PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

For Utah’s Youth and Early Learning Professionals

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, HEAD START TEACHERS AND PRIVATE CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Those who choose to work with young children have the unique opportunity to shape a new generation. Research demonstrates the importance of high-quality care on the long-term emotional, behavioral and cognitive development of young children. Providing professional development opportunities is one key way to develop workforce and program quality.

CAREER LADDER SYSTEM

Utah’s Career Ladder system provides supportive coursework, a registry to track professional accomplishments and a system of professional recognition for youth and early learning professionals across the state. All Youth and Early Learning Professionals in Utah are eligible to participate in the system. Create your profile at https://careaboutchildcare.utah.gov. More information can be found on Career Ladder Levels and training opportunities by visiting https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/urpd/careerladder/index.html.

APPROVED CAREER LADDER COURSE OFFERINGS

Affordable courses are offered through Utah’s Care About Childcare agencies and community partners across the state. Use your Utah Registry for Professional Development (URPD) profile to track all of your continuing education hours. Courses taken through Care About Childcare and many other local partners will automatically be added to your transcript. Users may apply for endorsements and document other professional development by uploading new documentation of courses, certificates or degrees to their profile page at https://careaboutchildcare.utah.gov.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FINANCIAL AID AND INCENTIVES

Department of Workforce Services, Office of Child Care (OCC) funds multiple initiatives to access professional development for Youth and Early Learning Professionals that meet eligibility requirements. You may also apply for a Professional Development Incentive when you complete a new level in the Career Ladder System. For more information, go to https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/urpd/scholarships.html.

HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

OCC and URPD support higher education programs and provide resources to assist Youth and Early Learning Professionals with earning college credits and pursuing a degree in the field. To learn more about these opportunities, visit https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/urpd/highered.html.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program • Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling 801-526-9240. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech impairments may call Relay Utah by dialing 711. Spanish Relay Utah: 1-888-346-3162.
NAVIGATE YOUR CAREER PATHWAY

Journey Toward Excellence in an Early Childhood Career*

POSITIONS IN THE FIELD

- Assistant Teacher
- Lead Teacher
- Education Coordinator
- Instructional Leader
- Trainer
- Coach
- Consultant
- Specialist
- Technical Assistance Provider
- State System Leader
- State Policymaker
- Instructional Designer
- Higher Education Faculty
- Director or Licensee
- Instructional Leader
- Technical Assistance Provider
- Instructional Designer

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Basic Career Ladder Courses (Levels 1–3)
- Demonstrated Competency Credential (Level 4)
- Specialty Career Ladder Courses (Levels 5–8)
- Associate Degree (Level 9)
- Bachelor's Degree (Level 10)
- Master's Degree (Level 11)
- Doctorate Degree (Level 12)

Contact your local Care About Childcare agency for individualized professional development advising in planning your career pathway.

*Positions and related educational requirements vary between employers.