



Preschool Tuition/Scholarship Policy

Item	Preschool Tuition Assistance Criteria																																																																
Preschool application	<p>A universal preschool tuition assistance application will be utilized; the application will include required state demographic information & performance measures not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marital status, ethnicity, and educational level head of household • Household size • Federal poverty level 																																																																
Parent expectations	<p>Family will adhere to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% attendance policy • notify preschool enrichment project regarding a change in income, extended absences contact information or preschool setting • agree to child assessments • be responsible for registration fees, co-pays, and late fees 																																																																
Quality preschool	<p>The following are recognized in Iowa Administrative Code chapter 281-16 as the three approved preschool program standards that meet the characteristics of quality early childhood programs: IQPPS, NAEYC and Head Start Program Performance Standards Additional standards are Iowa Early Learning Standards, achieved an average score of 5 (with no subscale scores under 2) on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale – Revised (ECERSR), and achieved a Level 3, 4 or 5 on Iowa Quality 4 Kids System (IQ4K)</p>																																																																
Preschool program Eligibility	<p>Preschool Providers must meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use a comprehensive, research-based and evidence-based curriculum and a systematic child assessment addressing all areas of child development using a reliable, published tool. Examples of curricula choices are The Creative Curriculum for Preschool and High Scope Curriculum. Examples of assessment tools include, but are not limited to Creative Curriculum Gold and High Scope. *The ASQ-SE & ASQ-3 screening tools are required screenings twice a year on all Preschool Scholarship students. Please see Tool CC: Early childhood Iowa School Ready Funds. Preschool Programming Support for Families with Low-Income. https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2020-11/tool_cc_3-5-18.pdf. 2. Preschool providers must meet at least one of the following standards criteria Applicants must provide appropriate documentation to verify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). • Meets the Head Start Program Performance Standards; • Verified, or paperwork submitted for self-verification status to the Iowa Department of Education, for Iowa’s Quality Preschool Program Standard (QPPS). • Achieved or has applied for Level 2 or higher on Iowa’s Quality 4 Kids Rating System. <p>Sliding Fee Scale - Income Eligibility Guidelines: * * Guidelines are based on the 2022 Poverty Guidelines that were updated in January 25, 2023.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Family Size</th> <th style="width: 20%;">100% Tuition Scholarship</th> <th colspan="3" style="width: 25%;">90% Tuition Scholarship</th> <th colspan="3" style="width: 20%;">80% Tuition Scholarship</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>\$34,840</td> <td>\$34,841</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$36,640</td> <td>\$36,641</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$41,640</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>\$43,920</td> <td>\$43,921</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$52,261</td> <td>\$52,300</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$56,640</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>\$53,000</td> <td>\$53,001</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$60,880</td> <td>\$61,000</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$63,880</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>\$62,080</td> <td>\$62,081</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$71,650</td> <td>\$71,651</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$73,058</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>\$71,160</td> <td>\$71,161</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$78,260</td> <td>\$78,261</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$83,678</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>\$80,240</td> <td>\$84,241</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$97,000</td> <td>\$97,001</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$104,298</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>\$89,320</td> <td>\$89,321</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$98,260</td> <td>\$98,261</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$109,918</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Additional Person \$4,480</p>	Family Size	100% Tuition Scholarship	90% Tuition Scholarship			80% Tuition Scholarship			2	\$34,840	\$34,841	-	\$36,640	\$36,641	-	\$41,640	3	\$43,920	\$43,921	-	\$52,261	\$52,300	-	\$56,640	4	\$53,000	\$53,001	-	\$60,880	\$61,000	-	\$63,880	5	\$62,080	\$62,081	-	\$71,650	\$71,651	-	\$73,058	6	\$71,160	\$71,161	-	\$78,260	\$78,261	-	\$83,678	7	\$80,240	\$84,241	-	\$97,000	\$97,001	-	\$104,298	8	\$89,320	\$89,321	-	\$98,260	\$98,261	-	\$109,918
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<p>Required Performance Measures</p>	<p><u>Required Performance Measures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ECI funds expended ● Other funds invested to support preschool programming (listed by source) ● Highest education level of lead teachers ● Number of lead teachers with a valid practitioner’s license issued by the Board of Educational Examiners and a preschool or kindergarten endorsement ● For children who receive scholarship funds, report the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # who receive scholarship funds ○ # by age ○ # by race/ethnicity ○ # and % whose families are at or below 200% poverty level ○ # and % of referred to AEA for possible special education determination ○ # and % demonstrating age appropriate skills (identify assessment tool(s) used) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit six-month and year-end progress reports to the BooSt Together for Children ECI Board using the form provided by the ECI Coordinator. 2. Demonstrate a commitment and ability to comply with all relevant state and federal laws, including all rules and policies associated with this request for funding. 3. Scholarship funds will be distributed on a first come first serve basis to eligible preschool providers. 4. If a preschool receives notice of award of other federal, state or local funding support for preschool services after entering into a contract with BooSt Together for Children ECI Area Board, the provider must notify the ECI Coordinator immediately and the contract funding award will be renegotiated. 5. Funded providers are to invoice for services monthly. 6. Demonstrate a commitment and ability to comply with all relevant state and federal laws, including all rules and policies associated with this request for funding. 7. Scholarship funds will be distributed on a first come first serve basis to eligible preschool providers. 8. If a preschool receives notice of award of other federal, state or local funding support for preschool services after entering into a contract with BooSt Together for Children ECI Area Board, the provider must notify the ECI Coordinator immediately and the contract funding award will be renegotiated. 9. Funded providers are to invoice for services monthly.
<p>Priority by age</p>	<p>The following priorities are for preschool tuition assistance: 1st Priority: three-year olds by September 15th 2nd Priority: = four-year olds by September 15th not receiving State or Federal aid. Five-year olds by September 15th <u>cannot receive tuition assistance.</u></p>
<p>Income verification</p>	<p>Income verification will be as follows: [W1040] First priority for income verification is a federal tax return. Second priority is FIP notice of decision and/or unemployment benefits. additional income verification considerations may be considered for extenuating circumstances (i.e. most recent months’ pay stubs)</p>
<p>Service area</p>	<p>Children and preschools that reside in the service area – Boone & Story Counties are prioritized. If the ECI area is not at capacity of funds or there are compelling reasons to have a child residing in Boone & Story County attend a preschool outside the service area, it may be considered. Additionally, if a preschool is utilized outside the service area, quality standards apply. It is up to the discretion of the BooSt Board of Directors to make determinations regarding extenuating circumstances.</p>

