



Early Learning Scholarship Provider FAQs

How can childcare facilities use funding?

The Early Learning Scholarship will make funds available on a reimbursement basis to pre-qualified early childhood providers who are enrolled in [Nebraska's Step Up to Quality](#) rating system (and/or are nationally accredited) and are committed to accepting low-income families. Funding will be available to providers for tuition assistance for families who cannot afford some or all the tuition. The funding will be used to provide tuition assistance so more of Nebraska's infants, toddlers, and preschoolers facing the greatest odds may attend quality early childhood programs.

Providers will determine how many additional infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from low-income families they will serve and what tuition assistance is needed for these children. Communities will request funding in an application to Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. Providers will work with their community coordinator to supply information for the community scholarship and request reimbursement funds.

Funding will be made on a reimbursement system based on the number of children the provider serves through the scholarship program. Any modifications to the award or number of children served needs to be submitted to the designated community coordinator in writing for approval.

What is the Federal Poverty Level?

The 2024 [Federal poverty level](#) (FPL) is a measure of income issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. Federal poverty levels are used to determine eligibility for certain programs and benefits.

The current FPL for a family of four is \$31,200/year. This is also considered 100% of the federal poverty level. Tuition assistance from the Early Learning Scholarship is available to eligible providers to help families who earn up to 200% of the FPL (for a family of 4 that is \$62,400/year).

If my childcare facility has multiple locations, can I complete one application for all of them?

Providers must complete an Early Learning Scholarship application for each location/facility that is providing childcare and meets the Early Learning Scholarship eligibility requirements. These applications will be submitted to the designated community coordinator.