

Early Learning Scholarship

Application for Pathway I Early Learning Scholarship

What is an Early Learning Scholarship?

A Pathway I Early Learning Scholarship can help you pay for high-quality child care and early education to help your child get ready for school. The scholarship money will be paid directly to the child care or early education program of your choice. A scholarship may be used at a Parent Aware-Rated program. Parent Aware is a rating tool to help parents select high-quality child care and early education programs. [For more information, visit the Parent Aware website, \(parentaware.org\).](http://parentaware.org)

Where can my child use a scholarship?

You may use your Pathway I Early Learning Scholarship at any eligible child care or early education program in Minnesota with a Parent Aware Rating. Scholarships must be used at a program your child attends on a regular basis with a maximum of 25 absent days.

You do not have to choose a program when you apply for a scholarship. If you need help choosing a program, please contact your scholarship Area Administrator. If your child is currently attending a program but you would like to explore other options, they can help you with this as well.

Scholarship amounts are based on the Parent Aware rating level of the program you choose.

<i>Parent Aware Program Rating Level</i>	<i>Scholarship Award</i>
Four-Star Parent Aware Rating	Up to \$7,500 per child
Three-Star Parent Aware Rating	Up to \$5,000 per child
One or Two-Star Parent Aware Rating	Up to \$4,000 per child
Currently in a Full-Rating Pathway Cohort	Up to \$3,000 per child

How do I apply for an Early Learning Scholarship?

To apply for a Pathway I Early Learning Scholarship for your child, follow these steps:

- Complete the application. Information that is required is marked with an asterisk.
- Read and sign the program agreement and consent to release information.
- Mail the completed application to your Area Administrator.

Is My Child Eligible?

To qualify for a Pathway I Early Learning Scholarship, you must be the parent, legal guardian or agency worker of the child(ren) and your family must meet the following requirements.

Note: Applications for children in foster care must be signed and submitted by the agency worker.

1. Location

You must have a Minnesota home address in order to be eligible for a scholarship.

2. Income

Provide proof that your child currently participates in at least one of the following programs:

- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program (FRLP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Food Support (SNAP)
- Head Start
- Foster Care

OR

To qualify for Early Learning Scholarship, a family must document a family income equal to or less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

The chart below is based on FY2017 poverty guidelines published in the Federal Register on January 31, 2017

Family Size	Gross Income	Family Size	Gross Income
2	\$30,044	6	\$60,976
3	\$37,777	7	\$68,709
4	\$45,510	8	\$76,442
5	\$53,243	9	\$84,175

For family units of more than eight members, add \$7,733 for each additional member.

Household members include all people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends) who share income and expenses. The applicant must include themselves and all children who live with them. Households do not include other people who are economically independent, such as a roommate.

3. Child

You must be the parent, legal guardian or agency worker and the family must have:

A child who is age 3 or 4 by September 1, 2017, and who is not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

OR

A child who is birth to two-years-old and in foster care, in need of child protective services (may require referral), or has experienced homelessness in the last 24 months.

OR

A child who is birth-to-two of a parent under the age of 21 who is pursuing a high school or general education equivalency diploma (GED). You must provide written proof that you are pursuing a high school diploma or GED. Written proof means a copy of an official letter (on letterhead) from the organization you are currently attending. Income requirements apply.

OR

A younger sibling may be eligible for a scholarship if they attend the same program as their three-to-four year old sibling that has a scholarship as long as funds are available. Sibling is defined as a child who shares one or both parents through blood, marriage or adoption, including siblings as defined by the child’s tribal code or custom.