EARLY LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP LOGISTICS

Think Small is accepting early applications for NAZ families for the 2020-21 Pathway 1 early learning scholarship funded through the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). All NAZ families with scholars age 0-5 are encouraged to apply for the opportunity and have been mailed a blank application.

Talking points

- Studies suggest scholars who attend high-quality early learning programming are more ready for kindergarten than their peers who do not. This support may also allow parents to move forward on their own goals.
- Scholarships will be awarded up to $7,500 to attend a 3- or 4-star rated program.
- Completing the application does not guarantee scholarship money.

Eligibility

- To qualify, a scholar must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2020.
- A younger child may qualify if at least one of the following is met:
  - The scholar is the younger sibling of a scholar who is 3 or 4 years old by Sept. 1
  - The scholar is in foster care or receiving child protective services
  - The family has experienced homelessness in the past 24 months
  - The scholar’s parent is under the age of 21 and is currently pursuing a high school or general education equivalency diploma (GED).
- Early applications for scholarship awards are being accepted between May 15th and June 30th, 2020. Late applications will not receive priority status but may be submitted.

Process

- Review Coach Roster to identify and contact potentially eligible households on your roster
- Enter notes and log activity for all meaningful contact and contact attempts. If a family opts out of the opportunity, note the reason why. If a family opts in, continue the steps below:
  - Set an appropriate EC goal within each scholar’s record.
  - Work with your manager to complete the new electronic consent process to update scholar and parent ROIs to include Think Small with appropriate categories
  - Send connection to Kendra Ristow at Think Small. Contact Kendra, scholarship administrator, with any questions by ping or phone (651-233-2265).
  - Encourage the family to complete the application they received in the mail. Applications can also be printed from the Think Small website, here. One application covers all household members. Families should write “NAZ FAMILY” on the front page of the application. Completed applications must be mailed to:

  Attn: Kendra Ristow
  Think Small
  10 Yorkton Court