



EDUCATIONAL CREDENTIAL EVALUATORS

Unlocking the Promise of International Education

2019

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR ECE[®] AID,
A PROGRAM OF ECE[®]**

 414.289.3400

 ECE.org

 101 W. Pleasant St. Ste. 200

Milwaukee, WI 53212

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ECE®

Dear Friends,

I beg your indulgence...I am feeling a bit nostalgic these days. ECE is entering its 40th year, and this is a good time to look back at what we have accomplished.

ECE was established by Jim Frey in 1980. Jim's vision for a new type of evaluation service was based on his experience in helping to shape the field of international credential evaluation. As an internationally recognized expert in the field, he wanted to serve both students educated in other countries and international admissions professionals around the world.

ECE has addressed these needs by an expanded offering of foreign credential evaluation reports, training services, and resources for the international credential evaluation profession. As a nonprofit organization, ECE has grown to be a trusted and reliable partner and provider for those involved in international education.

The ECE way is exemplified by quality of research; transparency, professionalism, and kindness in transactions and operations; and generosity in sharing information and best practices.

As orders for ECE® evaluation reports grew, ECE® staff received regular requests for waivers of our fees from people who could not afford even the most modest fees. It was often my role to explain to a helpful refugee resettlement worker why we would not waive fees. "ECE is a nonprofit organization. We keep fees as low as possible to serve as many people as possible." My logic was as flawless as it was cold-hearted.

The epiphany arrived the day saying "no" seemed wrong. Finding a way to say "yes" was born with the introduction of ECE® Aid. The ECE® Board of Directors supported a new charity division. Creative ECE® staff determined a fair and efficient way of identifying worthy recipients of free services without adding administrative tangles or putting up bureaucratic barriers. Participating institutions and organizations referring recipients signed up to work with us.

The ECE® community of staff, board members, colleagues, and other friends donated funds for free reports. Perhaps most heartening, a significant number of clients who pay for an evaluation report also donate to support the free evaluation reports for others who are in need. What a wonderful way to pay forward the benefits that come with fairly and accurately recognized education.

Jim would say that he started ECE, but that many others did the heavy lifting to make the organization the success it is today. There could be no better way to salute Jim Frey in the 40th year of ECE's service to our international community than to celebrate ECE® Aid. It exemplifies all the good and honorable goals that Jim had in mind when he founded the organization.

Thanks to Jim, ECE® staff who do so much heavy lifting, our volunteer board of directors and all those who came before them, the participating institutions and organizations, our wonderful clients, and ECE® Aid recipients. You are all making our world a better place.

Margit A. Schatzman
President





ECE[®]

Aid

RECIPIENTS

Since 2016 ECE[®] Aid has provided fee waivers to 292 recipients from 56 different countries.

In 2019 ECE[®] Aid recipients came from Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iraq, Syria, India, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Russia, Rwanda, Nepal, Colombia, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Jordan, Egypt, Iran, Yemen, Uganda, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Zambia, Kyrgyzstan, Vietnam, Lebanon, Djibouti, Venezuela, Mexico, Guinea, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, and Guatemala

Here are just a few of the many inspiring stories from ECE[®] Aid recipients:

Thanks to Winnebago County Literacy Council, we were able to work with Samiha and Batool, a mother and daughter who made the pivotal decision to come to the U.S. in 2016 from Syria.

Samiha is a qualified teacher, and her daughter is a student. Teaching is Samiha's passion and calling; she often dreamed of finding a job in the U.S. that would be in this field. Batool cherished the dream of continuing her college education in America. She was a student of art and design with an interior design major before being forced to leave Syria during her sophomore year in college.



After the family had settled in the U.S., their number one priority became pursuing their educational and employment goals. Samiha was actively interviewing, but the process of gathering the necessary documentation was tedious. For Samiha, there was no way to reach her educational establishment in Syria, and she knew without the proper credentials, finding her dream job was not possible.

Alternatively, Batool had all of her transcripts in place. But in order to apply to colleges and universities as a transfer student, she needed an evaluation report.

