

CARES Child Care Scholarship Program

Frequently Asked Questions



The CARES Child Care Scholarship will provide free child care to income eligible essential workers. The Scholarship program will pay for the cost of child care for children attending a licensed or registered child care provider while funding is available.

This is a short-term/time-limited support for families.

Payments will only be made to child care providers for children who have been approved for the scholarship by the Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.

APPLICATION & ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

Who is eligible?

All essential workers as defined in [Executive Order 202.6](#), or [State Education Order 206](#) who are at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. This includes all income eligible school personnel who work outside of the home.

Family Size	Household Salary Eligibility (Maximum)
2	\$51,720
3	\$65,160
4	\$78,600
5	\$92,040
6	\$105,480
7	\$118,920
8	\$132,360

You must currently be working as an essential worker outside of the home, **and** income eligible.

How do I apply if I think I am eligible?

Parents can submit applications online.

- English - <https://forms.gle/Xj2Ec9AS5wq6rvSu6>
- Spanish - <https://forms.gle/7AVngbms6kMufNrE8>

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What do I need to apply?

- You will need to state your household income. You will be asked to attest that what you state as your income is true and accurate.
- A letter from your employer confirming that you are an essential worker who cannot work from home on the employer's official letterhead. The letter must include your average weekly hours and your gross wages. There may be follow up directly with an employer to confirm your employment.
- A recent paystub
- If there is a 2nd person in the home who is financially responsible for the child (another parent, step-parent, guardian), additional documentation is required. This person does NOT need to be an essential worker, but may need to provide income information.

You cannot be approved without this documentation.

How long will it take to be notified of approval?

We will review all applications within 10 business days of submission (our goal is to review all within 3 business days). Final approval cannot be made until the employer letter is received. Once the letter is received and the parent is otherwise eligible, you will be notified within 3 business days.

Do I have to currently be enrolled in a child care program?

No. The Child Care Council of Suffolk or the Child Care Council of Nassau can help you find a licensed or registered child care program that meets your needs.

Can I apply if I am currently paying for my own child care?

Yes. If you are currently enrolled and paying for child care, and are income eligible, you can receive the scholarship for your children in child care.

Can I apply if I am not currently in need of child care, but may need child care in the future?

No. The scholarship is only available for essential workers who need child care right now in order to work. If the scholarship is still available, you can apply when you do need child care.

Where can I use this scholarship?

The scholarship can be used to pay for child care at any licensed or registered child care program. It cannot be used for babysitters, nannies or other non-licensed programs. The Council can help you find a program.

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Who receives the payment? The parent or the child care provider?

The payment will be made directly to the child care provider.

How much is the scholarship?

The scholarship will pay the child care provider's rate as of September 1, 2020 but not more than the [OCFS Market Rate](#) for child care in Suffolk County.

When will the child care provider get paid?

Payments must go through several steps at the local and state level. Once a completed and accurate invoice is received from a provider, we hope to make payment within 3 weeks.

How long does the scholarship last?

The scholarship can be used for child care costs incurred from the date of submission of the parent's application, until January 10, 2021.

DSS SUBSIDY QUESTIONS

If a child is currently receiving a DSS subsidy, do they need to apply for the scholarship?

The scholarship will cover the parent's fee for DSS subsidy child care. A parent receiving a subsidy can apply to use the scholarship to cover the parent's fee for DSS subsidy child care.

If I get a scholarship, can I still apply for a child care subsidy?

Yes, if you are eligible you can apply for a child care while using the scholarship. Once you are approved for a subsidy, you must notify the Child Care Council of Suffolk immediately. The scholarship will then only cover the parent fee, while the subsidy will pay for the remaining cost of care.

Staff from the Child Care Council can help you with the DSS subsidy process.