

Gateways Scholarship Program Supplemental Funding Summary 2021

Prepared by INCCRRA, December 2021

The Gateways Scholarship Program (GSP) is administered by Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) with joint funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). GSP pays a portion of tuition for eligible professionals working in Early Care and Education or School-Age programs who want to earn college credit, credentials, or degrees.

In 2021, The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) invested \$75,000 in supplemental funds through the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) in this program. These funds were specifically designated to reach individuals in the Early Care and Education workforce pursuing coursework leading to an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Professional Educator Licensure (PEL) with an Early Childhood endorsement at 4-year accredited higher education institutions in Illinois.

These funds helped to lessen the overall anticipated debt held by eligible individuals by paying up to 100% of their tuition for a maximum of 15 semester hours (23 quarter hours). At the conclusion of this project, 24 recipients had an average of \$3,125 paid on their behalf to an accredited Illinois higher education institution. Following are additional items about the program recipients.

