

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

H.R. 7355: Early Childhood Workforce Advancement Act of 2024



PURPOSE

If passed, competitive grants would be awarded to eligible partnerships to establish, support, or expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study in early childhood education (ECE).

ELIGIBILITY

Awardees are “eligible partnerships”, which include one or more of the following:

- Higher education institutions
- Child care providers
- Community stakeholders relevant to CTE in ECE, such as local businesses, workforce development boards, CCR&Rs, or family child care networks with at least one paid staff member

TERM

The grant period is 5 years and may be extended once by 2 years if:

- Partnership is achieving program objectives
- Partnership has improved education outcomes for participating students



APPLICATION

Eligible partnerships may be required to provide a description of how their program would:

- Establish, support, or expand CTE in ECE
- Create roles and responsibilities for each partner
- Cover necessary expenses beyond the awarded funds and continue the program after the completion of the grant term
- Directly benefit students, including special populations
- Coordinate a CTE program of study
- Meet regional/state/local employer needs
- Benefit the child care industry and ECE workforce
- Report and share data
- Include curriculum and training focused on infant and toddler development and the learning and development of infants and toddlers with a disability
- Respond to needs/goals identified by their state under ESSA



USE OF FUNDS

Each eligible partnership awarded a grant would be required to use funds to establish, support, or expand CTE ECE programs, may include:

- **Curriculum development and delivery:** including classroom instruction; work-based learning; supporting the attainment of dual or concurrent enrollment credits, industry credentials such as a Child Development Associate®; a pre-apprenticeship; or an apprenticeship through career and technical student organizations.
- **Recruiting, hiring, and training early educators:** including those who became certified through state and local alternative routes to certification.
- **Improving CTE student outcomes through:**
 - Supporting the development and enhancement of innovative delivery models for CTE, including: school-based simulated work sites, mentoring, apprenticeship programs, work site visits, job shadowing, project-based learning, and skills-based and paid internships
 - Providing academic and non-academic wraparound supports, including tutoring, scholarships or stipends, child care assistance, transportation, and more.
 - These supports are provided during the period in which students are working to complete a Child Development Associate® credential, AA or BA program in ECE, state licensures or certifications, or receive opportunities to practice teaching in ECE
 - **Creating/expanding recruitment, retention, or professional development for CTE teachers and other school staff, including:**
 - Mentoring
 - Providing resources and training related to special populations
 - Integrating rigorous content standards and curricula
 - Providing resources or assistance in meeting state licensure/credential requirements
 - Implementing initiatives that increase compensation for early childhood educators who attain a Child Development Associate® credential, or an AA or BA in ECE
 - Training for high school guidance/academic counselors to increase awareness of ECE options

COMMITMENT

In awarding grants, HHS would:

- Ensure equitable geographic distribution
- Award both rural and urban communities
- Prioritize areas with child care shortages
- Prioritize applicants that include higher ed institutions with ECE programs of study
- If applicable, prioritize applicants that demonstrate their program will respond to needs/goals identified by their state under ESSA

ANNUAL REPORTING

- Use of funds
- Performance of CTE program as outlined in *Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006*



REVIEW

[H.R. 7355: Early Childhood Workforce Advancement Act of 2024](#)