

CARE Student Grant Recipient Testimonials Spring 2023

The CARE Program is geared for EOPS students who are single parents receiving CalWORKs/cash aid and have one or more children in the household. The aim of CARE is to assist students to increase their educational skills, enhance their employability, become more confident and self-sufficient, and encourage success with the transition from cash aid to financial independence.

CARE students were notified that they would be considered the Spring CARE Grant eligibility. To receive the award, the students were required to submit a testimonial on how EOPS/CARE has helped them through their BCC journey. Eleven students were invited, nine submitted their testimonials, and the CARE Grant was awarded for \$777.

GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. STUDENT MUST BE A CONTINUING EOPS/CARE STUDENT.
2. STUDENT MUST BE IN PROGRAM "GOOD STANDING".
3. STUDENT MUST BE REGISTERED IN 12 OR MORE UNITS WITH A 2.0 OR HIGHER GPA.
4. STUDENT'S UNMET NEED MUST BE GREATER THAN \$5,000.
5. STUDENT MUST BE FIRST TIME GRANT RECIPIENT.

Hello, my name is Sarah and I'm a student here at Barstow Community College. Before I came to Barstow Community College I was a very shy, withdrawn person. I'm 29 years old, barely starting college, and I just felt like I wouldn't be able to do it. I was very nervous to start college because I was afraid that I wasn't going to get the help that I needed to succeed. I told myself that it was either now or never, I was ready to start my journey. I did my registration, signed up for my classes, and I was introduced to the CARE program here at Barstow Community College. The CARE program really went out of their way to make me feel welcomed at this school. They are truly some of the nicest people I've ever met and they have been there for me through every step of the way through this college experience of mine. They always check up on me and make sure that I'm on the right track to reach my goals. Not only have they helped me with my educational goals, but they've also helped supply me with grocery cards and gas cards. Being in this program and doing the different workshops has helped me learn a lot of new things. This has helped me gain more confidence for real life situations on campus and off campus. I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of this program. It feels good to have people there for you who support you and care about your needs. Especially during your first year of college, it can be very nerve-wracking. This program has definitely helped me gain the confidence to keep going and follow my dreams. I'm no longer afraid to speak up because I know now that I have people that are there for me who truly care.



Sarah
Continuing EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs Student
Program of Study: Psychology
Transfer School: CSUSB

I decided to make the decision to go back to school in the fall of 2022. I was nervous, and scared because I haven't been in school in some decades. One of the reasons I was scared was because I felt like I was too old to go back to school. I was nervous because like I stated previously, I hadn't been in school for quite some time. I felt like I had to do it now as time is something that does not wait for any of us.

The first person I encountered with was Briann when I entered the EOPS/CARE office. I came in the office to get some information about the program. She explained to me what the program was about and how they were here to help the students who attend Barstow Community College. I liked the information that I was being told so I decided to sign up for the program. I am so grateful that I did. The CARE program has helped me during my time here at Barstow Community College. I love the program. Whenever you have any questions about the program or anything that has to do with school, they always have an answer and if they don't, they will find someone who can answer your question. I like the fact that I can approach any staff member here at Barstow Community College. I also love the program because the staff provides you with a voucher to help pay for your books, not only that sometimes they have books that they loan out to you.

The Program also gives you incentives to attend workshops. I am getting paid to attend workshops and I am learning something, and I can be able to pass on information that I have learned to family and friends. In my opinion it is a win-win situation. The workshops are wonderful, they make the workshops easy for you to understand. Thank you for taking your time to read this.

Denise

Continuing EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs Student

Program of Study: Pre-Allied Health

Transfer Major: Nursing

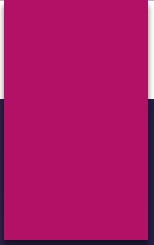
I truly appreciate all the assistance that Barstow community college gives to me and other students in need. One program I would like to point out is the Care Program. The Care Program helped me in so many ways during my time at Barstow community college. I originally just signed up for EOPS and the staff was lovely enough to tell me about the Care Program. I was so excited about the additional help, and to know that I qualified. The care program has helped provide me with gas, food, diapers, daily meals, groceries for home, Walmart cards for needs at home, and many other physical and financial help. They have also helped me with mental health, social awareness, and educational needs. The workshops they provide are definitely essential for many people. Care also provides childcare funding that allows me to come to school without having to worry about a babysitter. With childcare, I am allowed study hours as well as my class hours. This helps me maintain high grades, and a great GPA throughout my semester. While the other programs provide great essentials, Care adds extra essentials. A few of those extra needs are workshops, extra gas cards, food cards, clothing, books vouchers, hygiene and childcare. I appreciate all the help I receive through the care program because it allows me to prosper. It allows me to focus on what is more important and that is my education. Diapers, hygiene, gas, books, and all the things the care program provided are nice brands and extremely expensive. I am grateful to be able to have all my needs met in a very comfortable environment at school. Last, but not least, they have a friendly staff that provides the best counseling for support and educational purposes. The care program pushes you to do better in school by meeting all the requirements to qualify for the assistance. I love the positive reinforces everyone and motivating us to be better individuals in school and life. They truly care about everyone and make us feel comfortable as if we are family. This college truly makes you feel the community love and acceptance from a diverse staff. Thank you to The Care Program for all your assistance. I don't know how far I would've made it without you guys.

