

Community College Early Childhood - Spring Semester 2021

Virginia Early Childhood Foundation

Are you eligible to fill out this application?

Community College Early Childhood Programs - application is for those:

1. currently employed working with preschoolers and
2. working towards completing an Early Childhood certificate or AAS degree at a VA community college.

Pre-Application information

Your Project Pathfinders Application can be completed in just a few minutes.

Here's what you need before you start:

- **Apply to VDSS/VACC:** You can find the VDSS/VACC application at www.vaccscholarship.com. You DO NOT have to wait for a decision from them before submitting a Pathfinders application. Questions should be sent to vaccscholarship@doe.virginia.gov or 804-726-7700.
- **Get your transcript:** If you have received Project Pathfinders funding for a prior semester, you will be asked to upload a transcript as part of the application. (This does not pertain to a semester currently in session!)
- **Be enrolled:** You must be enrolled or enroll in a Virginia community college and have a valid student ID. (For assistance with the enrollment process, please contact your chosen community college admissions office, or Project Pathfinders Advisor, Mila Spaulding, at pathfinders@vecf.org or 804-749-8149.)
- You'll need the **name and number of the courses** that you want to take.
- You'll need to provide the **name and address of your current employer**.

Your application cannot be processed until these items are completed.

Important Notice: Pathfinders awards will be applied to a student's account only if a balance exists after other scholarships and/or grants (such as Pell Grant, VGAP, VTAG, and VDSS scholarship) have been applied. All payments are paid directly to the community college.

Navigating the Degree Pathway--for Students Interested in Transfer

Note about Transfer Credits:

If you are completing the OLD 67-credit AAS degree, and want to transfer into a 4-year program you *may* need to take the following courses at the community college:

EDU 200

ENG 250 or 241, or 242

PSY 230

HIS 121 or 122

BIO 101

Character Limit: 1

Important Tips for Using the Application Form

- Questions with an ***** are required and must be completed to successfully submit your application.
- The system will **automatically save your answers as a draft**.
- Clicking "**save application**" at the bottom of the form is a good safe guard before exiting the system to ensure that your last few responses are saved.
- **When returning to a draft application**, locate the draft on your user dashboard (the first page you see after log in), then **click the blue "Edit Application" link** to begin where you left off.
- When you're ready, click **Submit Application**.
- Each applicant needs a unique user name, password, and email address.

Privacy Notice

This privacy notice discloses the privacy practices of Project Pathfinders as administered by Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

Information Collection, Use, and Sharing

We are the sole owners of the information collected on this site. We only have access to/collect information that you voluntarily give us in the application process or via direct contact from you. We will not sell or rent this information to anyone.

We will use this information to respond to you, regarding the reason you contacted us.

We may use this information to share data with higher education institutions and state agencies in Virginia.

We may use this information to contact you about future opportunities for the early childhood workforce.

Your Access to and Control Over Information

You may contact us via the email address/phone number on our website to:

See what data we have about you

Change or correct data we have about you

Express concern about our use of your data

Security

We take precautions to protect your information. When you submit sensitive information, your information is protected both online and offline.

Information you provide on the online grant and scholarship portal is encrypted (you can verify this by looking for the “https” in the address bar of the web page).

Only VECF employees or contractors who need the information to perform a specific responsibility related to fulfillment of the scholarship program objectives are granted access to personally identifiable information. This information is password protected and available only to the personnel whose responsibility it is to safeguard the success of the program and scholarship recipients.

If you have any questions or concerns about the security or use of your information, please contact us immediately at 804.358.8323 or info@vecf.org.

Agreement to Privacy Notice*

I have read and agree to the privacy notice.

Choices

Yes

No

Applicant Name*

Character Limit: 100

Program Completers*

VECF is interested in tracking program completion. I have completed a certificate or degree using Pathfinders scholarship funds.

Choices

Yes

No

Program Completer Certificate/Degree

Program Completer Certificate/Degree*

Which certificate/degree have you completed?

Choices

CDA

Infant and Toddler Certificate

EC Career Studies Certificate

EC Certificate

AAS in Early Childhood Development

VDSS/VACC Child Care Scholarship

VDSS/VACC Child Care Scholarship*

I have applied for a VDSS/VACC Scholarship for the **2021 Spring Semester**. If assistance is needed with the application, contact VDOE at vaccscholarship@doe.virginia.gov.

Choices

Yes

No, because I am only requesting funding for ESL courses

No, because I have reached the maximum amounts allowed.

