



Northland Foundation announces applications are available for 2018-2019 Early Learning Scholarships for families in seven counties of northeastern Minnesota
Families of young children can receive scholarship money to help pay for high-quality early childhood care and education

The Northland Foundation announced that Minnesota Early Learning Scholarship applications are now available for families of young children living in Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis Counties. Scholarships are up to \$7,500 per child, per year, to help eligible families with the cost of high-quality child care, Head Start, preschool, or school-based prekindergarten. The scholarship funds are provided by the Minnesota Department of Education. The updated application form and directions are available on the Northland Foundation's website at www.northlandfdn.org/els.

Families of 3 and 4 year olds may apply to use their scholarship at any Parent Aware-participating early childhood program for their child. It may be a school district prekindergarten and preschool program, Head Start, child care center, or licensed family child care provider. Parent Aware is Minnesota's child care quality rating program.

Those who receive scholarships for 3 and 4 year olds may also receive scholarship funds for a younger sibling, too. Qualification is income-based. Scholarships do not affect a family's ability to also receive CCAP for child care.

Children 0 to 5 years old whose parents are age 20 or younger, have experienced homelessness, or are in foster care or child protective services receive priority for scholarships.

Households that want to learn more, child care providers who are Parent Aware-rated or in a cohort to earn a rating, and county case workers working with young children are invited to contact the Northland Foundation for more details or assistance. Call 218-260-2736 or 1-800-433-4045.

The application and instructions can be found online at www.northlandfdn.org/els or by calling the Northland Foundation. For additional information, visit the Minnesota Department of Education website, education.state.mn.us/MDE/fam/elsprog/elschol/index.htm or the Parent Aware website, <http://parentaware.org/>.