



FY2018 Preschool Tuition/Scholarship Policy

Item	Preschool Tuition Assistance Criteria
Preschool application	A universal preschool tuition assistance application will be utilized; the application will include required state performance measures not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marital status, ethnicity, and educational level of head of household • Household size • Federal poverty level
Parent expectations	Family will adhere to the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% attendance policy • notify preschool enrichment project regarding a change in income, contact information or preschool setting • agree to child assessments • be responsible for registration fees, co-pays and late fees
Quality preschool	A menu of quality measures shall be required and is as follows Department of Education program or Department of Human Services Licensed program, QPPS, NAEYC, QRS levels 3-5, and Head Start Performance Standards (i.e. timelines will be required) It is important to note that verification is a critical component for quality, however capacity for verification may be limited.
Priority by age	The following priorities are for preschool tuition assistance: 1 st priority = four-year olds by September 15th 2 nd priority = three-year olds by September 15th 3 rd priority = five-year olds by September 15th only if another program is not offered in the school setting in which they are eligible to attend
Income verification	Income verification will be as follows: First priority for income verification is a Federal tax return; Second priority is FIP notice of decision and/or unemployment benefits; additional income verification considerations may be considered for extenuating circumstances (i.e. most recent months pay stubs)
Service area	Children and preschools that reside in the service area are first priority. If the ECI area is not at capacity of funds or there are compelling reasons to have a child attend a preschool outside the service area, it may be considered. Additionally, if a preschool is utilized outside the service area, quality standards apply. It is up to the discretion of the preschool enrichment project to make determinations regarding extenuating circumstances.
Provider hours of operation	Preschools that provide for four-year old programming are required to offer a minimum of ten hours of instruction per week. Preschools that provide three-year old programming have no required minimum hours of instruction per week.
Hours per family	One-half day is the maximum amount allowed for preschool tuition assistance.
Sliding Fee	Any family over 200% of the federal poverty guidelines will have their application for funding reviewed on an individual basis. A sliding fee scale is required; Federal poverty guidelines shall be utilized and a sliding fee schedule of 90%, 80%, 70%, and 60% respectively (example – a family of four making up to \$49,200 annually will receive 90% tuition assistance).
Caps	Preschools shall have a cap of \$175 for nine months maximum even if tuition is over the \$175 maximum amount. If other assistance is available through a preschool/agency/business the lowest tuition rate will be utilized.
Use of other government funded preschool programs	Does not meet the eligibility requirements for any other state or federal preschool program (i.e. Head Start, DHS funding) or those programs are at capacity and cannot offer services within a reasonable length of time. Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program slots will be encouraged to be filled before providing preschool tuition assistance.
Other information	Tuition scholarships will not pay for meals, transportation or wrap-around child care.