

Building Careers in Early Education and Care

The intention of the Building Careers grant program is to fund college courses and academic advising for early education and care and out-of-school time educators who are seeking a degree in early childhood education or a related field.

The program is designed to help non-traditional students succeed academically and professionally by providing career and academic advising, using a cohort model, and scheduling courses at times that are convenient for working adults.

The Building Careers grant program was funded through a federal grant that expired after Fiscal year 2007 (FY07). In FY08, the state preserved the program with a supplemental appropriation of \$600,000. In FY09, the state appropriated \$1.2 million to the program, matching the full amount previously provided under the federal grant.

Goals of the Building Careers in Early Education and Care program:

- To increase the number of educators in the field with a degree in early childhood education or a related field;
- To increase access to higher education for early education and care and out-of-school time educators in the field;
- To promote high quality professional development; and
- To encourage partnerships and broad-based collaborative planning efforts that leverage and maximize resources across public and private agencies.

To be eligible to participate in the Building Careers program students must:

- Be a Massachusetts resident and U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- Work in a program serving EEC-funded children (i.e., group child care, family child care, school age child care, or Head Start programs);
- Have completed a college-level course for credit in child growth and development (please note that new students from a vocational technical program do not need to meet this requirement);
- Agree to meet with an academic advisor for career/academic counseling;
- Agree to complete student data forms each semester and share directory information with Building Careers Coordinator and EEC;
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or above;
- Participate in work-site observations and supervision meetings (if applicable); and
- Matriculate into a degree program in early childhood education or a related field within one year.

For more information, visit the Department of Early Education and Care's website at: www.eec.state.ma.us

In FY09, 21 colleges and universities in the Commonwealth received funding for Building Careers

BuildingCareers Grantee	City/Town	County	Region	FY08 Grant Award	FY08 Students Served	FY09 Grant Award	FY2009 Students Served
Anna Maria College	Paxton	Worcester	Central	\$ 65,450.00	23	\$ 68,000.00	25
Becker College	Worcester	Worcester	Central	\$ 65,450.00	31	\$ 68,000.00	27
Berkshire Community College	Pittsfield	Berkshire	Western	\$ 55,042.95	21	\$ 48,480.00	21
Bridgewater State College	Bridgewater	Plymouth	Southeast	\$ 63,450.00	24	\$ 67,997.10	40
Bristol Community College	Fall River	Bristol	Southeast	\$ 51,397.00	37	\$ 48,478.83	31
Bunker Hill Community College	Boston	Suffolk	MetroBoston	\$ 56,450.00	82	\$ 48,480.00	60
Cape Cod Community College	West Barnstable	Barnstable	Southeast	\$ 44,500.00	17	\$ 48,242.00	16
Fitchburg State College	Fitchburg	Worcester	Central	\$ 63,553.18	30	\$ 67,999.54	30
Greenfield Community College	Greenfield	Franklin	Central	\$ 46,000.00	24	\$ 48,054.99	16
Holyoke Community College	Holyoke	Hampden	Western	\$ 44,500.00	35	\$ 48,480.00	20
Mass Bay Community College	Framingham	Middlesex	MetroWest	\$ 58,450.00	26	\$ 48,480.00	22
Massasoit Community College	Brockton	Plymouth	Southeast	\$ 58,450.00	29	\$ 48,480.00	34
Middlesex Community College	Bedford	Middlesex	Northeast	\$ 49,500.00	32	\$ 48,480.00	40
Mount Wachusett Community College	Gardner	Worcester	Central	\$ 51,450.00	32	\$ 48,480.00	32
North Shore Community College	Lynn	Essex	Northeast	\$ 58,450.00	75	\$ 48,480.00	67
Northern Essex Community College	Lawrence	Essex	Northeast	\$ 44,500.00	51	\$ 48,480.00	51
Quinsigamond Community College	Worcester	Worcester	Central	\$ 56,450.00	36	\$ 48,480.00	36
Salem State College	Salem	Essex	Northeast	\$ 66,486.00	32	\$ 67,996.00	33
University of Massachusetts Boston	Boston	Suffolk	MetroBoston	\$ 65,450.00	65	\$ 68,000.00	64
Urban College of Boston	Boston	Suffolk	MetroBoston	\$ 44,500.00	26	\$ 48,480.00	28
Worcester State College	Worcester	Worcester	Central	\$ 77,900.00	31	\$ 68,000.00	24
TOTALS				\$1,187,379.13	759	\$1,154,048.46	717

Strategies for Children helps children get a strong start in life by working to ensure they all have access to high-quality early education and are all proficient readers by the time they enter fourth grade.