Thankfully, because of supporters like you and the relationship between ECE and Winnebago County Literacy Council, both Samiha and Batool received ECE[®] Aid fee waivers for their ECE[®] credential evaluations.

Samiha couldn't be happier. The professional ECE team came to help and took it into their hands to assist Samiha in acquiring the missing papers vital for the evaluation process. She received the evaluation report at the perfect time and was offered a position as a CLC classroom assistant with the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh.

Likewise, Batool was accepted to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, to pursue her dream of becoming an Interior Designer.

"Thank you ECE for helping us make the dreams come true!" - Samiha and Batool



ECE[®] Aid RECIPIENTS

We would like to introduce you to Yahya from Yemen. He first arrived to the United States in 2017. Having teaching experience, Yahya immediately started working as a long-term substitute teacher.

However, with a master's degree in business administration from Malaysia and a bachelor's degree in English from Yemen, he yearned to become a licensed full-time teacher. Yahya partnered with Upwardly Global in April of 2018 and received his ECE[®] evaluation report at no cost to him.

"Currently, I am working to get a Michigan teacher's certificate. Hopefully in the near future I will start with my PhD." - Yahya A.



"Hopefully in the near future I will start with my PhD."

Yahya



Elena, her husband, and their two daughters came to Oshkosh, WI, in December 2018 seeking ideological asylum. Elena is a qualified psychologist with a master's degree from Tver State Technical University in Russia.

"Thanks to ECE, I feel free to pursue my career goals. On the one hand, I am thinking of becoming a school counselor. But on the other hand, my passion in life is to work in the beauty industry. I would really love to look into obtaining a license for that, too. My current goal is to improve my English so that I am fully prepared to pursue my dreams.

I am very grateful to ECE for the opportunity to be an ECE[®] Aid fee waiver recipient. It means so much to me and my family. We are relatively new in the country, and we are still learning to navigate our lives in a new environment, and as you know, it takes time to become financially stable. So getting my credentials evaluated for free made a big difference!" - Elena A.

**We are relatively new in the country, and we are still learning to navigate our lives...
...getting my credentials evaluated for free made a big difference!**

- Elena, ECE[®] Aid recipient



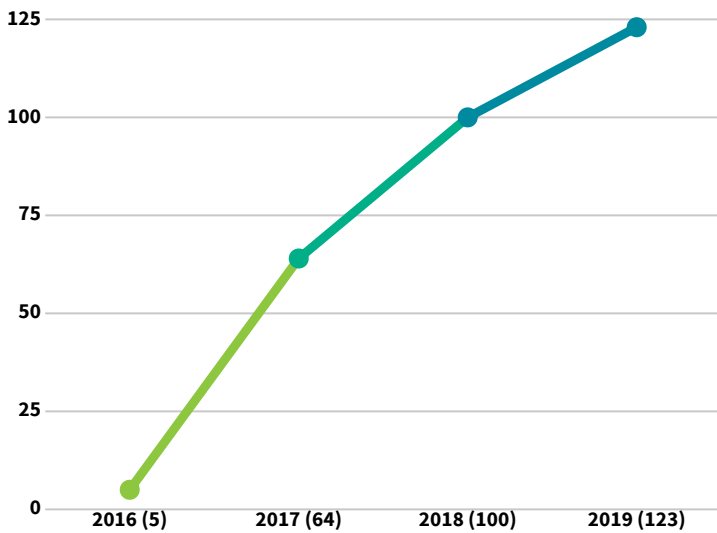
Visit ECE.org/ECE/ECE-Aid/EceAid-Stories to read more stories about the positive impact ECE[®] Aid has made throughout the world.

