



DC Leading Educators toward Advanced Degrees Grant Program

The DC Leading Educators toward Advanced Degrees (DC LEAD) grant aims to provide the District's child care educators with the knowledge, skills and credentials needed to work with DC's youngest learners and increase the number of high-quality early childhood professionals in the District through scholarships for postsecondary degrees. The grant is administered by the Southeast Children's Fund (SCF) on behalf of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE).

The DC LEAD scholarship program covers the cost of tuition and books for program scholars as they pursue an associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Child care educators who work in a child development facility licensed by OSSE can access the DC LEAD application by visiting the [DC LEAD webpage](#) on the [SCF website](#). The DC LEAD website provides information on eligibility requirements and directions for how to apply.

DC LEAD scholarship program recipients benefit from:

- 100 percent coverage of tuition and fees;
- Book cost reimbursement;
- Bonuses and stipends;
- A dedicated DC LEAD program advisor and a DC LEAD mentor;
- An option to receive paid release time from work; and
- An option to receive a laptop.

To be eligible to participate in the DC LEAD scholarship program, a child care educator must meet the following requirements:

1. Employment in a child development facility licensed by OSSE;
2. Have a high school diploma or GED;
3. Complete an [employer agreement form](#) (if applicable);
4. Commit to working at the child care facility where they are currently employed throughout the DC LEAD scholarship contract year;
5. Enrollment or interest in a program working to meet the [minimum education requirements](#) in their current position or a position they are interested in obtaining; and
6. Submit a completed DC LEAD application form.

How to apply for DC LEAD Scholarship

Please visit the [SCF website](#) to complete the online application form. For questions, please contact DC LEAD at (202) 561-5500 or via email at DCLEAD@sechildrensfund.org.

About SCF

SCF is a nonprofit organization that provides programs and services to enhance the health and welfare of the children, families and communities of Washington, DC. SCF was awarded the DC LEAD grant from OSSE in 2021. As the grant administrator, SCF leads and oversees the support of the District's early childhood education workforce to meet the [minimum education requirements for the early childhood workforce](#) by providing a scholarship opportunity that covers the cost of tuition and books for program scholars as they pursue an associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

DC LEAD Contact Information

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