

## Early Learning Scholarship – Pathway I Application Instructions

### What is an Early Learning Scholarship?

An Early Learning Scholarship - Pathway I can help you pay for high-quality child care and early education to help your child get ready for Kindergarten. The scholarship money will be paid directly to the Parent Aware rated child care or early education program of your choice. Parent Aware is a rating tool to help parents select high-quality child care and early education programs. For more information, visit the [Parent Aware website](http://ParentAware.org), (ParentAware.org).

### Where can my child use a scholarship?

You may use your Early Learning Scholarship - Pathway I at any Parent Aware rated child care or early education program in Minnesota your child attends on a regular basis.

Your child does not need to be enrolled or attending a program at the time you apply for an Early Learning Scholarship. If you need help locating qualifying programs, please contact your scholarship Area Administrator or Parent Aware at 888-291-9811 or go to [Parent Aware website](http://ParentAware.org) (ParentAware.org). If your child is currently attending a program, but you would like to explore other options, they can help you with this as well.

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

Parent Aware Program Rating Level	Scholarship Amount
Four-Star Parent Aware Rating	Up to \$7,500 per child
Three-Star Parent Aware Rating	Up to \$5,000 per child
One- or Two-Star Parent Aware Rating	Up to \$4,000 per child
Currently in a Full-Rating Pathway Cohort	Up to \$3,000 per child



## 2018 and 2019 Early Learning Scholarships

The Early Learning Scholarship program awards scholarships of up to \$7,500 to high-need families meeting eligibility requirements. A family's income must be equal to or less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level, per the chart below, or be participating in any of the following programs: free and reduced-price lunch, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), Food Distribution on Indian Reservations, Head Start, Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Supplemental Nutritional Aid Program (SNAP), or Foster Care.

Scholarships are prioritized to first meet the needs of children of a teen parents, currently in foster care, in need of child protective services, or who have experienced homelessness in the last 24 months.

The chart below is based on FY2018 poverty guidelines published in the Federal Register on January 18, 2018.

Family Size	Gross Income	Family Size	Gross Income
2	\$30,451	6	\$62,419
3	\$38,443	7	\$70,411
4	\$46,435	8	\$78,403
5	\$54,427	9	\$86,395

For family units of more than nine members, add \$7,992 for each additional member.

Scholarships are available to children who are 3 or 4 years old by September 1 of the school year the scholarship is used. Some children ages 0 to 2 may also qualify if they meet a high priority category.

Families interested in applying should contact their area or tribe administrator listed below, or call 1-888-291-9811.

## 2018 and 2019 Early Learning Scholarship Administrator Offices

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

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

### Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership, Inc.: 218-632-3600

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

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