

MADISON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES, INC.
Smart REWARDS APPLICATION: JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Education Level already attained (check **ALL** that apply):

___ High School Diploma/GED

Early Childhood Education:

___ AA Degree in ECE

___ BA/BS in ECE

___ MA/MS in ECE

___ Ph.D. in ECE

Other Fields (Specify field of study):

___ AA Degree _____

___ BA/BS _____

___ MA/MS _____

___ Ph.D. _____

Other Early Childhood Certificates or Credentials already attained (check **ALL** that apply):

___ NC Credential ___ Administrative Credential Level I ___ Level II ___ Level III

___ Early Childhood Certificate ___ Infant/Toddler Certificate ___ EC Special Education Certificate

Required Attachments to this application form:

- **ALL applicants:**

A Professional Development Plan (form provided in this application packet)

Applicant:

By signing below, I verify that all information I provided is accurate. I understand that Madison County Partnership for Children and Families (Smart Start) will report any professional development supplement I receive, in excess of \$600, to the Internal Revenue Service. I understand that The Partnership may use my name and application information for research/evaluation purposes. I agree to notify The Partnership of any changes in my employment status.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Employer:

I certify that _____ (name of employee) is currently employed by _____ (name of program) and that he/she works in a classroom directly with children ages birth to five at least 15 hours per week.

Authorized Signature/Title: _____ **Date:** _____

Name of Program: _____ License # _____

Return this application and the Professional Development Plan to: whitney@madisonss.org or mail to:

Smart REWARDS Coordinator
Madison County Partnership for Children
PO Box 1657
Mars Hill, NC 28754





Smart REWARDS

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SMART REWARDS EDU COURSE STIPENDS?

To be eligible, you must:

* Work in licensed child care in Madison County with children 0-5 years old for at least 15 hours per week (Directors or Asst. Directors do not need to work directly with children)

* Complete a college-level course in early childhood education with a C or better and/or receive a degree, credentials, or certificates in early childhood education between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Submit a completed application and Professional Development Plan to the Smart REWARDS Coordinator at the Partnership.

NOTE: Even if you are not taking early childhood courses in the Fall, but plan to in the Spring, we ask that you file your application packet now.

WHAT PAPERWORK IS REQUIRED?

ALL applicants:

Application and Professional Development Plan, signed by your center director

WHAT WILL I HAVE TO SEND AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER?

After completion of coursework: Copy of Grades/Transcript; copy of milestone degree or credential/certificate (or your application for the credential/certificate)

A *Grant Agreement* and *W9* will be provided to participants upon receipt in our office of grades/milestone paperwork, and must be returned before payments can be issued.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

The Professional Development Plan is a tool for you and your supervisor to plan your educational goals. It is a required attachment to the application. Both documents should be submitted together.

Previous Smart REWARDS participants complete a plan each year since the courses they enroll in change from year to year.

The Professional Development Plan enables the Partnership to plan funding for the project, both short- and long-term.

WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

Include every early childhood course you completed during the Summer, are enrolled in for Fall semester, and the courses you plan to take in the Spring. Provide the course number and name.

Also report any early childhood milestone(s) (degree, credentials, certificates, etc.) you expect to achieve between July 2024 - June 2025.

I DIDN'T ENROLL FOR FALL SEMESTER. CAN I APPLY FOR SPRING?

Yes. Also note that Fall participants do not need to re-submit the application package for Spring enrollment, but must notify the Professional Development Coordinator if they are taking Spring coursework or completing a milestone which will earn them a Smart REWARDS supplement, so the Partnership can ensure adequate funds in the budget to cover supplements paid in June.

WHERE DO I SEND REQUIRED PAPERWORK?

Paperwork may be mailed, faxed, or scanned and emailed.

Mailed

Madison Co. Partnership
PO Box 1657
Mars Hill, NC 28754

Scanned and e-mailed

whitney@madisonss.org

In Person

Spilman Hall, Mars Hill University
1st Floor, Room #213

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY PAYMENT?

Payments for Summer and Fall classes will usually be paid at the end of January. For the Spring semester, all checks will be issued prior to June 30th. Your check will be mailed to your home address, or you can enroll in direct deposit.

WHO CAN I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

Questions about Professional Development, PD Plans, TEACH, Working Scholars, Education Courses and College Enrollment: Penny Briggs: 689-1529 penny@madisonss.org

Questions specific to Smart REWARDS applications, grant agreements, W9s and payments:
Whitney Nazari: 689-1525 whitney@madisonss.org

Smart REWARDS
Supplement Amounts
For Enrollment Period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Qualification	Amount of Supplement
NC Early Childhood Credential (NCECC) (Earned with EDU 119)	\$50
Administrative Credential	\$50
Early Childhood Certificate; Infant / Toddler Certificate; BK License	\$100
AA Degree in Early Childhood or approved related field	\$250
EDU College Course with a C or better	\$350
BA/BS in Early Childhood or approved related field	\$500

***Milestones submitted during the enrollment period are only paid once**



MADISON COUNTY SMART START

Proudly Sponsors

**Smart
REWARDS**

Smart REWARDS is a professional development project for Madison County child care providers. It provides a financial supplement for child care staff who complete college level courses in early childhood education or who achieve an early childhood education milestone during the current enrollment period.

Who Is Eligible?

- ❖ Any child care provider who is employed in a licensed child care program in Madison County, AND
- ❖ Works at least 15 hours in a classroom with children ages Birth – Five, or is a center director or assistant director in a program serving children ages Birth – Five, AND
- ❖ Completes an approved early childhood college class with a grade of C or better, AND/OR
- ❖ Achieves an early childhood credential, early childhood certificate or early childhood college degree during the current enrollment period.

Deadlines:

- Summer & Fall Grades: January 17, 2025
- Spring Grades: June 13, 2025

CONTACT US NOW! YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE!

For more information and additional eligibility requirements,
contact Professional Development Coordinator: Penny Briggs
(828) 689-1529

Or

Penny@madisonss.org

