

Fiscal Year 2025 Early Learning Scholarships

Families can apply for an Early Learning Scholarship – Pathway I Scholarship online! Visit earlylearningscholarshipshub.mn.gov to apply online.

What is an Early Learning Scholarship?

An Early Learning Scholarship – Pathway I can help your child attend high-quality child care and early education to ensure your child enters kindergarten ready to succeed. The scholarship money will be paid directly to the program of your choice that is participating in Parent Aware. Parent Aware is a rating tool to help parents select high-quality early childhood programs. For more information, visit the [Parent Aware website](http://ParentAware.org) (ParentAware.org).

Note: Children may only receive one scholarship between July 1 and June 30 each year, and cannot receive a Pathway I and Pathway II scholarship at the same time.

Where can my child use a scholarship?

You may use an Early Learning Scholarship – Pathway I at any Parent Aware-participating early childhood program in Minnesota that your child attends on a regular basis.

Your child is not required to be enrolled in or attending a program at the time you apply for an Early Learning Scholarship. To find an eligible program, please contact the Child Care Information Services phone line at Child Care Aware of Minnesota (888-291-9811) or visit the [Parent Aware website](http://ParentAware.org) (ParentAware.org). You may use these same resources if your child is currently attending a program but you would like to explore other options. Be sure to tell the Area Administrator about your program choice if you are awarded a scholarship.

What are the maximum scholarship award amounts?

The maximum scholarship award amount available depends on your child's age, county, program type, and Parent Aware status. Learn about maximum scholarship award amounts on the [Early Learning Scholarships webpage](#).

What are the eligibility requirements?

1. **Age:** Children birth through age 4 are eligible, and 5-year-olds are eligible if they turned 5 after September 1 of the current school year. (Children age out of eligibility if they are age 5 on September 1 or are enrolled in and attending kindergarten, whichever is earlier.)
2. **Address:** The child resides in Minnesota (they have a Minnesota address.)
3. **Income:** The family has a household income equal to or less than 47 percent of the State Median Income OR is receiving assistance from an approved state or federally funded program.

Your household income must be at or below the amount in this chart. This chart is based on the State Median Income and is valid for awards from October 14, 2024 through October 2025.

Family Size	Annual Income before Taxes	Family Size	Annual Income before Taxes
2	\$44,006	6	\$85,423
3	\$54,360	7	\$87,365
4	\$64,714	8	\$89,306
5	\$75,068	9	\$91,247

Priority Populations

Children receive priority status for Early Learning Scholarship funds if they meet one or more of the following criteria. Families must also meet income requirements to be eligible, unless noted below. A child's application is considered priority if they:

- Are in foster care or have a parent/guardian who is in extended foster care up to age 21 (no income documentation required). Note: If your child is in foster care, your foster care case worker must apply online. Foster parents cannot apply for a scholarship themselves.
- Have been referred as in need of child protection services (no income documentation required).
- Have a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school diploma or GED.
- Have experienced homelessness in the last 24 months.
- Have a parent currently in jail, prison, detention center or on active supervision.
- Are in or have a parent currently in a substance use treatment program.
- Are in or have a parent currently in a mental health treatment program.
- Have experienced domestic violence.
- Currently have an individualized education program (IEP, ages 3 to 5) or an individualized family service plan (IFSP, ages birth to 3).

Fiscal Year 2025 Early Learning Scholarship Administrator Offices

Area Administrators

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council: 1-800-543-7382

102 N Broadway, Crookston, MN, 56716, kathryn.gunderson@tvoc.org

Region 1: Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau

MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership, Inc.: 218-632-3600

311 Jefferson St N, Wadena, MN, 56482, els@mahube.org

Region 2: Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen

Region 5: Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, Wadena

Northland Foundation: 218-260-2736

202 W Superior St, Ste 800, Duluth, MN, 55802, info@northlandfdn.org

Region 3: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Saint Louis

Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership: 218-512-1592

891 Belsly Blvd, Moorhead, MN, 56560, els@caplp.org

Region 4: Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin

Prairie Five Community Action Council, Inc.: 1-800-292-5437

719 N 7th St, Ste 302, Montevideo, MN, 56265, emily.castaneda@prairiefive.org

Region 6W: Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine

United Community Action Partnership, Inc.: 320-235-0850 x1350

200 4TH Street SW Willmar, MN 56201, ELS@unitedcapmn.org

Region 6E: Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Renville

Families First of Minnesota: 1-888-450-2773

126 Woodlake Dr SE, Rochester, MN, 55904, elsinfo@familiesfirstmn.org

Region 7E: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine

Region 9: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan

Region 10: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Winona

West Metro: Carver, Dakota, and Scott Counties

Milestones: 1-800-288-8549 or 320-251-5081

314 10th Ave S, Ste 180, Waite Park, MN, 56387, info@milestonesmn.org

Region 7W: Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright

Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, Inc.: 1-800-658-2444

1106 3rd Ave, Worthington, MN, 56187, info@smoc.us

Region 8: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock

Think Small: 651-641-6604

10 Yorkton Ct, St. Paul, MN, 55117, scholarships@thinksmall.org

Metro Twin Cities: Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

Anoka County Community Action Program: 763-783-4711

1201 89th Ave NE, Ste 3500, Blaine, MN, 55434, els@accap.org

East Metro: Anoka and Washington Counties

Tribal Administrators

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwa – Child Care Services: 1-800-551-0969

6530 US 2 NW, Cass Lake, MN, 56633, tonya.morris@llojibwe.net

White Earth Reservation – Child Care/Early Childhood Programs: 1-800-950-3248

35500 Eagleview Rd, Ogema, MN, 56569, Jessica.harstad@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Central Payment Administrator

Greater Twin Cities United Way: 612-340-7402

Att: Early Learning Scholarships, 404 S 8th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404, ELSAPaymentSupport@gtcuw.org