facility improvements that exceed the \$2,000 threshold for contracted labor, the *Davis Bacon Act* applies. Please see attached information. We will work with those programs on a case-by case basis.