Other--Please explain

"Other" Explanation

If you answered "other" to the question above, please explain.

Character Limit: 250

VDSS/VACC Scholarship Application Status

VDSS/VACC Scholarship Application Date*

Please list the date you submitted your application to VDSS/VACC.

Character Limit: 10

VDSS/VACC Scholarship Application Status

Please provide details about the result of your VDSS/VACC scholarship application. (if known)

Character Limit: 1000

Pathfinders Application History

Semester*

In what semester will the Pathfinders scholarship funds be used?

Choices

Spring 2021

Pathfinders Application History*

Pathfinders scholarship funds are available to both **new applicants** and **returning recipients**.

- **New applicants** have **never been approved** for the **Pathfinders Scholarship Program**.
- **Returning recipients** have been **approved** for the **Pathfinders Scholarship Program in the past**.

Please select one of the following that best describes your history with Pathfinders.

Choices

I am a new applicant to Pathfinders Scholarship Program.

I am a returning recipient--I have **ONLY** been approved for the current semester, fall 2020

I am a returning recipient of Pathfinders Scholarship Program.

Transcript Upload

Transcript*

Please upload your transcript for the last semester for which you received Pathfinder funding. (This does not include the current semester, fall 2020.)

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Applicant Current Employment

Applicant Current Employment

Eligible applicants must be a paid employee in one of the following types of early childhood programs:

- Licensed child care
- Religious exempt child care (weekday program)
- Licensed or voluntarily registered family day home
- VPI, Head Start, or other public preschool program

****Note:** If you have recently been laid off or lost work due to COVID-19, please enter information for the employer you were working for at the time of layoff.

COVID-19

Have you experienced a recent layoff due to COVID-19?

Choices

- Yes
- No

Program Operations

Is your program currently open and serving children?

Choices

- Yes
- No

Program Name:*

Please list the name of the program where you are employed.

Character Limit: 250

Supervisor's Name:*

Character Limit: 250

Work Street Address*

Character Limit: 250

Work City*

Character Limit: 50

Work Zip Code*

Character Limit: 5

Employer's Email address:*

Character Limit: 254

Employer's Phone Number:*

Character Limit: 50

Registered Apprenticeship

Are you applying for this scholarship as a Registered Apprentice?

Note: This means your employer has enrolled in the Registered Apprenticeship program through the Virginia Department of Labor & Industry. You should also have a Registered Apprenticeship card.

To learn more about Registered Apprenticeships, contact Alyson Williams at Alyson@vecf.org.

Choices

- Yes
- No

Program Setting*

Please indicate the type of child care or preschool program where you are employed.

Choices

Family child care home
 Private center (not faith-based)
 Faith-based center
 Head Start program
 School based pre K
 Other

Program Setting - Other

If you answered "Other" to the question above, please explain:

Character Limit: 250

Role at Time of Application*

Eligible applicants are those who are lead teachers, assistant teachers (aides), or administrators in child care or preschool programs.

What is your current role?

Choices

Lead teacher
 Assistant teacher (aide)
 Director
 Assistant Director
 Principal
 Other

Role at Time of Application - Other

If you answered "Other" to the question above, please list your current job title and a job description here:

Character Limit: 250

Work With Children Birth through Preschool at Time of Application*

Eligible applicants are those who are currently working directly with infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers (birth through preschool).

With what age children do you currently work?

Choices

Infants
 Toddlers
 Preschoolers (3 and/or 4 year olds)
 Mixed Age Group (infants - 4 year olds)
 Other Age Group

Work With Children Birth through Preschool at Time of Application - Other

If you marked "Other Age Group" in the question above, please list current ages.

Character Limit: 250

Children At-risk at Time of Application*

VECF will prioritize scholarship recipients who are working with children who are at-risk.

Note: Children may be considered at-risk for school readiness based on a variety of factors, including socioeconomic status, receipt of child care subsidies, qualifying for free- or reduced price lunch, identified with special needs, or participating in public preschool programs such as Head Start or Virginia Preschool Initiative.

Please indicate whether at least some of the children in your care are at risk.

Choices

Yes

No

N/A- I'm a dually enrolled high school student

Academic Institution Information

Academic Institution Information*

Which academic institution do you plan to attend?

