



*Partners for Professional Pathways  
Working Alongside ELRCs*

## ECEPDO@PASSHE Southwest Region Team Advances Early Childhood Education Careers!



### WHAT IS THIS OPPORTUNITY?

This is an opportunity for early childhood educators who teach and care for young children to advance their careers **AT NO COST!** The Early Childhood Education Professional Development Organization (ECEPDO@PASSHE) is helping Pennsylvania early childhood teachers to advance their education and career pathways in partnership with ELRCs and funded educational partners!

For those who qualify, funding covers tuition/fees and other supports to help students complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, an Associate's degree, and/or a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education!

With state government grant funding and in partnership with numerous educational entities across the PDO's 62-county footprint, students can access course offerings online, in-person, and via hybrid instruction.

**Reach out to the PDO's Southwest Region team to learn more and to connect prospective students to this career-advancing, life-changing opportunity!**



*This project is supported by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) of Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services (DHS) and Pennsylvania's Department of Education (PDE). For more information, visit [dhs.pa.gov](http://dhs.pa.gov) and [education.pa.gov](http://education.pa.gov).*

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONTACTS ECEPDO@PASSHE

PD COORDINATOR	CONTACT INFO	ELRCs/COUNTIES
Amber Barkman	abarkman@ecepdo.org	ELRC 4 (all), 6 (Cambria, Blair, Somerset, Bedford)
Lindsey Vicoria	lvicoria@ecepdo.org	ELRC 5 (all)
Karen Zakin	kzakin@ecepdo.org	ELRC 6 (Huntingdon, Fulton, Franklin)

### TO QUALIFY FOR FUNDING, APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be a Pennsylvania resident.
- Be a current employee at a certified child care program in Pennsylvania for three (3) months or more, or demonstrate employment history of six (6) months in child care if newly hired. (Participants actively enrolled in PDO activities will not be impacted by a change of employer, as long as the new employer is a certified child care program.)
- Work a minimum of 25 hours per week directly in a certified child care program.
- Earn no more than the maximum hourly earning limit of \$25.00/hour **if you are a child care director.**
- Earn no more than the maximum hourly earning limit of \$21.63/hour **if you are a child care teacher, assistant teachers, or aide.**
- Be interested to pursue coursework at a participating college, university, or other educational partner toward a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential or an Associate's or Bachelor's degree.
- GPA and course grades meet transfer requirements; a watch plan is developed for participants who do not meet transfer requirements.
- Sign a Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education Commitment Form.

### APPLYING IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3

**STEP 1:** Applicants should go to: [ecepdo.org/get-started](http://ecepdo.org/get-started)

**STEP 2:** Once a student's funding eligibility is confirmed, a Professional Development (PD) Coordinator will contact them to discuss the student's career goals and educational options. The ECEPDO@PASSHE PD Coordinators for our Southwest Region covering ELRCs 4, 5, and 6 are listed above.

**STEP 3:** As education-career "navigators," PD Coordinators work with students to understand their career goals and direct them to the participating education partner in the region that best suits their needs. They will also introduce students to other PDO supports to bolster their experience and success!

**As of 06.01.2023**