Definitions & Terms

Basic skills courses: Courses that enable an individual to enhance the skills necessary to successfully complete college-level coursework. Examples of basic skills courses can include: a) English as a Second Language (ESL), b) basic Math, c) Computer Literacy Skills and d) Reading/Writing skills. All courses must receive a grade of “C” or better.

Child Development (CD) coursework: Courses that are designed to prepare students for a career working with children age birth through adolescence. All courses must receive a grade of “C” or better.

Child Development Permit: The California Department of Education requires each staff person employed by a publicly funded child development program to maintain a current permit in the care, development and instruction of children enrolled in the program. There are six permit levels; each level is based on educational requirements set forth by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC): 1) Assistant Teacher Permit; 2) Associate Teacher Permit; 3) Teacher Permit; 4) Master Teacher Permit; 5) Site Supervisor Permit; and 6) Program Director Permit. The Sacramento CARES stipend eligibility requirements are based on the California Child Development Permit Matrix.

Child Development Training Consortium (CDTC): Funded by the State Department of Education and First 5 California, the consortium supports the professional development of the early childhood profession through a number of initiatives. These include grants for child development permit processing fees, career incentive grants, a community college program and a professional growth advisor project. The CDTC provides reimbursement of fees for fingerprinting required in the permit process. For more information, you can call (209) 572–6080 or visit www.childdevelopment.org.

Continuing Education Unit (CEU): A credit given at training or through a college’s Continuing Education Department. If CEU’s are submitted with the CARES application they will be counted only as professional growth hours, which apply only to CARES applicants in Tracks 2B and 5.

Core courses: Courses that include foundational knowledge and skills in early childhood education. These Core courses provide a basis for all other Early Childhood Education (ECE) courses. There are three course areas: a) Child, Growth and Development b) Child, Family and Community or Child and Family Relations c) Programs and Curriculum. Each Core course must be a minimum of 3 semester units or 4 quarter units. All courses must receive a grade of “C” or better.

Family Child Care Network: The Beanstalk Family Child Care Home Education Network consists of a select group of providers who are self employed, independent contractors. Each provider agrees to enroll children from families who qualify for the sliding fee programs (as established by the California Department of Education, Early Learning and Care Division) along with their private clients. Each independent contractor is licensed, maintains liability insurance, determines days and hours of operation, rules for their program, daily schedules, curriculum, services to be provided as well as enrollment of individual children and families.

General education (GE): Refers to coursework from a regionally accredited institution of higher education in subject areas other than early childhood education and/or child development. GE courses are courses in the following 4 areas that meet college graduation requirements: 1) English; 2) Math or Science; 3) Social Science; and 4) Humanities. All GE courses must meet graduation requirements at the college where they are taken and receive a grade of “C” or better to be considered for a CARES stipend.

Nationally accredited college or university: The CARES program for Sacramento County accepts course work only from colleges and universities that have achieved accreditation and are in good standing with one of the federally recognized accreditation bodies in the United States. For the listing visit http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx.

Raising Quality Together: Raising Quality Together (RQT) is Sacramento County’s Quality Rating and Improvement System. The Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) is a voluntary program focused on creating a comprehensive system that establishes uniform standards of quality for early learning programs, and provides quality research-based support for licensed early care and education centers and family child care homes serving children birth through age five.

Returning applicant: A participant that has received a CARES stipend in a prior year.

Transferable course: A course taken at one college or university that can be used for unit credit at another institution. This does not indicate how the course can be used to fulfill a subject matter requirement at a university campus.