Choices

Blue Ridge

Central Virginia

Dabney S. Lancaster

Danville

Eastern Shore

Germanna

J. Sargeant Reynolds

John Tyler

Lord Fairfax

Mountain Empire

New River

Northern Virginia

Patrick Henry

Paul D. Camp

Piedmont

Rappahannock

Southside Virginia

Southwest Virginia

Thomas Nelson

Tidewater

Virginia Highlands

Virginia Western

Wytheville

Student ID # at Time of Application*

Character Limit: 20

Education Level at Time of Application*

What is the HIGHEST level of your current education?

Choices

- Have a High School diploma/GED
- Some college courses towards a certification in Early Childhood
- Have a certification in Early Childhood (Specify below)
- Some college courses towards an Associates Degree in Early Childhood
- Have an Associates Degree in Early Childhood (Specify below)
- Some college courses beyond an Associates Degree in Early Childhood
- Have a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood (Specify below)
- Other (Specify below)

Specifics Regarding Certification, Degree, or Other

Please provide name and/or other specifics regarding the certification, degree or other current highest education level that you've attained.

Character Limit: 350

Higher Education Degree/Certification Focus*

VECF is interested in supporting students' setting and achieving specific credentialing goals through this scholarship program.

What is the higher education degree or certification that you will be working on using these scholarship funds?

Note: This focus must be attainable within the Virginia Community College system.

Choices

- CDA
- Infant/Toddler Certificate
- EC Career Studies Certificate (16-29 credits)
- EC Certificate (30-59 credits)
- AAS in Early Childhood Development (OLD 67-credit program)
- AAS in Early Childhood Development (NEW 62-credit program)
- I've completed the older EC AAS and need credits to complete the newer/2+2 EC AAS degree
- Teacher Licensure Recertification For Current Early Childhood Teacher
- Other (explanation required in the next question)

Other Higher Education degree/certification focus

If you selected Other, please describe your higher education degree/certification focus.

Character Limit: 500

Financial Aid Assistance to Applicants

Financial Aid Assistance to Applicants

Project Pathfinders will provide assistance to applicants in seeking federal financial aid and/or available scholarship funding upon request. Please email pathfinders@vecf.org for assistance.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*

I have filed a FAFSA for the 2020-21 academic year.

Choices

Yes

No or not sure

Assistance needed with application

Results FAFSA Application

Please indicate whether you are Pell- grant eligible, and the amount of Pell funding available to you.

Character Limit: 1000

Course/s Number and Name

Course/s Number and Name

What course(s) and related costs would you like covered by Pathfinders this semester?

(Note: Project Pathfinders scholars may request scholarships for up to two courses per semester.)

Note: When you registered with your Community College you were assigned an academic advisor. That advisor should be your best source of information on which course(s) to take each semester.

Note: If requesting funding for an ACLI/ESL course through the Workforce Department at your college, please include the following class information as shown in this example: ESL 2.1, CLASS ID # 12979, 7020014.

Course # 1- Number and Name*

Character Limit: 100

Course # 1-Tuition Assistance*

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the cost of tuition for this course?

Choices

- Yes
- No

Course #1- Mandatory Fees*

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the mandatory fees related to this course?

Choices

- Yes
- No

Course # 1- Support for Books*

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the cost of the required textbook?

Choices

- Yes
- No

Course # 2- Number and Name

Character Limit: 100

Course # 2- Tuition Assistance

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the cost of tuition for this course?

Choices

- Yes
- No

Course # 2- Mandatory Fees

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the mandatory fees related to this course?

Choices

- Yes
- No

Course # 2- Support for Books

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the cost of the required textbook?

Choices

- Yes
- No

Results of FAFSA Application

Results of FAFSA Application*

Please indicate whether you are Pell-grant eligible.

Choices

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Amount of Pell Funding

Amount of Pell Funding

Please indicate the amount of Pell Funding available to you.

Character Limit: 20

Optional Demographic Information

Project Pathfinders is interested in learning more about you. We hope you will answer these optional demographic questions to help us better understand our participants.

Race--check all that apply

Choices

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

Ethnicity

Choices

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

Date of Birth

Character Limit: 10

Years of Experience in Early Childhood Education

Character Limit: 2

Signature

Signature- Application*

By typing my name in this space, I verify that all information is accurate and request consideration for this scholarship opportunity.

Character Limit: 100

This completes the Pathfinders application questions.

Please scroll down to click **Submit Application** so your request can be reviewed by VECF.

If you have any questions, please email Mila Spaulding, Project Pathfinders Advisor, at pathfinders@vecf.org or call her at 804-749-8149.