

3 Credit Requirement for REWARD recipients at Registry Level 7 through Level 10

REWARD participants who receive stipends at Registry Level 7, 8, 9, or 10 need to successfully complete 3 credits of Early Childhood Education (ECE) coursework to continue participation in the REWARD Wisconsin Stipend Program. Participants at Level 11 or a higher do not have to meet this requirement.

The participant has the duration of two six-month agreements to complete the credits. Example: provider applies for REWARD at Registry Level 7 - 10. The first six month agreement and a stipend is awarded. When this agreement expires, a second six month agreement and a stipend is awarded. Before the third six month agreement and stipend is awarded, the participant must demonstrate completion of 3 credits of ECE. This continues until the participant achieves Registry Level 11. Then the individual can participate in REWARD without completing further coursework.

The three credits need to be completed at a technical or community college, university, or public or private college, preferably a Wisconsin institute of higher education. Credits need to be completed in the Early Childhood Education Department, or if not in the ECE Department, need to be determined by The Registry to be related credits. The 3 credits can be completed all at once, or in 2 and 1 credit increments. The 3 credits of ECE need to be completed with a grade of C- or higher. The REWARD program will review an individual's Registry profile to verify if 3 credits have been completed, so transcripts indicating completion of credits will need to be submitted to The Registry.

To decide which courses to take, an individual should ask themselves "What is my professional development plan?" That way the courses you choose will not only help you to remain eligible for REWARD but could also meet your short and long term professional development needs. Some people may choose to take courses that will ultimately result in an associate's or bachelor's degree. Some people may choose to take courses in a Registry Credential, which is a shorter series of classes specialized to the age group with which you work. Some people may just want to look at one class. There are many options for REWARD participants.

FREE Professional Development Counselling Services are available through the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA). Counselors can help you to find coursework to meet this REWARD requirement, and are also able to discuss how the coursework may fit into your short and long term professional development goals. Visit our website at wisconsinearlychildhood.org/PDcounseling to get started. You can also contact the Professional Development Service at 800-783-9322 or professionaldevelopment@wisconsinearlychildhood.org

There is also support to help you complete the credits. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WISCONSIN Scholarship Program may be able to assist REWARD participants to meet this requirement. T.E.A.C.H. is a comprehensive scholarship program which is specifically designed to help early childhood providers complete credit based education, at little or no cost for the recipients or their programs. Contact T.E.A.C.H. at 800-783-9322 or teach@wisconsinearlychildhood.org

For more information:

In the Madison area: 608-729-1049

Statewide: 800-783-9322, ext. 7249

reward@wisconsinearlychildhood.org

Try our new **LIVE CHAT** on our website at wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/reward