



Dear Early Learning Program Professional,

The Jeannette Watson Wage Supplement Project, funded by City of Austin, Travis County, and the Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board, is a salary supplement program administered by Workforce Solutions Child Care Services. The salary supplement is intended as a means of identifying professionals who have furthered their education in Early Childhood Education and work with children from low-income families. This is an effort towards helping you continue to work in a field where wages are not commensurate with other skilled positions.

**This year there is an additional stipend for childcare staff without early childhood credentials working in high-quality Early Learning Programs.** This program is open to all staff working at Early Learning Programs, including teachers, assistants, drivers, food service, administrative, etc. Please review both sets of eligibility requirements below.

Award levels will be determined after applications are submitted. Supplements will be awarded based on available funding. Previous awards do not guarantee future payments.

All materials and application due **Friday, March 22, 2024**. Please upload documents to TECPDS *prior* to submitting application. An email will be sent when the application and documents are processed. Please check your email so that you can submit any missing documents prior to the deadline.

The application is now online! [CLICK HERE](#) for application. **Please see the checklist for items that must be uploaded to TECPDS.**

**Program 1: Premium Pay Wage Stipend for Jeannette Watson Recipients Eligibility Requirements:**

1. Works directly with children for at least 32 hours per week.
2. Has master's degree, bachelor's degree, associate's degree, and/or a CDA.
3. Must work at a licensed childcare program that is within the Travis County limits.
4. Must earn \$21.00 or less per hour.
5. Must have worked at their current center since October 1, 2023.
6. Priority will be given to staff working in a childcare program in which at least 10 children or 20% of all children enrolled are from families with low income.

**Program 2: Premium Pay Wage Stipend for Childcare Staff without Early Childhood Credentials Working in High-Quality Programs:**

1. Work in a TRS 4-star or nationally accredited childcare program (NAEYC or NAC accreditations).
2. Currently works in a childcare program for at least 32 hours per week.
3. Does not have master's degree, bachelor's degree, associate's degree, and/or a child development associate certification in the field of Early Childhood.
4. Must work at a licensed childcare program that is within the Travis County limits.
5. Must earn \$21.00 or less per hour.
6. Must have worked at their current center since October 1, 2023.
7. Stipends will be prioritized for those with the most tenure in the early childhood field. Application window will be open for a set amount of time and awards will be prioritized by tenure, awarding as many applicants as funding allows.
8. Additional priority will be given to staff working in a childcare program in which at least 10 children or 20% of all children enrolled are from families with low income.
9. All staff including support staff are eligible to apply, provided they meet the above requirements.



**Please note:** Completing the paperwork does not mean you are awarded. Award recipients will be notified via e-mail in May/ June 2024 requesting specific paperwork. Incomplete packets will not be considered.

Award payments will be sent out in Summer of 2024.

Please e-mail [CCSJW@wfscapitalarea.com](mailto:CCSJW@wfscapitalarea.com) with any questions.

Respectfully,

Heather Pate  
Child Development and Early Education Supervisor  
Workforce Solutions Child Care Services

This document contains vital information about requirements, rights, determinations, and/or responsibilities for accessing workforce system services. Language services, including the interpretation/translation of this document, are available free of charge upon request.

Este documento contiene información importante sobre los requisitos, los derechos, las determinaciones y las responsabilidades del acceso a los servicios del sistema de la fuerza laboral. Hay disponibles servicios de idioma, incluida la interpretación y la traducción de documentos, sin ningún costo y a solicitud.