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Funding available for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs on community college campuses

Purpose of grant is to provide career development opportunities to welfare recipients

SACRAMENTO—The Foundation for California Community Colleges is seeking applications for the implementation of a program that supports the education and teacher licensing of welfare recipients. Funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – Child Development Careers (TANF-CDC) program is available for California Community Colleges on a continuous basis through July 2009, and colleges are eligible to receive up to \$60,000 to implement TANF-CDC services on their campuses.

“The TANF-CDC program represents a second chance for many who want to get their education and change their lives for the better, but who have a difficult time finding adequate child care so they can devote their time to going to school,” said Hillery Gladden, Executive Director of Youth and Adult Services for the Foundation.

The TANF-CDC program addresses two critical needs – the need for welfare recipients to get training and certification that will lead to a career, and the need to fill gaps in the early childhood care field. Its purpose is to enroll CalWORKs (California’s Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Act) recipients and offer them early childhood education courses, support services and employment opportunities that lead to economic self-sufficiency.

The program was designed by the California Department of Education – Child Development Division (CDE-CDD) to address the challenges CalWORKs recipients faced with the repeal of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, which provided financial support based on income and resources. A new law, known as the Temporary Aid for Needy Families Act, was passed in 1997 and placed a limit on the time a low-income family was eligible for federal assistance. However, a lack of childcare was a critical barrier that kept many from returning to work after the new law was passed.

The TANF-CDC program was created to ease the impact of welfare recipients’ work participation requirements by providing more childcare availability for welfare recipients, and generating employment opportunities in the field of early childhood care and education.

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The Foundation for California Community College was selected by the CDE-CDD in 2004 to provide statewide administration, technical assistance and leadership for the TANF-CDC program. Since that time, the Foundation has helped 480 participants become licensed as teachers or associate teachers.

Thanks to the available funding, more California Community Colleges will have the opportunity to implement the program on their campuses. In order to receive funding, colleges must demonstrate that they can provide the staffing and support services on campus to successfully carry out the program's mission.

“Through this program, we are looking for college campuses to provide the adequate counseling and advisement that will help participants succeed in their areas of studies,” added Gladden.

Since the funding is available on a continuous basis, there is no deadline for filing an application. However, applying early increases the available funding for applicants as it is prorated on a fiscal year basis. Additional details, as well as the full Request for Applications, are available at www.foundationccc.org/tanf.

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The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors, Chancellor, and System Office. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. *For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.*