2019



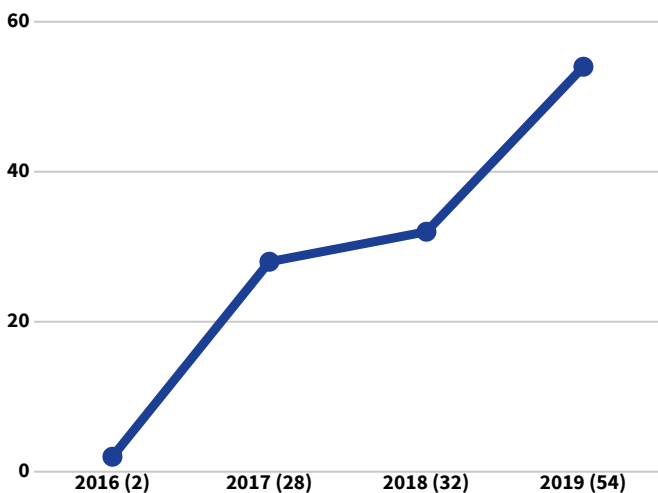
ECE[®] Aid BY THE NUMBERS

Completed ECE[®] Aid evaluations



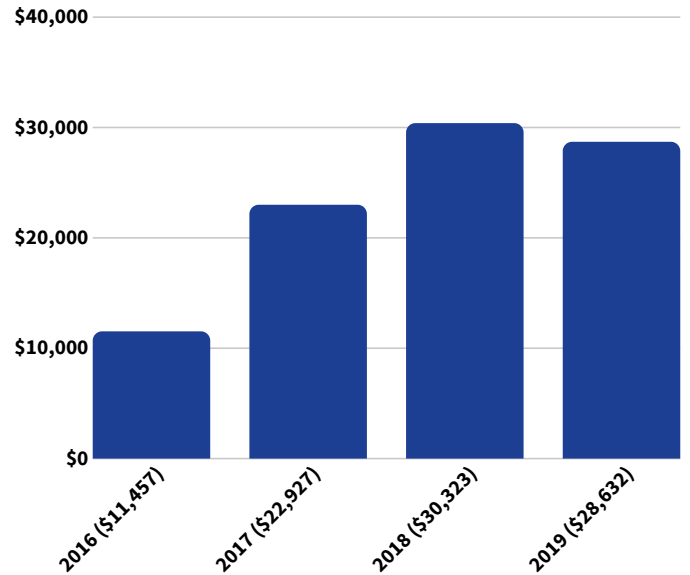
There were 123 completed evaluations receiving ECE[®] Aid fee waivers in 2019. The total number of fee waivers that have been awarded through ECE[®] Aid now stands at 292!

ECE[®] Aid participating institutions and organizations



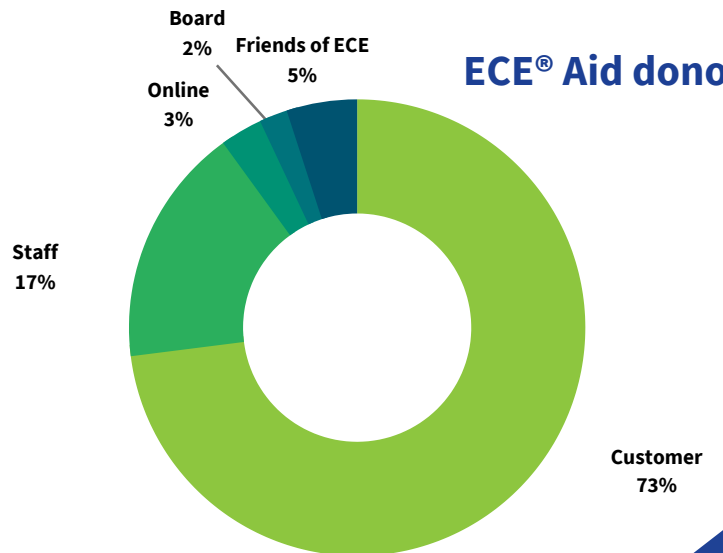
Participating institutions and organizations have increased to 54, including additional branches of organizations in 2019.

ECE[®] Aid funds raised



Donations in 2019 reached \$28,632! Since the launch of ECE[®] Aid, the total amount of donations now totals \$93,339.

