Program Eligibility

Based on the California Department of Education program requirements for CARES AB212, eligible programs are Title 5 state subsidized, licensed child care centers and Family Child Care Home Education Networks (Beanstalk).

Elementary school classrooms, including Transitional Kindergarten, are not eligible.

If you have questions about your program and its funding, please contact your program administrator to determine whether your site receives Title 5 funding to provide state subsidized child care services.

Education Plan

Applicants will meet with a college advisor to develop an Education Plan. An Education Plan should identify your major or course of study, goal (certificate, degree or transfer) and courses you need to complete the goal. Your education plan is current as long as it shows the courses you took to qualify for CARES.

Professional Growth Action Plan

Applicants pursuing professional growth hours will submit a Professional Growth Action Plan in lieu of an Education Plan. Trainings, workshops, courses, or units should align with your professional goals and/or areas in need of improvement. The plan may align with an ERS, CLASS, BAS/PAS, ASQ or DRDP or other assessment or indicate intent to improve one’s knowledge or experience of the tools, scales, or resources referred to in the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

The Professional Growth Action Plan must include the following:

- The professional growth goals or program improvement areas to be addressed.
- The trainings, workshops, or professional development completed to address these areas or professional goals.
- Any improvements or changes made to your program as a result of the professional growth activity.

Qualifying Statement

Applicants who are pursuing a course of study or degree other than Child Development, Early Childhood Education, or that school’s direct equivalent of ECE must submit a qualifying statement addressing the following:

- Applicant’s professional goals.
- The reason the applicant chose or is continuing to pursue this particular course of study.
- An explanation of how the course of study relates to ECE.
- An explanation of the applicant’s clear intent to remain in the field of early child care.

The statement must be written by the applicant. It can be handwritten or typed and of any length that addresses the above bullet points.

Roster

Licensed family child care home owners must submit a roster of children cared for in 2019. Roster must include the following elements: child's name, birth date, date enrolled (start date), date ended, and hours per week in care.

Appeals Process

Applicants who receive a notification of ineligibility for the CARES program and disagree with the decision may appeal the decision within 14 days of notification by submitting a letter requesting an appeal be heard by the CARES Committee of the Local Child Care and Planning Council. Please explain why you feel you are fully eligible for CARES and submit any clarifying documents.