

Miami-Dade Quality Counts WAGE\$ Program Priority & Eligibility

Child Care WAGE\$® rewards the professional growth and retention of practitioners working directly with children in an Early Learning Career Center program. WAGE\$ is an incentive to advance practitioners in their Career Pathway and to build capacity at the same time we are professionalizing the Early Learning field. Both the WAGE\$ Program and the Early Learning Career Center will be collaborating toward the successful implementation of the Program.

A waitlist will be maintained at all times for all applicants regardless of changes in criteria. The movement and selection of those practitioners on a waiting list will be based on funding availability and annual revisions (effective each August 1st) of prioritization guidelines determined by The Children's Trust and the Early Learning Coalition.

Eligibility Criteria and Prioritization FY 2018-2019:

1. Practitioners working in a program participating in the Thrive by 5 QIS and meeting at least one of the following:
 - a. Currently pursuing a scholarship through ELCC or T.E.A.C.H. for college credit or a credential
 - b. Have completed a scholarship with a goal through ELCC or T.E.A.C.H. and achieved college credit or a credential within the past year
 - c. Have an Associate Degree or higher with 12 credits in ECE
 - d. *(If funds available, practitioners meeting next criteria will be selected)*
2. Practitioners working in a program participating in the Thrive by 5 QIS and pursuing a scholarship through ELCC for education goals not covered above (non-credit, etc.).
 - a. *(If funds available, practitioners meeting next criteria will be selected)*
3. Any practitioners working in a program participating in the QIS and meeting the WAGE\$ eligibility criteria.
4. Practitioners working in a licensed early learning program in Miami-Dade county, not participating in the Thrive by 5 QIS and meeting at least one of the following:
 - a. Currently pursuing a scholarship through ELCC or T.E.A.C.H. for college credit or a credential
 - b. Have completed a scholarship with a goal through ELCC or T.E.A.C.H. and achieved college credit or a credential within the past year
 - c. Have an Associate Degree or higher with 12 credits in ECE
 - d. *(If funds available, practitioners meeting next criteria will be selected)*
5. Practitioners working in a licensed early learning program in Miami-Dade county, not participating in the Thrive by 5 QIS and pursuing a scholarship through ELCC for education goals not covered above (non-credit, etc.).



- a. *(If funds available, practitioners meeting next criteria will be selected)*
- b. Any practitioners working in a program in a licensed early learning program in Miami-Dade county not participating in the Thrive by 5 QIS and meeting the WAGE\$ eligibility criteria.

Eligibility Criteria as of FY 2018-19:

- Practitioners working in the same Center/Program for more than six months (Proof of employment at that location will be requested)
- Practitioners earning less than \$17.50 an hour (Proof of hourly wage will be requested)
- Practitioners working directly with children for at least 20+ hours per week, and not in administration (Directors are not eligible, even if they have split roles)
- Practitioners receiving WAGE\$ will be able to continue to receive the supplement checks as long as they complete 3 ECE credits within two years of being accepted into the program and are in good standing, i.e. passing grades, completion of scholarship/course. Active participants' dates will be determined by their first commitment period in the 18-19 contract year.

Two Year 3 ECE Credits Requirement Exemptions:

- Practitioners at a level 6 or higher on the supplement scale
- Practitioners actively enrolled in an ESOL or EAP program (Proof of enrollment is required)