

Early Learning Scholarship Program Provider Eligibility Information

Eligibility for Child Care Center and Family Child Care Homes:

Douglas County childcare providers interested in participating in the Early Learning Scholarship must meet the following criteria:

- Licensed and in good standing
- Enrolled in Step Up to Quality at Step 1 (or higher) and have a plan to achieve Step 2 or higher within 12 months, and/or nationally accredited
- 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 social emotional curricula such as Pyramid Model, Second Steps, etc.
- Providing Infant/Toddler Care

Provider Requirements:

- Programs must have, or will agree to put a process into place, to assure that potentially eligible families are receiving 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 required data for a collective evaluation
- Agree to keep completed family applications for scholarship program current and on file for up to three years
- Agree to submit monthly reimbursement forms to Early Childhood Community Coordinator
- Regular communication with the Early Childhood Community Coordinator

Provider **must agree** that funding from the Early Learning Scholarship will only be used for low-income children served full-time by their program and to continue improving the quality of their program per Step Up to Quality standards.

Applications are accepted each August.

Interested, eligible providers should contact Shelina Williams
at swilliams@nebraskaearly.org