Dominique

Continuing EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs Student

Program of Study: Pre-Allied Health

Transfer Major: Nursing



Being a student at Barstow community College has helped set and accomplish many goals to benefit and secure my future. When I intended to return to school, I had no idea that I would be receiving help as I have. By gaining knowledge, skills, special services, and experiencing positive relationships with the staff members through programs such as EOPS and the CARE program has helped increase my confidence in my academic success. I am truly honored to be considered for this opportunity to receive a grant from the CARE and EOPS program. These programs have not only helped and guide me towards my academic success but helped in supporting myself and my children as well in several ways. The combination of the hardship the pandemic brought along with limited work and childcare has left little to no option at times. Receiving the genuine and consistent help from the counselors and staff has motivated me and uplifted many burdens by offering daily breakfast, weekly pantry shopping for food, produce markets, and benefit cards that would allow me to purchase essentials for my children and I. Additionally, I have been able to receive help for my newborn child throughout my pregnancy and afterwards. This was given my receiving weekly diapers, wipes, and food for my children. Being a full-time mother and a full-time student can be overwhelming and difficult to balance. The CARE and EOPS program have given me much relief and this has allowed me to focus on my education and academic goals. This system of support I have received has not only served as motivation to complete my degree at Barstow Community College but also motivated me to further my education and that the dream career I have seen for myself can become reality.

Gabrielle

Continuing EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs Student

Program of Study: Social Science

Transfer Major: Social Work

I am honored to be selected as one of the recipients of the CARE Grant. I have never actually won anything like this before. I started Barstow Community College in Spring 2022 taking up Administration of Justice as my major. I have been a part of the CARE program since I started school. I really didn't know about the program at first until my friend told me about it. I am very glad she did because now that I am single mother it helps me tremendously. There were times when I didn't have any money and needed gas and the grocery cards that we receive every week came in handy. We are also allowed to go to the pantry every week and pick 7 different items of food. That would help me a lot because sometimes I needed spaghetti sauce or peanut butter. My kids even love going to the pantry lol. My son loves the trail mix they have. He has been looking for it in all the stores he could never find it. So, he bugs me every week to go to the pantry. My 4-year-old loves to go because when she gets there, she gets the princess' treatment and gets hooked up with her own goody bag. The CARE program also has Walmart cards and Arco cards as incentives when we complete certain things in the program. The Walmart cards have helped me with household items and oil for my car. The program also helps me with loaner books for your classes and at one point were even giving away diapers and hygiene items. I am very thankful to be part of a great program at a great school. The staff are lovely, nice people and I truly want to thank them.

Myeshia

Continuing EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs Student

Program of Study: Associate of Science

Major: Administration of Justice

Hello, my name is Nyaire and I just wanted to say how the CARE program has helped me out, they helped me out so much especially the groups that we must go the online zoom meetings, this program actually will sit down and listen to whatever problems you have, it's a lot of people that wouldn't care about how you feel, but this program makes you feel safe and at home they understand where you're coming from they help you get books that you can't afford they will get you help in the places that you need help in. If you don't understand something and your teacher won't help you understand the way you're supposed the CARE program will help you by setting up a meeting with a tutor. I get so busy with my son that I forget to make appointments for things and the school will call me and ask me about it and I will tell them please schedule me an appointment that's how much they care that you don't miss out on anything this program really helped me out a lot my whole school year I hope people don't overlook this program because I was at first I didn't think it was needed but let me tell you I'm glad I got into this program and I just wanted to thank everyone in it :) you guys really helped me out a lot and I am really appreciative for that I hope everyone is doing great sorry also I wanted to mention that when my son was only 4months I couldn't do anything I was always holding him I thought I wasn't going to be able to get any work done I cried my eyes out until I talked to someone in the EOPS/CARE program they understood everything and helped me through my tuff times they helped me get a tutor they sat there and listened to my cried and yelp for help and they helped me they did not judge me they did not tell me that I didn't need help and hang up on my face they sat there and listened to what I had to say and I'm very thankful for all of you guys I wouldn't know where I would be without this program

