

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

HOUSE BILL 1281

By: Cockroft

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to children; establishing scholarship for Child Development Associate; directing administration by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; permitting applications on an ongoing basis as funding allows; requiring income verification; describing amount of scholarship; listing criteria for scholarship candidates; allowing recipient to choose a Professional Development Specialist; establishing scholarship for Child Care Professional; detailing criteria for scholarship candidates; stating amount of scholarship; describing eligible applicants; excluding certain applicants; construing act; authorizing recipients to choose from accepted education or training courses; providing for reimbursement of training; prohibiting expiration of coursework; exempting certain people from training requirements; directing collaborative work with training providers; terminating program if funding is not available; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 399 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Assessment Scholarship is made available through the Scholars for Excellence in

1 Child Care Program and is administered by the Oklahoma State Regents
2 for Higher Education.

3 1. Scholarship applications are accepted on an ongoing basis
4 and as funding allows.

5 2. Applications shall include verification of income.

6 3. The CDA Credential Assessment Scholarship will pay eighty-
7 five percent (85%) of the assessment fee charged by the national
8 credentialing agency.

9 4. Candidates for the CDA Credential Assessment Scholarship
10 shall meet the following criteria:

11 a. be eighteen (18) years of age or older,

12 b. have a high school diploma or equivalent,

13 c. have four hundred eighty (480) hours of experience
14 working with young children within the past five (5)
15 years, and

16 d. have one hundred twenty (120) hours of formal child
17 care education and training in the CDA-training
18 content areas as prescribed by the agency issuing the
19 credential.

20 5. Recipients of the CDA Credential Assessment Scholarship may
21 choose their own Professional Development Specialist as allowed by
22 the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition.

23 B. The Certified Childhood Professional (CCP) Credential
24 Assessment Scholarship is made available through the Scholars for

1 Excellence in Child Care Program and is administered by the Oklahoma
2 State Regents for Higher Education.

3 1. Candidates for the CCP Credential Assessment Scholarship
4 shall meet the following criteria:

5 a. be eighteen (18) years of age or older,

6 b. have a high school diploma or equivalent,

7 c. have seven hundred twenty (720) hours of experience
8 working with young children within the past five (5)
9 years, and

10 d. have one hundred eighty (180) hours of education or
11 training reflecting the "9 Professional Ability Areas"
12 through a training institution approved by the National
13 Early Childhood Program Accreditation.

14 2. The CCP Assessment Scholarship will pay the Two Hundred
15 Ninety-five Dollars (\$295.00) of the assessment fee by the national
16 credentialing agency and can be modified as funding or fees change.

17 C. Eligible applicants for either scholarship shall:

18 1. Work in a child care facility that is rated One-Star or
19 higher and licensed by the Department of Human Services or tribe
20 with a minimum enrollment of ten percent (10%) of children receiving
21 subsidized care at the time of application; and

22 2. Work as a teacher, family child care provider, or director
23 at least thirty (30) hours per week earning Fifteen Dollars and
24 fifty cents (\$15.50) or less per hour.

1 Due to the availability of education and training funds,
2 employees from school-age or federally funded child care and Head
3 Start programs are not eligible to participate in the scholarship.
4 Scholarship applicants shall demonstrate that all eligibility
5 requirements for assessment have been completed when the application
6 is submitted to the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Program.

7 D. Nothing in this section shall allow the state to set
8 requirements that are at a higher level than those set by the
9 national credentialing agency.

10 E. Scholarship recipients may choose and obtain child care
11 education or training of their own choice that is accepted by the
12 national credentialing agency.

13 F. Scholarship recipients may receive up to Four Hundred
14 Dollars (\$400.00) to obtain Tier II training of their choice to meet
15 the formal child care education and training requirement as approved
16 and listed on the Oklahoma Professional Development Registry by the
17 Center for Early Childhood Professional Development. This shall be
18 paid through a reimbursement process upon successful completion of
19 the training.

20 G. Coursework from an accredited university or vocational
21 technical school shall not expire.

22 H. Any person awarded a CDA or CCP Credential, Certificate of
23 Mastery, Oklahoma Competency Certificate in Early Care and Education
24 or meeting the criteria for Level 3 and above on the Oklahoma

1 Professional Development Ladder shall not be required to take the
2 Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines training to meet licensing or
3 Department of Human Services' "Reaching for the Stars" requirements.

4 I. The Oklahoma Professional Development Registry and the
5 Center for Early Childhood Professional Development shall work
6 collaboratively with training providers and educators so as not to
7 create a system of training providers that are exclusively
8 government-interested or that denies fair competition by private
9 training providers.

10 J. This program shall be terminated if funding is not
11 available.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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