ECE[®] Aid donors



Past and present ECE[®] customers, staff, board of directors, and friends continue to keep ECE[®] Aid in a sound financial position.





PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

2019 results:

\$28,632 in donations

Approximately 137 free evaluation reports

Thanks to the generosity of everyone, including paying customers, staff, board members, and outside donors, we raised \$28,632 by year-end.

Out of the total funds raised since 2016, \$61,750 has been awarded for ECE[®] Aid fee waivers since its launch.

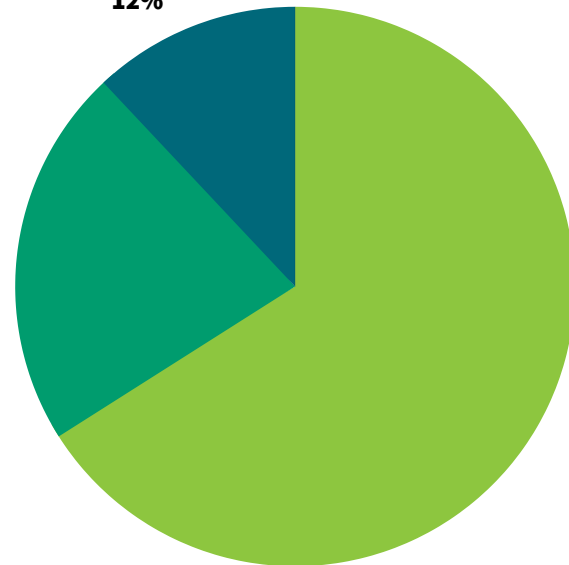
By the end of 2019, \$20,346 of funds were available to those eligible for a fee waiver.

\$11,235 has been earmarked for ECE[®] Aid fee waivers in process.

The average cost of an ECE[®] Aid evaluation report fee waiver is \$210.

Fee Waivers in Process

\$11,235
12%



Available Funds

\$20,346
22%

Completed Evaluations

\$61,750
66%

No donations received are directed to the general operating fund.

A copy of the current ECE[®] Form 990 is available upon request by contacting Educational Credential Evaluators at PO Box 514070, Milwaukee, WI 53203



ECE[®] Aid PARTICIPANTS


2019


We are honored to work with over 50 participating institutions and organizations committed to promoting a diverse global community through the ECE[®] Aid initiative.

- ACCESS
- American University Washington College of Law
- Carnegie Mellon University - Heinz College
- Carroll University
- Charleston Southern University
- Concord University
- Connect the Dots
- Duquesne University
- Education USA, Opportunity Funds Program
- Governors State University
- Hawaii Pacific University
- Institute of International Education (IIE), Platform for Education in Emergencies Response (PEER)
- Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS)
- Iraqi Mutual Aid Society
- Jefferson Community & Technical College
- Jewish Family & Community Services of Pittsburgh
- Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains
- Lutheran Social Services National Capital Area
- Minneapolis Community & Technical College
- New American Pathways
- North Hennepin Community College
- Northeastern State University
- Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa (RACI)
- Refugees to College
- University of Rochester
- Upwardly Global-Chicago
- U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants (USCRI)
- Yale University

A partial list of ECE[®] Aid participants.

ECE[®] Aid would not be possible without the many trusted institutions and organizations participating in the initiative.

 ECE selects experienced, trusted agencies and institutions to distribute fee waiver vouchers to qualifying immigrants.

 ECE does not provide complimentary reports directly to individuals.

***For more information on becoming an ECE[®] Aid participant, please visit
ECE.org/ECE/ECE-Aid/Participating-Institutions***

Why donate to ECE® Aid?

- ✦ Opens the door to refugee education and/or professional fulfillment
- ✦ Provides an experienced workforce in high-demand occupations
- ✦ Protects public safety through credential checks



♥ FROM ECE·N



ECE[®]
Aid



Donate today at:
ECE.org



Thank you to all of our generous supporters and donors in 2019!

ECE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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