

Early Learning Scholarships help pay for high-quality child care and early learning.



Find out if  
you qualify for an  
**Early  
Learning  
Scholarship**



Contact the  
Scholarship  
Information Line  
**651-641-6604**  
or online at  
[www.ThinkSmall.org/  
scholarships](http://www.ThinkSmall.org/scholarships)

Funding provided by the Minnesota Department of Education using state funding to support administration of early learning scholarships, 124D. 165.

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OF EDUCATION

**think  
small**  
LEADERS IN EARLY LEARNING

# Early Learning Scholarships

Early Learning Scholarships help pay for high-quality child care and early education to help children in Minnesota get ready for kindergarten. Pathway I Early Learning Scholarship money will be paid directly to the program of your choice that is participating in Parent Aware.

Think Small is the administrator for scholarships in Ramsey and Hennepin counties. For an application, go to [thinksmall.org/apply](https://thinksmall.org/apply) or call 651-641-6604. Applications are available in English, Hmong, Spanish and Somali.

## Eligibility Requirements

### Child's Age

To qualify, a child must be 3 or 4 years old on September 1, 2021, and not yet eligible for kindergarten OR a younger child may be considered if at least one of the following is met:

- The child is in foster care
- The family has experienced homelessness in the past 24 months
- The child is the younger sibling of a currently awarded child
- The parent is under the age of 21 and currently pursuing a high school or general education equivalency diploma (GED)

### Income

Families have an annual gross income no more than 185% of Federal Poverty Guidelines OR currently participates in at least one of the following programs:

- MFIP
- CCAP
- CACFP (by income)
- SNAP
- Headstart
- Foster Care\*
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program (FRLP)

*\*NOTE: Applications for children in foster care must be signed and submitted by the agency worker*

## Award Amount

Scholarship amounts are based on the Parent Aware rating level of the program you choose.

Parent Aware Rating	Scholarship Award**
Parent Aware Four-Star Rating	Up to \$8,500 per child
Parent Aware Three-Star Rating	Up to \$6,000 per child
Parent Aware One and Two-Star Rating*	Up To \$5,000 per child
Currently in a Full-Rating Cohort**	Up to \$4,000 per child

\*Starting July 1, 2024, Early Learning Scholarships - Pathway I can only be used at programs with a Three- or Four-Star Rating.

\*\* Children in a priority status will be eligible for a higher cap. Consult with the Area Administrator once awarded.

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