
Buffalo County

Early Learning Scholarship Application / Letter of Commitment for Child Care Providers

The goal of the Early Learning Scholarship is to increase access to high quality care for young children in low and moderate earning families in Nebraska. Funding is being made available to providers engaged in delivery of quality early learning environments and experiences for young children. Participating child care providers are providing ongoing learning, continuous quality improvement, and supporting their early childhood professional workforce through improvements in wages and benefits.

The Early Learning Scholarship is intended to support working families in meeting the high cost of quality care for children six weeks through age 6 (pre-school only) in full day/full year settings or attending the Program due to a need for care that extends beyond the hours provided by a publicly funded program (i.e. wrapping hours around Head Start or Public Preschool).

Eligibility for Child Care Center and Family Child Care Homes:

Child care providers interested in participating in the Early Learning Scholarship opportunity must meet the following qualifications:

- Licensed and in good standing
- Enrolled in Step Up to Quality and have a plan to achieve Step 2 or higher within 12 months, and/or nationally accredited
- Offer full-time, year-round services
- Programs must have a contract (or be willing to obtain a contract) with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to provide care for families on child care subsidy and must be serving at least one child (or be willing to serve children) on subsidy
- Implementing or planning to implement social emotional curricula such as Pyramid Model, Second Step, etc.
- Providing Infant/Toddler Care
- Programs must have or will agree to put a process in place to assure that potentially eligible families are receiving state subsidized dollars before a scholarship is awarded
- Agree to provide and maintain systems for detailed records of tuition assistance provided to eligible families, including attendance records
- Agree to provide required data for a collective evaluation
- Agree to keep completed family applications for scholarship program current and on file
- Agree to submit monthly reimbursement forms to Early Childhood Community Coordinator or designated community coordinator
- Regular communication with the Early Childhood Community Coordinator or designated community coordinator

Provider Name/Business Name: _____

Director/Primary Contact: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Provider Information

Mark One:	Mark One:
_____ Licensed Child Care Center	_____ Nonprofit _____ For profit
_____ Licensed Family Home I	_____ Nonprofit _____ For profit
_____ Licensed Family Home II	_____ Nonprofit _____ For profit
Step Up to Quality Rating (mark one):	
_____ Step 1	
_____ Step 2	
_____ Step 3	
_____ Step 4	
_____ Step 5	
_____ N/A (if Nationally Accredited)	

Number of children enrolled by age group:				
	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Full-time				
Part-time				
Years of service:				
Total program enrollment:				
Number of currently enrolled low-income children served (under 200% Federal Poverty Level) (not including subsidy):				
Number of currently enrolled children receiving state child care subsidy:				
Number of children currently receiving privately funded tuition assistance:				
Number anticipated to receive Tuition Assistance/Early Learning Scholarship:				

If not nationally accredited or at Step Up to Quality Step 2, please include narrative of plan to become nationally accredited OR reach Step 2 or higher in the next 12 months:

How will you provide information and outreach to attract low to moderate income working families?

What are your plans to continue to increase quality in your program?

Provider agrees to provide, as requested, aggregated data and information regarding:

- Numbers of low-income children served full-time (break out by ages served) o Retention of children in the program o Exit information on reason for leaving program o Annual parent satisfaction survey
- Race and ethnicity of children served
- Funding allocated per eligible child
- Kindergarten readiness/individual children's development and growth.
- Level of quality as measured by Step Up to Quality
- Teacher pay and benefits
- Teacher education and training levels
- Teacher retention
 - o Exit information
 - o Satisfaction survey annually

Provider Commitment:

I/We agree to promote the Early Learning Scholarship to our stakeholders and agree that any funding from the Early Learning Scholarship will only be used for low-income children served by our program on a full-time basis. I/We agree to continue improving the quality of our program per the Step Up to Quality standards.

Director/Owner

Date