

Child Care Scholarships: Families FAQs

Eligibility

Am I eligible for a scholarship?

Scholarships are available for Franklin County families, including foster families, who are not currently receiving other subsidies including Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) or the Child Care Choice Voucher*. Families must have a total gross household income of 145% - 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. The chart below is available to determine income eligibility.

Number of People in Household	Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	145% FPL	300% FPL
1	\$15,060	\$21,837	\$45,180
2	\$20,440	\$29,638	\$61,320
3	\$25,850	\$37,483	\$77,460
4	\$31,200	\$45,240	\$93,600
5	\$36,580	\$53,041	\$109,740
6	\$41,960	\$60,842	\$125,880
7	\$47,340	\$68,643	\$142,020
8	\$52,720	\$76,744	\$158,160

**If a family is already receiving PFCC or related funding (such as from Child Care Aware or a similar program), they are not eligible for a scholarship.*

Are there any age restrictions?

The scholarship will stop on the child's first day of kindergarten, and is not available for school aged children.

Do I need to live in Franklin County?

Yes. A change to eligibility for the 2024-2025 program period now requires all eligible families to be residents of Franklin County.

What if I live in an area that shares two counties?

To be eligible, you and the child care program must be located inside Franklin County.

Are child care employees eligible for scholarships?

The simple answer is - yes! If you meet the other scholarship requirements, you can also be an employee of the child care program.

Application Process

My child currently is receiving a RISE scholarship. Should I apply?

Yes. All RISE recipients should apply now for the Year 3 scholarship. Given that we are expecting the application to fill up quickly, even people whose RISE scholarship extends past

November 2024 should apply now (as money will not be set aside for later ending scholarships). Please note that approved scholarships in this situation will not extend past November 30, 2025. For instance, if a RISE recipient's current scholarship is approved through January 2025 and they get approved for the Year 3 scholarship, it will not extend past November 2025.

My child is currently receiving a scholarship. Is the application for a “renewing” child different?

All RISE recipients will need to reapply for the year 3 scholarship, even past and current RISE recipients. Renewal of the scholarship is not automatic or guaranteed, so we recommend applying for the scholarship as soon as possible.

How do I apply for a scholarship?

You must work with an ODJFS licensed Franklin County child care program. The child care program will start the scholarship application on your behalf. Please contact [Action for Children](#) if you need help finding a child care program that meets your needs. Make sure your phone number and email are up to date with the child care provider, as we will use the contact information they input to send a family their section of the application.

As part of the application process, you will need to provide verification of income, and proof of your child's age. Income verification may include:

- Check stubs
- Unemployment payment statements
- A letter from your employer

Scholarship Details, Duration, and Conditions

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How much money will be credited towards my child care tuition balance and how will that be determined?

Each scholarship amount is determined based on the tuition charged by the child care provider and the income of the family.

Use the chart below in order to determine the maximum payment allotted for your household income. You will be approved for either the maximum allotment allowable for your income or the maximum monthly tuition charged by your child care provider.

In other words, eligible families will either get the maximum monthly payment allotted based on the sliding scale for income (see scale below), or the total monthly cost for tuition, which ever amount is smaller.

FPL Bracket	Maximum Monthly Scholarship Payment Per Child
145% - 165%	\$750.00
166% - 185%	\$687.50
186% - 205%	\$625.00
206% - 250%	\$562.50
251%-300%	\$500.00

Funds are paid directly to the child care program on your behalf for a period of time ending November 30, 2025. Months spent unenrolled or periods of school closures (i.e., a program that closes for the summer period), are forfeit.

How do I calculate my specific FPL percentage?

We recommend using this [online FPL calculator](#) to find your specific percentage.

Will I lose scholarship eligibility if I have a change in income status?

Your income will be verified at the beginning of the process. Much like a college scholarship, once your need has been demonstrated, the scholarship is committed to you. The only circumstance that would put your scholarship in jeopardy is if your child care provider becomes unlicensed or you move outside of Franklin County or to a provider not located in Franklin County.

Why does the scholarship get paid to the provider?

