

Limonggi, Claudia (DHS)

From: RI DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES <nicole.chiello-dhs.ri.gov@shared1.ccsend.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 12:10 PM
To: Limonggi, Claudia (DHS)
Subject: Child Care WAGE\$ Update / Actualización de WAGE\$ para el Cuidado Infantil

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September 2, 2025

We're excited to announce the launch of the CHILD CARE WAGE\$ Rhode Island Program, providing wage supplements to highly qualified early childhood educators across the state. While the goals of the new program remain aligned with those of the Step Up to WAGE\$ pilot program, there are a few key changes to the structure and eligibility requirements between both programs.

As a result, some individuals who qualified for the Step Up to WAGE\$ pilot program may find they are no longer eligible under the updated criteria. We recognize this may be disappointing, and we want to emphasize that these changes are intended to help us focus our limited resources where they can have the greatest impact, based on what we've learned from the pilot.

To qualify, applicants must:

- Hold one of the eligible roles: teachers, assistant teachers, floaters and family child care providers of children ages birth-5 without holding dual roles.
- Earn \$23 per hour or less
- Register with the Rhode Island Early Childhood Education Workforce Registry (RISES).
- Meet a level of education appearing on the WAGE\$ supplement scale (*if awarded at a temporary education level, participants **must** increase their education within two years to retain eligibility.**)

* Visit riaeyc.org/child-care-wage for more information regarding eligibility

Please note that **all applications must be submitted online** through the WAGE\$ official application portal. Unfortunately, paper applications will not be accepted. The WAGE\$ team will be available to help with the online application process.

More detailed information about the new program, including eligibility guidelines and how to apply, is available on <https://riaeyc.org/child-care-wage/>. We strongly encourage all past participants to review these updates, as you may still be eligible under the revised criteria.

Sincerely,

Nicole Chiello
Associate Director, Office of Child Care, DHS

Lisa Hildebrand
Executive Director, RIAEYC



Rhode Island Association for the
Education of Young Children



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2 de septiembre de 2025

Nos complace anunciar el lanzamiento del programa **CHILD CARE WAGES Rhode Island**, que proporciona suplementos salariales a educadores de la primera infancia altamente calificados en todo el estado. Si bien los objetivos del nuevo programa siguen alineados con los del programa piloto **Step Up to WAGES**, hay algunos cambios clave en la estructura y los requisitos de elegibilidad entre ambos programas.

Como resultado, algunas personas que calificaron para el programa piloto **Step Up to WAGES** podrían descubrir que ya no son elegibles bajo los criterios actualizados. Reconocemos que esto puede ser decepcionante y queremos enfatizar que estos cambios están destinados a ayudarnos a enfocar nuestros recursos limitados donde puedan tener el mayor impacto, basado en lo que aprendimos del piloto.

Para calificar, los solicitantes deben:

- Desempeñar uno de los roles elegibles: maestros, asistentes de maestros, flotantes y proveedores de cuidado infantil familiar para niños desde el nacimiento hasta los 5 años, sin desempeñar roles dobles.
 - Ganar \$23 por hora o menos.
 - Registrarse en el Registro de la Fuerza Laboral de Educación Temprana de Rhode Island (**RISES**).
 - Cumplir con un nivel educativo que aparezca en la escala de suplementos WAGES (si se otorga en un nivel educativo temporal, los participantes deberán aumentar su educación dentro de dos años para mantener la elegibilidad.)*
- Visite <https://riaeyc.org/child-care-wage/> para obtener más información sobre los requisitos de elegibilidad.

Tenga en cuenta que todas las solicitudes deben enviarse en línea a través del portal oficial de solicitudes de **WAGES**. Lamentablemente, no se aceptarán solicitudes en papel. El equipo de WAGES estará disponible para ayudar con el proceso de solicitud en línea.

Puede encontrar información más detallada sobre el nuevo programa, incluyendo las pautas de elegibilidad y cómo postularse, en <https://riaeyc.org/child-care-wage/>. Recomendamos encarecidamente a todos los participantes anteriores a revisar estas actualizaciones, ya que aún podrían ser elegibles bajo los criterios revisados.

Atentamente,

Nicole Chiello
Associate Director, Office of Child Care, DHS

Lisa Hildebrand
Executive Director, RIAEYC



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