

QUALITY MATTERS FUND COSIGNER AGREEMENT

United Way of Greater of Chattanooga (funder)

And

_____ (Student recipient)

And

_____ (Director/other cosigner)

Background

- Chattanooga 2.0 has been awarded \$500,000 in 2022 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds by the City of Chattanooga to enhance and support the child care system.
- Through the Quality Matters Fund (QMF), Chattanooga 2.0 will distribute the ARPA funds to promote the recruitment, retention, and professional development of early educators in the child care sector.
- Under the QMF grant, Tuition Assistance for early childhood education higher education has been introduced to provide childcare teachers with a pathway to receive salary supplements through [TN WAGES](#), a program that awards annual supplements to childcare teachers based on college course credit hours earned.
- Chattanooga 2.0, through their fiscal sponsor, the United Way of Greater Chattanooga, is offering tuition assistance of up to \$1,200 to eligible child care teachers pursuing Early Childhood Education higher education courses.

Purpose

The federal government only allows ARPA funds to be used as tuition assistance for courses with a passing grade. This agreement is to facilitate the implementation of the tuition assistance program and allocate financial responsibility in the unlikely event of course failure.

Obligations

Chattanooga 2.0/ United Way of Greater Chattanooga Obligations

1. If The Student recipient successfully passes the course(s), the United Way of Greater Chattanooga will pay the tuition bill for the eligible course(s), up to a maximum of \$1,200. This amount covers tuition and fees only and does not include expenses related to course materials.
2. The United Way of Greater Chattanooga will serve as the third party payer to ensure the student is not dropped from their course for nonpayment. Then, the funder will make payments directly to the Higher Education Institution, _____, at the end of the course, upon verification of Student recipient's successful completion.

3. Chattanooga 2.0 will notify cosigner of obligation to reimburse the United Way of Greater Chattanooga for the tuition amount

Student Obligations

1. The Student is responsible for covering all costs outside of tuition that are related to course materials required for the enrolled course.
2. The Student agrees to attend all classes regularly, complete assigned coursework, and diligently participate in any class activities.

Cosigner Obligations:

1. The Cosigner acknowledges and accepts responsibility for the tuition bill if The Student fails to pass the enrolled course.
2. In the unlikely event The Student fails to meet the required academic standards, the Cosigner shall be solely responsible for settling the tuition bill with the United Way of Greater Chattanooga at the end of the 2023 fall semester.
3. Tuition reimbursement for a failed course is due at the end of each semester during which the student took classes (December 15, 2023 or May 15, 2024).

Should the student fail one course in the Fall, they will not be allowed to receive tuition assistance from the Quality Matters Fund for an additional course in the Spring.

Duration

This agreement is for the Fall 2023 semester and Spring 2024 semesters, depending on which semesters the student has applied for tuition assistance. Tuition reimbursement for a failed course is due at the end of each semester during which the student took classes (December 15, 2023 or May 15, 2024).

I, _____, agree to reimburse United Way of Greater Chattanooga

in the amount of *(select one)* \$600 for one course -or- \$1,200 for two courses

in the event that _____ *(Hamilton County child care teacher name)*

does not pass the course(s) in which they are enrolled for the *(select one or both)*

Fall 2023 -or- Spring 2024 semester(s).

Signed: _____ Date: _____