Provider hours of operation	Preschools that provide for four-year old programming are required to offer a minimum of ten hours of instruction per week. Preschools that provide three-year old programming have no required minimum hours of instruction per week.
Hours per family	One-half day is the maximum amount allowed for preschool tuition assistance for 4 year olds receiving State funding. Full Day funding for 3 year- old's may be possible if funds remain available after all applications are processed. If funding is not available applications will be funded on a first come first serve basis at the half day rate.
Caps	Preschools shall have a cap of \$245.00 for nine months maximum even if tuition is over the \$245.00 maximum amount. If other assistance is available through a preschool/agency/business, the lowest tuition rate will be utilized.
Use of other government funded preschool programs	Does not meet the eligibility requirements for any other State-funded preschool program funded time (Shared Visions, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children); and Early Head Start/Head Start for eligible children.
Prohibited Use of Funds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funds <u>cannot</u> be used to supplant other state and federal funds (e.g., Shared Visions, Head Start, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year Old Children, state administered child care assistance for eligible families, etc.) 2. Wrap around child care. 3. Construction, renovation or land acquisition. 4. Payment of real estate mortgages or taxes; dues to organizations or federations; costs for social activities not related to the purpose of this program; costs related to political activity; interest costs, fines, penalties, law suits or legal fees; contingencies such as pending litigation possible liabilities, etc.; and contributions and donations. 5. Purchase of fixed assets such as automobiles, computer equipment, or fixtures unless such purchases have been specifically approved by the Board during or after the contract negotiation period of this grant award process. 6. Tuition scholarships will not pay for meals, transportation, registration, or wrap-around childcare.
Preschool Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicants submit the Preschool Application. Forms must be filled out in their entirety (May) 2. Family Applications must be submitted to BooSt Together for Children on the desired date. (June) 3. Applications received by the specified due date will be reviewed by a committee. The committee will develop funding recommendations for consideration of final approval. Applicants will be notified by email or mail of the funding decisions. Funds will be provided to successful applications on a reimbursement basis after submission of an invoice and supporting documentation. All final Preschool Scholarship invoices must be submitted by June.
Application Submittal	By May 26, 2023 preschool provider needs to send in an application on estimated student application form. This should be either one (1) mailed or one (1) emailed. 900 W. 3rd St. Boone, IA 50036; a copy can be emailed to aclaman@boonecounty.iowa.gov .
Family Application	By June 30, 2023 families or preschool providers should submit one (1) original family application or one (1) electronic copy to BooSt Together for Children Early Childhood Iowa. 900 W 3 rd St. Boone, IA 50036. A copy can be emailed to aclaman@boonecounty.iowa.gov .