



## SPEEA ACE Childcare Scholarship Funds - Q&A

*This Q&A will have questions added to it throughout the existence of the program and serve as an ongoing resource for participating colleges. If you have questions, please send them to Jennifer Dellinger at [jdellinger@sbctc.edu](mailto:jdellinger@sbctc.edu).*

### General Questions

- **How were the 5 colleges selected?**
  - We have 19 community and technical colleges participating in Aerospace 1000. Since these funds are for student parents in Aerospace or related programs, we looked at which of the CTC that had more robust programs, and of those, where could we find student parents enrolling in their programs. As an initial single indicator, we used BFET enrollments since those are tracking across the system. This gave us a data set to analyze. Upon invitation, SBCTC met with each to go over the contract, the requirements, and answer any questions. Colleges can receive up to \$80,000.
- **It was mentioned that there has been funding for five years now and that the funding comes from the grant. I was under the impression that this was just a one-year award, is that not the case? What organization provided the funding for the grant.**
  - For the five community and technical colleges invited to participate under SBCTC's contract, this is a one year only opportunity to participate for FY26. It technically can begin as soon as August 1, 2025, and stops June 30, 2025. We have a hard deadline of August 15, 2025, to get our selected community and technical colleges awarded.
  - SPEEA ACE has had the grant for five years. All the funding has come from Dept of L&I grants from the state of WA. They are in the last year of this grant in which they have funding for childcare assistance. They are trying to spend all the funds as quickly as possible.
- **Is the \$5K per student for childcare per year in addition to the Foundation \$5K limit. Meaning a student could receive a maximum of 10K with both childcare funds, or is there a \$5K limit per student with both buckets of funding?**
  - There is a 5K school year limit for school year funds, no matter where the funds come from, whether that's SBCTC or otherwise. If you have a foundation office that has been participating with SPEEA ACE directly, you will want to

establish a process to ensure students have not received the maximum award from either the Student Support Programs or the foundation office.

- **SPEEA ACE staff mentioned a sense of urgency in getting these childcare funds to students. Have you looked at any data, whether SPEEA or SBCTC, on what is preventing students from accessing these funds? What are some of the things that you see that have created barriers for students to access these funds?**
  - SBCTC - For students in general, navigation is a huge barrier. Understanding eligibility, where and how to access funds. They often screen themselves out trying to determine their own eligibility. The other barrier is awareness. We are going to be integrating this with our Basic Needs Navigators at your campuses, in support of providing targeted outreach for the SPEEA childcare scholarship to aerospace students. The other piece that is a very common barrier is access and what that looks like. We know that low barrier access is a positive and that is the goal with these funds.
  - SPEEA ACE - When we worked with the very first childcare recipient, we had to have a conversation with him five times before he accepted funds. This seemed to be a cultural barrier - wanting to have people in the community care for their children. SPEEA ACE can support this option.
- **Are certificate programs not eligible for this?**
  - Correct, they would need to be enrolled in an associates or bachelor's degree.
- **Is the fact that we're not disbursing funds to students a requirement on the part of the grant or SBCTC? I think it would be interesting to see if there are a couple of different options available for colleges and students. Disbursing small \$15 checks to students would present a workload issue.**
  - SBCTC - Keeping this low barrier on the student and the staff is important. As colleges are looking to implement this, they may determine that doing a bunch of small awards is not the way to go. It might make more sense to choose to fund students who have full daycare expenses to pay for. This is up to the college to decide how to determine which students would be awarded with the funds. The college needs to have a funding model that allows for a broad range of whom they may want to serve.
  - SPEEA - currently we cannot give funds directly to students. That is laid out in the grant language both for childcare assistance and for tuition scholarships. They are supposed to go to financial aid, not directly to students per the contract with the funder.
- **I know we have to do monthly billing, but could we award a student per quarter? If we made a four quarter award for them, could that be posted, but as it is disbursed,**

**could we pay just what was billed for? Like the idea of doing a quarterly award. The business office would be upset if they were asked to cut \$15 checks monthly.**

- Yes. Just like any financial aid if you determine financial aid for the year, it's applied and it doesn't go through, that award would be there and wouldn't pay out. It would take from unmet need, but it wouldn't be billed out until the quarter comes up. Colleges get to be autonomous with how that awarding philosophy is built - what makes the most sense for your student population?
- **Our colleges and Foundation Offices will need to work in lock step with awards. It seems there is a need to prioritize the SBCTC funds first than once exhausted use Foundation funds, correct.**
  - Working together will be important to ensure any single student is not over awarded. How you and your foundation office do this is up to you.
  - We have \$5K to start in Foundation but have an ability to request more. Awarding the \$5K then not requesting additional funds through Foundation until the \$80K is exhausted could be a good way to go.
- **How soon do you think we will have the item types to use?**
  - Item types are already developed and will be available to colleges once they have received their awards from SBCTC. You will request your item types via Solar Winds ticketing.
- **Previous childcare funding - struggled with this because they could only pay after the services were received. Can we prepay for childcare? Can we pay for June daycare on June 1? What about paying for the entire quarter, where we pay for the entire tuition and quarter ahead of time? Would prefer to pay month to month.**
  - SBCTC - this could be possible based on the processes we've set up. \$5K is the limit. What happens if the child no longer goes to that childcare facility? Colleges would need a process set up for the childcare center/provider to reimburse the college directly for funds not used.
- **What happens if the childcare provider is an individual and not a business?**
  - We just added this process to the guidelines. The program is called Family, Friends, and Neighbor Care and runs through DCYF. The person has to register for unlicensed childcare and prove they can do the basics of childcare. When the person is registered and approved through DCYF, they can provide their approval number to the student who provides it to the school.