



ECE[®] Aid Newsletter

A charitable initiative developed to provide free evaluation reports for vulnerable and displaced populations.



Highlights

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WINTER 2023

During these slower and colder winter months I often like to take the opportunity to reflect on what we've accomplished through ECE[®] Aid over the past year. Equally important, I think it's also a great exercise to think about what we would like to accomplish and what we can improve upon as we move forward into 2024 with active hope.

Even at the end of a very difficult year for many across the world, there were moments to celebrate. In terms of those we served, fortunately 2023 was an incredible year for ECE and ECE[®] Aid. Almost 39,000 evaluation reports were completed by ECE in 2023 for people seeking further education, employment, licensure, and immigration in the U.S. and Canada. Furthermore, we saw substantial growth in several areas for ECE[®] Aid (spoiler: ECE[®] Aid funding, participants, and recipients all increased in 2023). You can read more about the numbers later in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to an even greater and more successful 2024. We are eternally grateful for the endless support from our staff, ECE[®] Aid participating organizations, and of course from you, the reader!



Educational Credential Evaluators

Unlocking the promise of international education®

Annual report for ECE® Aid, a program of ECE®

2023

YEAR IN REVIEW

ECE® Aid is a charitable initiative developed to provide free evaluation reports for vulnerable and displaced populations.

RECIPIENTS:

245 completed evaluation reports!

In 2023 ECE® Aid recipients were educated in Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Rwanda, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Visit [ECE.org/ECE/ECE-Aid/EceAid-Stories](https://www.ece.org/ECE/ECE-Aid/EceAid-Stories) to read more about the positive impact ECE® Aid has made throughout the world.

PARTICIPANTS:

26 new ECE® Aid participating institutions & organizations joined the program in 2023 to send referrals for fee waivers.

To learn more about our participating organizations and institutions, and for more information on becoming an ECE® Aid participant, please visit: [ECE.org/ECE/ECE-Aid/Participating-Institutions](https://www.ece.org/ECE/ECE-Aid/Participating-Institutions)

You can read the full 2023 Annual Report, as well as past ECE® Aid annual reports at:

<https://www.ece.org/ECE/ECE-Aid/Annual-Report>

Reflections on 2023: Annual Report

We were thrilled when funding for ECE® Aid fee waivers increased over the course of 2023 thanks to our board of directors and finance team. As a result, there was an increase in the number of people we were able to assist with free evaluation reports.

Overall, ECE® Aid provided 245 free evaluation reports in 2023. This is the most we've ever been able to offer and complete in one year. A huge thanks to ECE® staff for their expertise and commitment to providing the fastest and most accurate credential evaluations in the industry.

Additionally, there were 26 new participating organizations and higher education institutions that joined the ECE® Aid initiative, increasing the number of recipients able to access a free ECE® credential evaluation report.

Looking Ahead to 2024

As we move forward into 2024, we've already begun working on several projects to improve ECE® Aid. First, we are working on creating new, captivating content with up-to-date stories from both recipients and participant representatives.

Furthermore, we continue to streamline the ECE® Aid process through improving communications and refining our existing policies and procedures.

And of course, we continue fulfilling the mission of ECE by promoting the betterment of individuals' lives and society as we continue to strive to create a positive impact on the world through ECE® Aid.



SHERR, November 2023

I was honored to be invited in November to attend the first national workshop for Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement (SHERR), held at the University of Maryland-College Park. The two-day workshop brought together colleagues from higher education institutions, the federal government, resettlement agencies, and other nonprofit organizations to work within a community of practice framework. Breakout sessions focused on English language learning, career pathways, housing, reducing barriers to enrollment, and service learning.

The SHERR workshop was one of the best gatherings I've attended recently because it focused on actionable goals and next steps. The communities of practice will begin meeting in 2024, and ECE® Aid is excited to take part in this crucial collaborative work as we move further towards supporting forcibly displaced people across the world in reaching their educational and professional goals.



SHERR workshop at University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
Photos by Zak Holochwost



Quarterly Updates

91 completed ECE® Aid evaluation reports in October, November, and December. This was our biggest quarter since the start of ECE® Aid!

Recent ECE® Aid activities & outreach:

- Participated in the November “Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement (SHERR) National Workshop,” College Park, MD.
- Presented at “Adults, You Belong Here Series - Credit for Your International Education,” Montgomery College in December.

Sincerely,

Zachary Holochwost *(he/him)*

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