

Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program

Mission: To provide support for families to enable them to work or to gain qualifications to work.

Purpose: The Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to families who, due to income level, do not qualify for the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), but yet are unable to afford childcare. The intent is to support those families that are financially strained due to childcare costs that result in workers leaving the work force or being unable to accept employment. Assistance will be determined through a qualification process based on need and funding.

Eligibility: Applicants must be seeking childcare services from a licensed childcare provider in Effingham County. Eligibility for assistance is based on the criteria outlined within this document. CCAP maximum monthly income is currently set at 225% of federal poverty guidelines. It is the intention that the Gap Scholarship maximum monthly income range always be an additional 25% above CCAP (for example, 225%-250%) and will adjust as CCAP adjusts.

Family participation in the scholarship program is limited to a 2-year maximum term with annual renewals required based on continued eligibility and sufficient scholarship funding. A 3-month notice will be given to families if benefits are being terminated for cause if other than 1- and 2-year renewals. Families are to self-declare if changes in income would occur before the next eligibility renewal determination. A job loss or break in activity must be reported within 30 days in order to remain part of the Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program.

Financial Assistance: Applications will be accepted during an established time period (approx. 30 days) and once closed, recipients will be chosen based on a prioritized need, as long as funds are available within the "Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Fund." Eligible and approved families will receive financial assistance to aid with childcare expenses. Scholarship funds will be sent directly to licensed childcare provider to be credited to each families' outstanding balance. Any remaining balance will be due to the childcare provider by the family as agreed. Qualifying for financial assistance does not guarantee funds will be available to fund outstanding balances or services. A waitlist of eligible, interested families will be maintained.

SECTION A – WILL YOU QUALIFY?

To qualify for Effingham County Childcare Scholarship and receive assistance, you must meet certain requirements:

1. You must first apply for and be denied by the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) within the past 60 days with the reason being that your income is over the maximum monthly income limit set by CCAP.
2. Your account must be in good standing with the licensed Effingham County childcare provider with no past due payments.
3. Household gross income (everyone listed in your family who working and is 21 or older) must fall within the range provided in the table below:

Amounts below as of July 1, 2023

Family Size	GAP Maximum Monthly Income @ 250% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (Gross Before Taxes)
2	\$4,109
3	\$5,179

4	\$6,250
5	\$7,321
6	\$8,392
7	\$9,462
8	\$10,533

SECTION B – MONTHLY SUPPORT LEVEL

Initial amount will range from \$200-\$300 per month for each family with a child under age 6 (and not yet kindergarten eligible) receiving full-time childcare. Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Board will have the discretion to modify the final monthly scholarship amount based on number of applications, future funding levels, continued interest in the program, etc. but will not exceed \$300 per month.

Families are responsible for making payment arrangements on any remaining outstanding balance following the payment application of their financial assistance. Failure to make payment arrangements and maintain payment arrangements on final balance will remove the family from the program.

SECTION C – PERSONAL & FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Guardian Name #1: _____, Guardian Name #2: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Have you applied for the program before? _____ If yes, when? _____

Children currently (or planning on) attending daycare with date of birth: _____,
 _____, _____, _____, _____

Childcare Provider Name: _____

Total family size: _____

SECTION D – DESCRIBE YOUR SITUATION

Check the application type that best describes your situation:

- Return to Workforce
- Remain in Workforce
- Further Education for Future Workforce

In your own words describe your family/work situation: _____

SECTION E – DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

- Copy of CCAP application and denial letter dated within 60 days of submission of application
- Completed Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program application
- Household income verification (last two paystubs or, in the case of new employment, a letter from employer)
- Attest that you are employed in Effingham County.

SECTION F – DECLARATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

No family is entitled to receive financial assistance, either by their tenure of attendance or by contributions to the Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program. Financial assistance will not be made before the completion and submission of all required documentation.

This application will be treated in a confidential manner by the Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program’s advisory board/committee. Periodically, non-identifying statistical information may be reported to the advisory board/committee.

Applicants are expected to provide truthful and accurate information when completing the application for the program.

Your signature below certifies that the information provided is true and complete. It also authorizes the Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program, to obtain and/or verify all information necessary to process this application and releases the Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program and from any liability associated with the rejection of or funding of the application.

Effingham County Employer: _____

Childcare Provider’s Name (Print) : _____

Childcare License Number: _____

Childcare Provider’s Signature: _____

Applicant Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Mail or email completed and signed application along with required documentation to:

Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program

PO Box 1757, Effingham, IL 62401

Email: efcochildcare@gmail.com

Disclaimer: The Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program reserves the right to change the rules and eligibility requirements as needed. Any change in the program will be communicated to current families who have previously qualified through mail or email. The Effingham County Childcare Scholarship Program is being offered through funding from the Effingham County Board and eligible grants and donations received from the community. Qualification in the scholarship program does not remove families from their financial obligations for any services received.