

FAQ's - Scholarship Applicants

What is an Early Learning Scholarship?

Early Learning Scholarships help families access quality early education and care programs for their child.

How do I apply?

Visit EarlyLearningScholarshipsHub.mn.gov to apply. Applying online gives you the most control through the application process. You can complete the application at your own pace as you gather documentation. After completing the application, you will be able to return to your HUB account to view the application status.

We encourage everyone to apply online, but if you prefer to submit a paper application, please contact us.

What can I do if I experience technical difficulties with my Early Learning Scholarships Hub account?

Visit [Early Learning Scholarships Hub Support](#) to find How-To's and Help or submit a Product Support Ticket.

If you need assistance with the application process or have questions on your application status, you may call the Scholarships Department at Think Small, 651-641-6604.

My child has been placed on the waitlist, what now?

Scholarships are awarded as funds become available. We use standardized guidelines from the Department of Children, Youth and Families to determine eligible applications for awarding. We unfortunately cannot let you know your exact position on the waitlist. If anything changes with your application status, we will contact you.

If I apply, will I get a scholarship?

Due to the high number of applications received, not every eligible applicant will receive a scholarship.

If I already applied, do I need to apply again?

Children that applied in the past, but were denied, must re-apply.

Children who are on the waitlist do not need to apply again.

Siblings (a new infant or any other child under 5 years old) that were not on the original application will require a new application with current income documentation.

How will I be notified if my child receives a scholarship?

Many communications will be sent via email from the Early Learning Scholarships Hub. This will be the primary method of contact letting you know about scholarship awards, annual

scholarship renewal, and other relevant information. It is important to keep your contact information (email, address, and phone) up to date, so we are able to reach you as needed.

Where can I use a scholarship?

A scholarship will make payments to eligible child care/preschool programs in Minnesota participating in Parent Aware. For help finding an eligible program, contact Parent Aware at 1-888-291-9811 or www.parentaware.org.

What is Parent Aware?

Parent Aware is Minnesota's rating tool to help parents select high-quality child care and early education programs. Early learning programs participating in Parent Aware focus on activities and skills that help children prepare for school and beyond. Participation in Parent Aware is voluntary. Programs participating in Parent Aware earn a 1-4 star rating based on the demonstrated use of research-based practices. Each rating level builds on the previous one. Learn more at www.parentaware.org.

How much is the scholarship?

Scholarship maximum award amounts are based on the child's age, program type, county where the program is located, and Parent Aware participation status. [Find maximum award amounts on the Early Learning Scholarships webpage](#) This scholarship may not cover the full cost of your child's program. Depending on the cost of your child's part-time or full-time schedule, you may need to pay part of the tuition. Scholarships will not pay you back for any payments you have already made to a program. Scholarships cannot be used for drop-in care.

How does the scholarship work?

Parents select a Parent Aware participating program that best fits the needs of the child and family. A parent provides the selected program with a copy of their Award Letter and completes an Award Planning Agreement with the provider. Families should be informed on how the scholarship funds will be used and any out-of-pocket costs, if applicable. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the child care provider.

When can payments start?

Payments can be made based on the award date listed on your child's scholarship Award Letter and children must be enrolled at least one day per week on a regular schedule. Payments are made directly to your child care program, after your Area Administrator receives the enrollment paperwork. Scholarships cannot be used for drop-in care or only school release days.

Can the scholarship make past payments?

Scholarships cannot make any payments owed past due or reimburse for any payments already made to a program.

How long can my child continue to use a scholarship?

Once a child is awarded, scholarships are eligible to renew every year until a child becomes age-eligible for kindergarten. Children in Minnesota are age-eligible for Kindergarten when they are 5 years old on 9/1. Scholarships may close if the policies are not followed or if we cannot reach the family.

Can my child attend more than one child care program?

Scholarships will only pay one program at a time. If your child attends two programs (or more), you must choose one program for scholarship payments.

Can I combine funding if I have Child Care Assistance through the county?

The Early Learning Scholarship can be combined with Child Care Assistance to cover the cost of care. Payments to CCAP are applied first and any remaining amount is covered by the scholarship.