

2026-2027 Better Tomorrows Preschool Scholarship Application

Preschool scholarships are available to children in households earning 200% or less of the Federal Poverty Level (see table below). Questions, completed applications and income verification must be submitted by 10/31/26 by email to: director@bettertomorrowseci.org or by phone: 319-241-1817

ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED AND INCOME VERIFICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE WE CAN PROCESS THIS APPLICATION.

Child's Name:		Date of Birth:	
Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female		Child's Age: ☐ Three ☐ Four ☐ Five	
Parent Name & address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Phone Number:	Parent Email Address:		
Marital status of Head of Household: ☐ Married ☐ Separated ☐ Single ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐ Partnered			
Education level of Head of Household: ☐ Middle school or lower ☐ Trade or vocational training ☐ Some high school ☐ 2-year college degree ☐ High school diploma ☐ 4-year college degree ☐ GED ☐ Master's degree or higher			
Race of Head of Household: ☐ Native American or Alaskan Native ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander ☐ African American ☐ Asian ☐ Caucasian ☐ Multi-racial			
Ethnicity of Head of Household: ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Non- Hispanic		Household size: _____	

If attending a preschool that is not licensed by the Department of Education, families must apply for Child Care Assistance and be declined before we can provide a scholarship. We may be able to provide a temporary scholarship while waiting for the Child Care Assistance application to be processed.

Preschool you wish for your child to attend:

Preschool Name: _____

Monthly Tuition: _____

Does this child have previous preschool experience?

☐ Yes

☐ No

This application is for a child that will attend the following type of Preschool Program (Select all)

- ☐ 3-Year Old Preschool
- ☐ 4-Year Old Preschool (private, not a Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program)
- ☐ 4-Year Old Preschool Extended/Wraparound (Not part of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool day)
- ☐ Licensed by Iowa Department of Education
- ☐ Licensed by Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
- ☐ Head Start Program Extended Day/Wraparound (Not part of the Head Start Program Hours)

Child Care Assistance Information

- Is Child Care Assistance available at this preschool? ____ Yes ____ No
- If yes, has the family applied for Child Care Assistance? ____ Yes ____ No
- Has Child Care Assistance been awarded for child for the 2026-27 School Year ____ Yes ____ No
- If a child was denied Child Care Assistance, the student may be eligible for a Better Tomorrows ECI Preschool Scholarship but must provide a copy of the denial letter from HHS. We may be able to provide a scholarship while the family awaits notification from HHS.

Children at or below the 100% poverty level (see chart) could be eligible for Head Start and need to contact the Vinton Head Start at 319/472-4761 or Tama Head Start at 641/484-4713 to inquire about availability before applying for these funds. In general, a scholarship will not be awarded to families that qualify for Head Start but exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

Computations for the 2026 Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines

Persons in family or household	2026 poverty guidelines (100% of poverty)	200% of poverty
1	\$15,960.00	\$31,920.00
2	\$21,640.00	\$43,280.00
3	\$27,320.00	\$54,640.00
4	\$33,000.00	\$66,000.00
5	\$38,680.00	\$77,360.00
6	\$44,360.00	\$88,720.00
7	\$50,040.00	\$100,080.00
8	\$55,720.00	\$111,440.00

Proof of Income Documentation Provided:

- ☐ W-2 Forms
- ☐ Pay Stubs (for most recent month)
- ☐ Tax Return (first page showing income reported)
- ☐ Employer wage declaration or written statement from employer
- ☐ Child Care Assistance denial letter

Foster children are automatically eligible for a scholarship but one of the following is required to be submitted:

- ☐ A court order or government-issued document demonstrating the child is in foster care
- ☐ Written statement from a government child welfare official indicating the child is in foster care
- ☐ Proof of foster care payment

By signing below, you agree to the terms of participation in the Preschool Scholarship Program including:

- Scholarship payments will be made directly to the preschool.
- At least 80% attendance per month is required for participation in the Scholarship Program. If your child is sick and misses school, these days will not be included in the 80% attendance per month requirement if a written doctor's excuse is provided. The second time monthly attendance falls below 80%, the student will no longer be eligible for the scholarship program for the remainder of the school year. Full preschool tuition will then be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- You will notify director@bettertomorrowseci.org within ten days of a change in employment status, family income, household makeup or other circumstances change that may affect the child's eligibility and/or the child becomes eligible for other sources of funding such as Child Care Assistance, an employer's child care subsidy program, Early Childhood Special Education or Head Start.
- An Ages & Stages Questionnaire must be completed at least once during the school year for each student that receives a scholarship.
- Release of information to Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa Area for program data collection and reporting.
- The term of the scholarship shall be for the 2026-2027 school year unless terminated earlier by either party. It may be terminated at any time and may be dependent upon funding availability.
- The parent/guardian is responsible for any late fees, late pick-up charges, transportation fees or activity fees.
- It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to comply with all requirements included in the enrollment agreement with the preschool program.
- In the event that the license or registration held by the preschool program is revoked by the Department of Health and Human Services or the Department of Education or the program fails to comply with state and/or federal rules and laws governing the use of these funds, this Agreement may be immediately terminated upon written notice by Better Tomorrows ECI.

Additionally, by signing below, you are certifying the following:

- This application is for a child three to five years of age who will not enter Kindergarten in the 2026-2027 school year.
- No other financial assistance is available for these preschool hours including state Child Care Assistance, Promise Jobs or Head Start.
- The Family/household income is less than 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Up-to-date income, employment and household information have been provided.
- This agreement will end before the termination date if eligibility requirements are no longer met.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date