

April 05, 2023

To Our Early Childhood Community:

Smart Start of Brunswick County (SSBC) works to ensure that all children have what they need to be happy, healthy, and ready for kindergarten when the time comes. We know that you play a BIG part in that! Young children develop and learn through their relationships with the adults in their lives, including the early childhood educators who care for them.

To encourage the staff at your site to further their own education, SSBC's will provide two rounds of *Education Bonuses* this year:

- ROUND 1 = for classes completed July 1 through December 31st
- ROUND 2 = for classes completed January 1st through June 30th

The bonuses will be based on completed coursework that is part of an Early Childhood degree. The amount of each bonus will depend on the number of semester credit hours completed, the grant funds available, and the total number of applicants. **ROUND 2 bonus checks will be issued no later than June 30, 2023.**

Please share the ROUND 2 application (included with this letter) with the staff at your site. The application has details about eligibility criteria, required documentation, and important due dates.

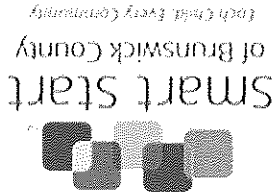
Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Laura Travis-Ehart
4-5-2023

Laura Travis-Ehart M. Ed
Program and Evaluation Director
ECC Grants Manager
Early Childhood Connections
Smart Start of Brunswick County
5140 Sellers Rd
Shallotte, NC 28470
www.smartstartbrunswick.org
lehart@smartstartbrunswick.org

Smart Start of Brunswick County
5140 Sellers St, Shallotte, NC 28470 / (910) 754-3166
www.smartstartbrunswick.org



**ROUND 2 Education Bonus
Fact Sheet for Child Care Centers**

Eligibility Criteria:

- Individual must be working in a NC Star-Rated childcare program that serves children birth to five years of age and must be employed at site during the entire **ROUND 2 period: July 1, 2022, through June 30th, 2023.**
- Classes must be part of an early childhood degree program (undergraduate or graduate level) at an accredited university or college.
- Individual must complete the course with an earned grade of "C" or higher as noted on a transcript or grade report.

The ROUND 2 application is due to Smart Start of Brunswick County (SSBC) by 5pm on Wednesday, June 12th, 2023, along with the required documentation below. Incomplete applications will not be accepted after the due date. SSBC will accept mailed, hand-delivered, and scanned documents.

ROUND 2 Checklist:

- ROUND 2 signed application
- Completed and signed W9 form
- Director's Statement
- Copy of unofficial transcript-Transcript must show the degree of study (Major). **Unacceptable transcripts:** advising transcript, transcripts without a college seal.

Special notes: Funding for the Education Bonuses is contingent upon state funding. The site must remain open and operating for staff to remain eligible for the bonus. A temporary closing of classrooms and/or the center (no more than 2 consecutive weeks) due to COVID quarantining is allowable.



Smart Start
of Brunswick County
Early Childhood Learning

**ROUND 2 Education Bonus
Application**

Name: _____ Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Name of Child Care Program: _____

Current Position/Title: Director _____ FCH _____
Assistant Director _____ Lead Teacher _____ Assistant Teacher _____ Floater _____
Other (please specify) _____

Age of Children you Work With: Infants _____ Toddlers _____ Preschoolers (age 2-5) _____ School Age Only _____
Other (please specify) _____

Education Information:

Name of college/university you are currently enrolled as a student: _____

Are you currently enrolled in a degree program: Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please name: _____

Are you currently participating in the **WAGES** program which is funded through Smart Start of Brunswick County and administered through Child Care Services Association? Yes _____ No _____

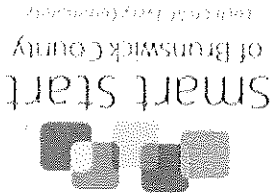
Are you currently participating in the **T.E.A.C.H.** Scholarship Program offered by Child Care Services Association? Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to be added to our Smart Start of Brunswick County email list to receive updates and information? Yes, please add me! _____ No _____

I understand that receipt of an Education Bonus is contingent upon state funding. I also understand that I am responsible for any applicable taxes associated with the bonus. I attest that the information that I provided in this application and supporting documentation is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____
Date _____

Smart Start of Brunswick County
5140 Sellers St., Charlotte, NC 28470 / (910) 754-3166
www.smartstartbrunswick.org



**ROUND 2 Education Bonus
Director Statement**

Staff applying for Education Bonus: _____

Date of Hire: _____

Name of Child Care Center: _____

Director/Owner's Name: _____

Is this staff person currently employed at the site: Yes ___ No ___ If no, date of termination: _____

I attest that the information that I provided in this statement is true and accurate.

Signature _____

Date _____

Print or type
See Specific Instructions on page 2

**Request for Taxpayer
Identification Number and Certification**

Give form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.

Name (as shown on your income tax return)

Business name, if different from above

Check appropriate box: Individual/sole proprietor Partnership Corporation Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (disregarded entity, corporation, partnership) Exempt payee

Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.)

City, state, and ZIP code

Last account number(s) (are optional)

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the Part I instructions on page 9. For other entities, if your employer identification number (EIN), if you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN* on page 9.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the chart on page 4 for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Employer identification number

or

Social security number

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am willing for a number to be issued to me), and I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (b) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and
- I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below).

3. I must certify that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and I am no longer subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (b) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and

4. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below).

For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, capital gain, or other interest or dividend payments other than interest and dividends, item 2 does not apply. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply.

Withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply.

For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, capital gain, or other interest or dividend payments other than interest and dividends, item 2 does not apply.

For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, capital gain, or other interest or dividend payments other than interest and dividends, item 2 does not apply.

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Purpose of Form

A person who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) to report, for example, income paid to you, real estate transactions, mortgage interest you paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, or contributions you made to an IRA.

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN to the person requesting it (the requester) and, when applicable, to:

1. Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued).
2. Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or claim an exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income.

Note: If a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

Sign

Signature of U.S. person

Date

Definition of a U.S. person. For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien.
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States.
- An estate (other than a foreign estate), or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 601.7701-7).

Special rules for partnerships. Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax on any foreign partners' share of income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, a partnership is required to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid withholding on your share of partnership income.

The person who gives Form W-9 to the partnership for purposes of establishing its U.S. status and avoiding withholding on its allocable share of net income from the partnership, including a trade or business in the United States is in the following cases:

- The U.S. owner of a disregarded entity and not the entity.