

Building Careers

Purpose of this program: The Building Careers in Early Education and Care program is a grant opportunity to 21 two- and four-year institutions of higher education across Massachusetts. The purpose of the program is to provide funding for college coursework and necessary supports such as academic advising and career counseling for educators in the field of early education and care and out of school time who are seeking a degree in early childhood education or a related field. The program is designed to help non-traditional students succeed academically and professionally.

Performance Measure: 160 educators earned a post-secondary degree in FY08.

Performance Measure: 103 courses (and 137 additional seats) were purchased in FY08.

Performance Measure: Over 400 hours of support services provided in FY08, which includes academic advising, matriculation support, and ESL support.

Program Demographics

FY09 Funding allocated: \$1.2M

(Additional \$219,668 allocated from Federal Preschool Special Education Grant)

	Number of educators served:	Number of Building Career Sites:
FY09:	717 (<i>projected</i>)	21
FY08:	749	21
FY07:	818	24
FY06:	869	25
FY05:	674	25

Building Career Participants:

Program Type:

54% IT or PreK Center-Based
16% Family Child Care
6% School Age Center-Based
3% Public school
8% Other

Ethnicity:

70% White
17% Hispanic or Latino
9% Black of African America
1% Asian or Pacific Islander
1% Multi-racial or multi ethnic
<1% American Indian or Alaska Native

Position Title

38% Teacher
28% Lead Teacher
15% Teacher Assistant
11% Director/Assistant Director
11% Family Child Care Provider

2% School Age Site Coordinator
1% Family Child Care Assistant
1% Group Leader
1% School Age Administrator
<1% Assistant Group Leader
12% Other



Income:

18% Below \$19,999
 60% \$20,000 - \$59,999
 19% \$60,000 – \$99,999
 4% Above \$100,000
 7% Unknown

Degree Pursuing

70% AA
 28% BA
 2% Certificate program

Program Successes and Challenges and Changes

- Governor’s Readiness agenda calls for Free Community College beginning with early education and care and out of school time professionals.
- 11 associate and bachelor degree programs accredited by NAEYC, NCATE, or CIHE; 5 additional campuses are in the accreditation process.
- FY09 is the first year that the program was included in the state budget and funded entirely. This transition also means a shift in the calendar year for programs; EEC will monitor this going forward impacts.
- Ability to support graduate and undergraduate coursework related to special education to the field, not just students participating in the Building Careers program.
- Uncertainty of funding available to support program; Building Careers was fortunately able to continue after reduction of the program from federal funding; and was even included in the Governor’s Supplemental Budget.
- EEC began in FY08 asking the Building Careers grant coordinator to reach out and make connections with the ECE scholarship students, Community Partnerships for Children Councils, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and local high schools. We will be continuing to work on improving this relationship this year.

Quotes from Students

“I enjoy taking classes with other child care providers, because we can bring personal classroom experience into our discussions as well as bounce new ideas off of each other or ask for suggestions from others in the same field of work.”

“It [the Building Careers program] has encouraged me to finish school.”

“I want to thank the building careers program for giving me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of getting my Associates degree in Early childhood education I love working with children and I would not change it for the world I now can bring back to the children all the experience I have learned in my classes Again Thank You So Very Much”

Emerging Performance Measures:

Measure	Plan
% of funds spent on tuition and % of funds spent on support services	Data will be collected in FY09 annual report.
Total number of cities and towns reached through grant	Data will be collected in FY09 annual report.

Further Information:

Katie DeVita, Professional Development Specialist
 MA Department of Early Education and Care
Katie.DeVita@massmail.state.ma.us p: 617-988-7827