



Tuition Support Program

The Tuition Support Program is supported by First Things First and administered by Smart Support, a program of Southwest Human Development. Its goal is to increase the number of mental health professionals in Arizona who have expertise in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health disturbances and disorders that affect children in the birth to 5 age range and who have the knowledge and skills to help families and early childhood professionals in the community support the mental health and social-emotional development of young children.

The Tuition Support program funds courses, conferences and workshops on evidence-based or promising practices, policies and/or research related to infant and early childhood mental health. Individuals may receive up to \$5,000 in awards in a 12-month period. During a three-year period, an individual will not be awarded more than \$10,000. Each training or semester warrants its own, individual application. Awards for registration costs above \$500 are generally met at 60% of costs.

The review committee meets bi-monthly. Be sure to have your application completed in plenty of time for qualifying, review and processing payments. We cannot confirm that one month in advance of training is enough. We will do our best to expedite processing, but please plan as far in advance as possible. If you are working on a graduate degree and are awarded Tuition Support, we will ask you to provide us with your scholarship office information, as we will plan to fund them directly.

All Tuition Support information and applications can be found online at swhd.org/tuitionsupport. Applications must be submitted online.

Eligibility:

1. Applicants for tuition support must have an advanced degree (i.e. master's degree or higher) in a license-eligible* mental health discipline (clinical psychology, counseling psychology, educational psychology, marriage and family therapy, social work, clinical nursing with mental health focus, psychiatry) or be matriculated in a graduate program leading to an advanced degree in a license eligible mental health discipline.
**License-eligible degrees through regulating boards such as the Arizona Board of Behavioral Examiners or the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners*
2. Applicants for tuition support must be working in a capacity that includes services to children in the birth to 5 age range in the state of Arizona. Applicants who are currently pursuing a graduate degree must intend to focus on or include in their professional activities services to children in the birth to 5 age range in the state of Arizona. This intent must be articulated in the application.

3. Applicants working with children age 5 and younger in under-served areas of Arizona will receive priority for awards.
4. Applicants must be residents of Arizona.
5. Applicants who receive funds to cover the cost of a semester or more of coursework must sign a Commitment of Residency and Service that indicates their agreement to maintain residency in Arizona and to serve the birth to 5 population for a specified period, post-completion of the funded course work. The required period of residency and service will be equal to twice the length of the coursework. For example, coursework funded for one semester (approximately four months) will require residency and service equal to two semesters. Coursework funded for one year will require residency and service equal to two years.
6. Applicants who receive funds to register for coursework, conferences, or other approved professional activities but who ultimately do not satisfy the specific funding requirements (e.g. proof of satisfactory final grade [B or better], proof of attendance, copy of certificate or degree) must reimburse the Tuition Support Program for the full amount of the funds they received. Amount of Funding Smart Support wishes to distribute funds so that the greatest number of professionals can benefit. With that in mind, please consider other sources of funding that may be available to you and request from Smart Support only what is necessary.

If you have questions, please contact us at tuitionsupport@swhd.org.