

## Spread the Word!

### Early educators can earn more money!

North Carolina has two education-based salary supplement programs to help support the early care and education workforce. The [Child Care WAGE\\$<sup>®</sup> Program](#) provides education-based salary supplements to eligible educators working with children birth to age five through a collaboration between local Smart Start partnerships who choose to participate, the North Carolina Partnership for Children and the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE). Counties that currently participate can be found [here](#). [Infant-Toddler Educator AWARD\\$<sup>®</sup> Plus](#), funded solely by the DCDEE, offers similar awards to teachers and family child care providers working at least 30 hours per week with children birth through age two. These supplements are available in every county!

Participant compensation is enhanced through the supplements; each payment recognizes their education and is issued after the completion of an assigned six-month period of time worked in the same facility.

Applying is easy. Each program has a short application that can be found online, but Early Years staff are available and willing to help any interested applicant complete the paperwork needed. Just give us a call at 919-967-3272.

Do you know an early care and education program with staff that have not yet taken advantage of one of these opportunities? These programs can help an employer as well as their employees. Take it from a director with staff on the programs:

*“Receiving a WAGE\$ or AWARD\$ Plus supplement is crucial in supporting the early childhood workforce, ensuring dedicated educators receive the financial recognition they deserve. These supplements not only validate the critical role that early educators play in shaping young minds but also help to attract and retain highly qualified teachers. We have seen firsthand how WAGE\$ and AWARD\$ contribute to staff stability, increased morale, and professional growth. ... The impact extends beyond the classroom—happy and well-supported teachers create a positive learning environment, which leads to happier students and, in turn, more satisfied families. When parents see their children thriving in a nurturing and stable setting, it fosters trust and strengthens our early childhood community.”*

Help us spread the word!