The scholarship can only be used directly by the provider to offset expenses incurred by your enrollment in a child care program for regular and customary tuition fees. The individual child care program will decide if there are family co-pays or activity fees. This amount cannot be dispersed across multiple children and cannot be used for any other purpose such as supplemental income.

How long does my child receive the scholarship?

Scholarships are approved for a **period of time ending November 30, 2025**. In instances when a child is absent from a program, such as during transfers between child care providers or summer break when a program is closed, the missed month(s) are forfeited. Please communicate any expected absenteeism in advance when possible. Payments will resume once the child returns and enrollment verification is submitted. The value of the forfeited months will be removed from the total RISE scholarship.

Regardless of which month your scholarship begins, all scholarships will end November 30, 2025. This change will help all scholarships to align with the funding contract cycle. Applying early is the best way to maximize the length of your scholarship.

What if I have more than one child?

Each child needs its own application, but as long as the child care program has slots available child care providers are able to submit applications for multiple children within the same family. Child care centers can have up to 10 active scholarships and family child care providers can have up to 6.

How soon after applying will I hear back?

Once your application has been submitted by the provider of your choice, and you have completed your income verification section, your application will be reviewed for eligibility. Watch your email for further information.

Scholarship Payment Forfeiture and Discontinuation

Why could a month of RISE be forfeit?

- Transfer to a new child care program mid-month
- Enrollment verification is not submitted within 6 weeks of the beginning of the month (ex. January verification is not submitted by the second week of February).
- If a child begins kindergarten, the days/months after their start date are forfeit.

Why could a RISE scholarship be discontinued?

- Child begins kindergarten
- Missing 2+ months of enrollment verification without reaching out to Action for Children
- Transfer to another child care taking 31+ days
- Transfer to an unlicensed child care provider or a child care provider outside of Franklin County

What if my child care program is not open year-round?

Closure months are forfeited. Please communicate these closures in advance to ensure the remaining months of scholarship are available. Scholarship dollars will not be paid out beyond November 30, 2025.

Transfers and Absenteeism

What happens if I transfer child care programs?

If you are transferring, you must contact Action for Children immediately via RISEHelp@actionforchildren.org to communicate the decision. Payments will begin with the first full month following enrollment at the new child care program. Unenrolled time will be forfeited. If a family unenrolls from their scholarship provider without prior communication to Action for Children, funds may not be available, and could be reassigned to another scholarship recipient.

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What is required to maintain the scholarship throughout the time period?

In order for a monthly payment to be made and the scholarship to remain active, the child care provider and family must complete the monthly enrollment.

Each month an email will be sent to the child care provider where the provider is asked to enter attendance data and confirm the child's enrollment. Following their completion, the parent will receive an email where they must confirm enrollment.

Payments are made the Friday of third full week of each month. If confirmation of enrollment is not made prior to the beginning of the third full week, payment will be delayed and possibly discontinued.

Do I still need to submit enrollment verification and attendance information?

Yes, a monthly enrollment verification *and* attendance information must be submitted. December enrollment verification will be collected using the paper form from the [Year 2 RISE scholarship](#). For all future months, a new electronic form has been created which captures enrollment verification and attendance. From January 2025 forward, providers will submit the form within the first 2 weeks of the month (otherwise payment could be delayed or forfeited for that month).

At the beginning of the month, the child care provider will submit a form with the child's attendance for the past month, and their expected enrollment for the current month. For example, the form completed in January will show attendance for December and confirm the child is expected to be enrolled for January.

How do I complete the new Enrollment/Attendance form?

The child care provider will input their program's license number, which will auto-populate their current RISE recipients. They should then complete the previous month's attendance data. The provider should then input each child's teacher, the number of days they actually attended, and the number of days they were expected to attend (the form will then auto-calculate all percentages). Lastly, the provider should include the month/year being reported on and sign/submit the document online.

After completing the attendance information for the previous month, the provider will indicate if the child is still attending for the current month (this acts as our new enrollment verification). If the answer is "yes", an email will be sent to the parent of the child to confirm expected attendance and document any attendance challenges the child has had. If the answer is "no" then no email is sent to the parent for additional confirmation. For this reason it is important families communicate their desire to transfer to another child care program directly to RISEHelp@actionforchildren.org.