Nyaire

Continuing EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs & Foster Youth Student

Program of Study: Liberal Arts - Associate of Science

Transfer Major: Social Worker

When I first started attending Barstow Community College, I was a lot naive and more unaware than I am today. My naivety and awareness is definitely something that I have to work on, on a daily basis. However, my experience at Barstow Community College both positive and negative has honed my life skills, my future career skills, and my integrity to pursue a more excellent state of being.

I am a Texas native. When I first moved to California, I was depressed and anxious all the time. I had just made a conscious decision to refrain from using recreational drugs and I was continuing to overcome a lot of mental strongholds that have held me back from fulfilling my purpose in life. I have added and dropped several courses. I have submitted several petitions on my behalf scholastically. My estimated date of graduation has been postponed due to different personal and professional strongholds. However, one thing, one primary realization that I have come to is that I learned to never give up at Barstow Community College.

No matter what has happened to me during my duration at Barstow Community College, I have never given up on my academic or scholastic plans for myself. I have never given up pursuing a more stable financial status for myself, for my children, and for my household. I am grateful for the experience.

Saharrah

Continuing EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs Student

Program of Study: Social Justice ADT

Transfer Major: Social Justice

As a current student of BCC (Barstow Community College), one of the few programs that have assisted and/or helped me was the EOPS/CARE Program. At first, I was a bit skeptical, such as "how are they really going to help me? Is this going to be more work on top of the work that is already provided through my professors? Will I have time to meet deadlines? Do the staff really care and/ or contribute? All these answers are yes. Starting in August 2022, most of the staff members have helped me tremendously, even if it was a simple, "how are you doing in your classes? Within the thirty minutes to an hour, I get a sense of relief, someone actually cares. Someone talks to me about alternatives to help me if I'm struggling. The staff also praises you and gives positive feedback, even if you feel you can't make it through the semester. They inform me that they are there every time we have a discussion. It is very much appreciated; it boosts my confidence every time I feel like giving up.

There are deadlines, but as I thought about it, everything has a deadline. With this, I learned to prioritize my work, school, and life. It wasn't as overbearing as I thought. It turned out to be a positive impact in my life in multiple ways. EOPS/CARE has contributed drastically to my life, school, and work. The incentives that come with it really help. Extra food, clothes, gas, school supplies, a Chromebook, book vouchers, even a smile makes a difference. The reassurance is key with me. There are other programs that come with EOPS/CARE, such as the Housing Assistance Program. In with that, this lets me know that BCC, will not give up on a student's education regardless. EOPS/CARE and the workers have proven to me time and time again that they are here for the long run. As part of the EOPS/CARE I feel special because not all the students are a part of it, so take advantage of the help. I really appreciate these programs and the staff that contribute to help further my education, or should I say journey. Thank you.

Schezel

Continuing EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs Student

Program of Study: Sociology

Transfer Major: Career Development

Hello, I am a full-time student at Barstow Community College. I have been a part of the CARE program since fall 2022. The CARE program provides me with: meal vouchers, book vouchers, child care, transportation assistance, counseling services, and school supplies. The CARE program pays for all four of my children's childcare free of cost. Every semester the CARE program provides me a \$500 book voucher, free back packs, pencils, pens, markers, glue, note book pads, note book paper, two free t-shirts and one Barstow community college jacket. Whenever I walk in the EOPS/CARE office, all the staff members are so polite that I feel welcome to be a student at Barstow Community College. Every week I am able to receive a \$25 food-4-less gas card, breakfast & lunch meals, and my weekly grocery items. Whenever I am feeling overwhelmed with my classes, the care program provides me with counseling services. The counseling services are free to students that have the care program at Barstow Community College. As a student at Barstow Community College, I am so grateful for the CARE program. The CARE program has changed my life and my children's life. Without the CARE program I would be struggling to get to school every day because gas prices are outrageous, eat healthy snacks throughout the day, have extra school supplies to do my homework with, and have free counseling services. I can provide extra food in my house for my children, thanks to the care program. Being a single mom of four children is not easy, but with all the great services the CARE program provides, it makes my life easier.

Anonymous

Continuing EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs Student
Program of Study: Early Childhood Education