

CARES Plus Round 2 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Scenario: A first-year CARES Plus participant is approved for CORE and Component A. However, the participant already has completed the three CORE online classes: Introduction to the CLASS[®], Looking at CLASSrooms[®], and *Kids and Smoke Don't Mix*. The online training was completed within the past two program years, but not within this program year.

Question A: Is the participant eligible to receive a CARES Plus CORE stipend?

Answer: No. The participant is not eligible for a CARES Plus CORE stipend. However, the participant would be exempt from completing the CORE requirements again since they were completed within the past two program years. Because the CORE requirement was waived, the participant would need to choose to participate in another Component in order to receive a stipend.

Note: CARES Plus allows an exemption from the online course requirement for first year participants who have completed the three courses within the prior two program years (as in the example above), but it does not allow participants to receive a stipend for training completed outside of CARES Plus. CARES Plus was designed to award stipends only to participants who complete CARES Plus requirements during each program year.

Question B: Is the participant eligible to receive a CARES Plus Component A stipend?

Answer: Yes. If participants complete Component A requirements during the program year as well as the annual requirements, they would be eligible for a Component A stipend.

2. Scenario: A first-year CARES Plus participant has completed the Introduction to the CLASS Tool within the past two program years, but not Looking at CLASSrooms or *Kids and Smoke Don't Mix*.

Question: Does this participant need to repeat Introduction to the CLASS Tool as part of the CARES Plus CORE requirements?

Answer: No. The participant is not required to repeat Introduction to CLASS Tool since the course was completed within the past two years. However, to be eligible for a CORE stipend, the participant must complete the two remaining CORE online classes, Looking at CLASSrooms and Kids and Smoke Don't Mix. The participant also must complete the annual requirements to be eligible for a CORE stipend. (Annual requirements: develop a professional development growth plan and meet with a CARES Plus advisor at least twice during the program year).

3. Scenario: A CARES Plus participant is enrolled in Components A and C. The participant did not complete the Component A requirements, but did complete the Component C requirements.

Question: Is the participant eligible to receive a stipend?

Answer: Yes. The participant would be eligible for a Component C stipend. However, since the requirements for Component A were not completed, the participant would not be eligible for a Component A stipend.

4. Scenario: A first-year participant enrolled in both CORE and Component A. The participant completes the Component A requirements, but does not complete the CORE requirements.

Question: Is the participant eligible to receive a stipend?

Answer: No. All first-year participants must complete the CORE requirements before any stipend can be awarded.

5. Scenario: Our local AB 212 program allows participants to complete only higher education courses (Component B). However, a teacher in the local state-funded program wants to enroll in CARES Plus Component A or D, both of which are both offered in our local CARES Plus program.

Question: Is the participant eligible to participate in CARES Plus?

Answer: Yes. However, the participant is eligible to receive a stipend from only one source, either AB 212 or CARES Plus. There can be no duplication of services.

6. Question: If a participant is participating in a local Resource and Referral Child Care Initiative Project (CIP), can this person simultaneously participate in CARES Plus?

Answer: Yes. The participant must meet CARES Plus eligibility requirements, including the operation of a licensed family child care home.

7. Question: If a participant is working toward a degree in Human Development, can he/she participate in CARES Plus Component B?

Answer: Yes. Human Development is considered a related early childhood development education field of study.

8. Question: If a participant is working toward obtaining a degree in Psychology, can he/she participate in CARES Plus Component B?

Answer: Yes. The participant must take some early childhood education courses as part of his/her coursework.

9. Question: Are directors who supervise early learning teachers, but do not directly work with children ages 0 to 5, eligible to participate in CARES Plus?

Answer: Yes. Directors who supervise early learning teachers but do not directly work with children ages 0 to 5, are eligible to participate in CARES Plus Components A, B, and C. They are not eligible to participate in Component D.

10. Scenario: A participant working in a preschool classroom 15 hours per week also is student teaching in a K-12 classroom to obtain an Elementary (Multiple Subject) Teaching Credential.

Question: Is the participant eligible to participate in CARES Plus Component B?

Answer: Yes. The participant is eligible to participate in Component B because they meet the minimum requirement of working with children ages 0 to 5 for 15 hours per week. However, to be eligible for a stipend, the participant must complete a minimum of 6 units of higher education as well as complete the annual CARES Plus requirements.

11. Scenario: A participant is working toward obtaining an Elementary (Multiple Subject) Teaching Credential and is student teaching in a K-12 classroom.

Question: Can the participant substitute his/her student teaching hours for the hours required to work with children 0-5?

Answer: No. Student teaching cannot be substituted for the CARES Plus requirement of being employed a minimum of 15 hours per week serving children 0 to 5. If the participant is both student teaching and working a minimum of 15 hours per week in a licensed or licensed-exempt program serving children 0 to 5, he/she would be eligible for CARES Plus.

12. Scenario: A participant who has already obtained a BA degree decides to take classes related to children with special needs.

Question: Is the participant eligible for a CARES Plus?

Answer: Yes. The participant must meet the CARES Plus eligibility requirements, and to receive a Component B stipend, the participant must complete a minimum of 6 units of higher education and receive a grade of C or higher.

13. Question: Are the three lower-division courses newly added to the Curriculum Alignment Project (CAP) eligible for Component B?

Answer: Yes. The CAP recently expanded to include three additional subject areas, each of which is eligible for Component B. These additional subject areas are:

- 1. Administration*
- 2. Infant/Toddler*
- 3. Children with Special Needs*

The original CAP 8 courses are:

- 1. Child Growth and Development*
- 2. Child, Family, and Community*
- 3. Introduction to Curriculum*
- 4. Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children*
- 5. Observation and Assessment*
- 6. Health, Safety, and Nutrition*
- 7. Teaching in a Diverse Society*
- 8. Practicum*