

LAKE COUNTY EARLY CARE & EDUCATION FUND

OVERVIEW & FUNDING IMPACTS

Established in 2023 in partnership with Lake County Build A Generation's Childcare Coalition and the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council, this fund is managed by the LCECE Fund Committee and makes awards annually based on submitted applications, a set of prioritized needs and gaps and established eligibility criteria.

FUNDING BY PRIORITY:

(Based on Funding Availability)

1. Credential Stipends for Professionals who hold an active Early Childhood Professional Credential (ECPC)
2. Tuition Assistance for Families
3. Quality Improvement - learning materials, minor improvement requests
4. General Operating - Licensing costs, employee benefits

Funding eligibility varies based on the type of provider

Provider Type:	Can apply for: (as long as eligibility reqs are met)
Licensed Providers (Centers & Homes)	All funding available in that year
New providers going through the licensing process	Licensing costs, Quality Improvement tied to requirements to get a childcare license, credential stipends
Qualified Exempt Providers	Licensing costs, tuition assistance, learning materials, credential stipends

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FUNDING SPECIFICS

1. Credential Stipends were identified as a Workforce Recruitment & Retention strategy that exists in neighboring counties and has been successful in attracting and keeping staff. This is an annual stipend.

ECPC Level	Stipend for Professionals working fewer than 30 hours/week	Stipend for Professionals working 30 hours/week or more
Level I	\$300	\$600
Level II	\$400	\$800
Level III	\$500	\$1,000
Level IV	\$600	\$1,200
Level V	\$700	\$1,400
Level VI	\$800	\$1,600

2. Tuition Assistance is awarded to the provider who is then able to award funding to families who fall under 500% of FPL. We ask that they use their current processes to figure out families who could use additional funding.

3. Quality Improvement funding includes both learning materials for classrooms and minor improvement funding.

4. General Operating supports licensing costs and employee benefits.

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2024 Funding Expenditures

Available Funding - 2024:

- \$35,000 Freeport
- \$50,000 City of Leadville
- \$80,000 Lake County
- \$165,000 Total Available

Total awards: \$160,700

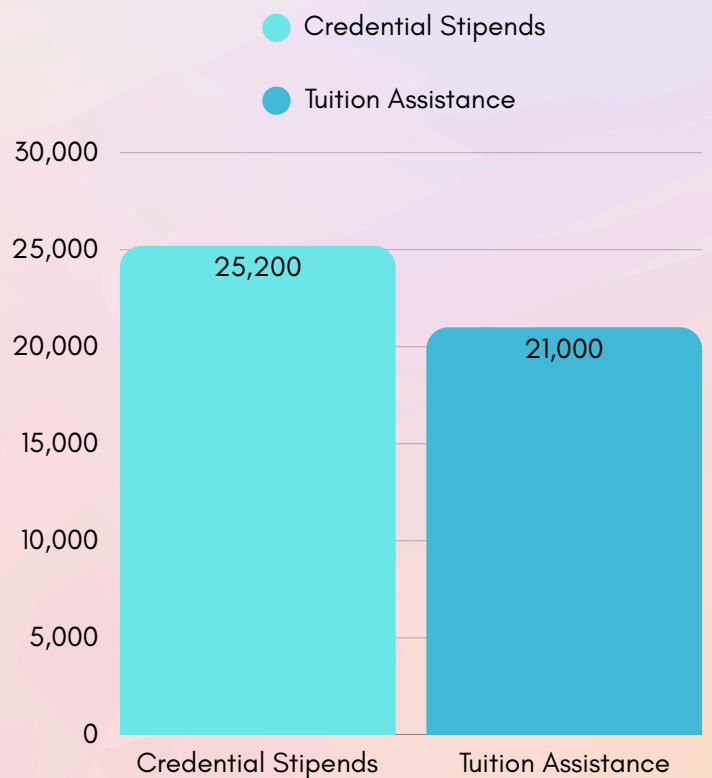


2025 Funding Expenditures

Available Funding - 2025:

- \$40,000 Freeport
- \$ 6,000 LCCF
- \$ 1,500 Private donations
- \$47,500 Total

