



Early Learning Scholarship Application/Approval Process

Application Process

1. Provider completes Agreement
 - a. Attach all necessary documentation required
2. Family completes Application
 - a. Attach all necessary documentation required
3. Submit Provider Agreement, Family Application, and required documentation to assistant@bcchp.org.

Visit bcchp.org/early-childhood-collaborative to download a required documentation checklist, Provider Agreement, Family Application and to view FAQs. **If you have questions at any point during the application process, please contact Buffalo County Community Partners at assistant@bcchp.org or (308) 865-2284.**

Processing Procedure

- All incomplete, unsigned paperwork will be held or returned to applicant.
- All scholarships are reviewed on an individual basis. At their discretion, the committee may use outside factors to determine awards.
- Scholarship Applications should allow three to four weeks for processing.
- Application period runs July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027.
- **All applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM on Friday, June 15, 2027.**



Early Learning Scholarship Childcare Provider Agreement

The goal of the Early Learning Scholarship is to increase access to high-quality care for children in low and moderate-earning families in Nebraska. Funding is being made available to providers engaged in the delivery of quality early learning environments and experiences for young children. Participating childcare providers provide ongoing learning, continuous quality improvement, and support 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 in full-day/full-year settings or attending wrap-around care blended with a public-school program.

Eligibility for Childcare Center and Family Childcare Homes:

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

- Licensed and in good standing
- Offer full-time, year-round services, or wrap-around care blended with a public-school program
- 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 childcare subsidy and must be serving at least one child (or be willing to serve children) on subsidy
- Implementing or planning to implement a social-emotional curriculum such as the Pyramid Model, Second Steps, etc.
- Providing Infant/Toddler Care
- Programs must have (or will agree to put) a process into place to ensure that potentially eligible families have applied or have been denied 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 the required data for a collective evaluation
- Agree to keep completed family applications for the scholarship program current and on file
- Agree to submit monthly reimbursement forms to Buffalo County Community Partners' Program Manager
- Regular communication with Buffalo County Community Partners' Program Manager

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):

☐ Not Enrolled in Step Up to Quality

☐ Step 1

☐ Step 2

☐ Step 3

☐ Step 4

☐ Step 5

Does your program offer non-traditional hours (evening/overnight/weekend)?

_____ Yes

_____ No

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 childcare subsidy:

Number of children currently receiving privately funded tuition assistance:

Number anticipated to receive Tuition Assistance/Early Learning Scholarship:

If not currently enrolled in Step Up to Quality, do you have a plan to enroll in the near future?

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)
 - Retention of children in the program
 - Exit information on reason for leaving program
 - 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
 - Exit information
 - 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. I understand that by submitting this agreement that I agree to allow information contained within this document to be shared for purposes of data collection, evaluation, and measuring outcomes. I understand that the information contained will be confidential, secured, protected, and not sold to any third party for any purpose.

Director/Owner

Date



Early Learning Scholarship Checklist

The Early Learning Scholarship is intended to support working families in meeting the high cost of quality care for children in full day/full year settings or attending wrap around care blended with a public-school program.

Providers, please use the following checklist to assure that you have filled out and signed the proper documents, along with submitting all supporting documents needed.

- ☐ Early Learning Scholarship Family Application
 - ☐ Signed and dated by Parent
- ☐ Copy of childcare subsidy determination letter, **if available**
 - ☐ Signed and dated by Parent
- ☐ Last three paycheck stubs of each adult living in the household
- ☐ Childcare Provider Agreement
 - ☐ Signed and dated by the Director/Owner
- ☐ Daily Enrollment Sheet for each Child applying
- ☐ Copy of Provider's rates
- ☐ An invoice for the enrollment fee (only if bill is past due)
 - ☐ Must show dates being billed
 - ☐ Child name
 - ☐ Amount owed

We encourage you to reach out if you have any questions.

Please contact us at assistant@bcchp.org or at (308) 865-2284.

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- ☐ Number of children **enrolled** at childcare center
- ☐ Family award amount (cannot exceed family cap during grant cycle)
- ☐ Family referred to coaching services