



TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES- CHILD DEVELOPMENT CAREERS



*Lauren Rudser, Cuesta College
College Seen Photo Contest 2007*

The Foundation for California Community Colleges' Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – Child Development Careers (TANF–CDC) program supports the education and teacher licensing of CalWORKs recipients. The program aims to increase the number of qualified early education professionals while providing CalWORKs recipients with the opportunity to earn a family-sustaining wage as an early childhood educator.

Creating Opportunities

The TANF–CDC program was designed by the California Department of Education – Child Development Division (CDE–CDD) to address the challenges CalWORKs recipients faced with the repeal of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, which provided financial support based on income and resources. The new TANF program placed a limit on the time a low-income family was eligible for federal assistance, but a lack of childcare kept many from returning

to work. The TANF–CDC program helps participants find the childcare necessary to continue their studies while increasing the number of qualified professionals to expand the early childcare system as a whole.

Providing Services

Since 2004, the Foundation has administered the program and provided participants with services such as training workshops, job placement assistance, financial assistance, on-campus support meetings, and career counseling. In addition, campus administrators and program staff receive ongoing training, technical assistance, and networking opportunities. Foundation staff work to improve program operations through innovative data collection tools, campus visits, and annual conferences for program staff.

Working Together

TANF–CDC works with CDE–CDD's California Early Childhood Mentor Program and Child Development Training Consortium to provide mentoring services and cover teaching permit application costs. The program also works in collaboration with the Foundation's Early Learning & School Readiness AmeriCorps Program (ELSRAP) to gain classroom experience. To be eligible, participants must be enrolled in an early care and education program at a participating Community College and be a CalWORKs recipient.

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Highlights

- Close to 500 participants have been certified as a teacher or associate teacher since 2004.
- 1,247 participants were enrolled in TANF–CDC for the 2006–07 program year.
- 47 of the 49 Community Colleges with early care and education programs currently participate.

Partner Organizations

- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- California Department of Education – Child Development Division
- California Department of Social Services
- California Early Childhood Mentor Program
- Child Development Training Consortium

The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. *For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.*