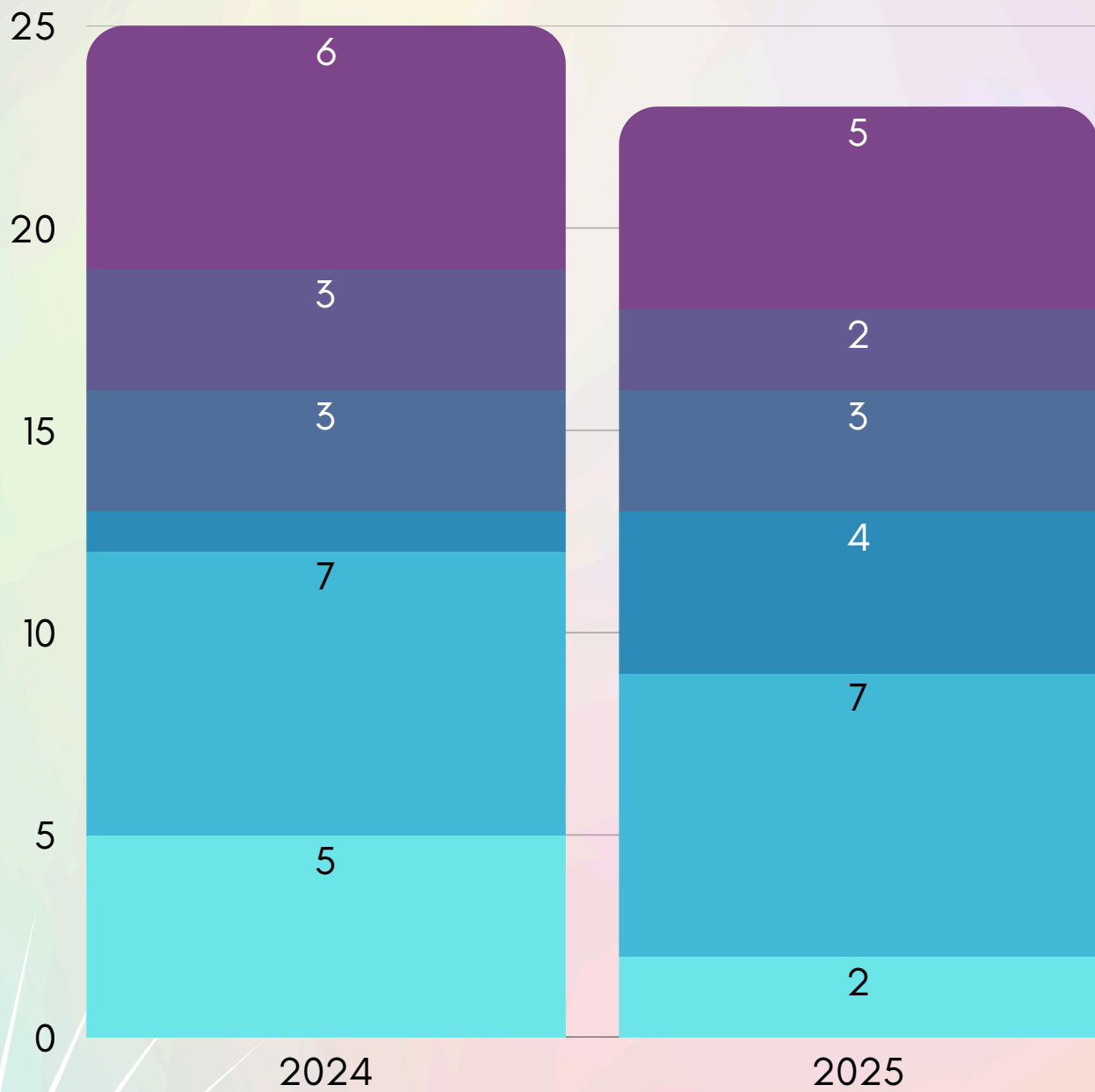
Total Awards: \$46,200



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Credential Stipends by Level

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4
- Level 5
- Level 6



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Additional Data

In 2024... (Inaugural year)

- 25 Professionals were awarded credential stipends
- 3 providers (2 centers, 1 home provider benefitted)

In 2025...

- 2 providers, both centers benefitted
- 23 Professionals were awarded credential stipends
 - 7 were new professionals
 - 5 professionals increased their credential level from the previous year
 - 11 credential levels remained the same including 4 who are at the highest level with a Level VI credential

TESTIMONIALS

“It was great to see the additional tuition assistance this year, (it) has been helpful with our family and we appreciate all the work The Center does for all families.”

“Thanks again for the tuition assistance, this has been helpful for our family, we were not expecting that, so it was a nice surprise.”

“Having this tuition assistance has helped me keep my student at school for longer hours, where its really benefiting him to be with his peers.”

“Thanks again for all that The Center does to support families enrolled.”