

Why is Early Childhood Education important?

Young children and their families receive support to help them be loving, curious, and playful. Early childhood education prepares them to succeed in school and be productive in life.

Investment in early childhood education can have positive long-term effects on graduation rates, college attendance and adulthood self-control and self-esteem.



The mission of the Community Foundation is to strengthen our region through development, stewardship, and grant making as donors achieve their philanthropic goals.

We connect people who care with causes that matter

McKean County Community Foundation

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Early Childhood Development Fund





What is the Early Childhood Development Fund?

The Early Childhood Fund supports emergency scholarships for children attending licensed early learning programs and child care programs. Funds will help ensure continued access to these programs for families in financial need, or for families whose circumstances change necessitating assistance in meeting the costs of early childhood programs. These scholarships are to provide emergency assistance to ensure that children are able to maintain their enrollment in Early Learning or Child Care programs.

How can I apply?

Families may apply through their child's Early Education Program or Child Care program using the universal application provided by the Early Childhood Fund. These programs are responsible for ensuring applicants meet fund guidelines. Application will not be accepted directly from the applicants, they must come from the provider. Awards are made on a rolling basis.

- ◆ The family must reside in McKean County and attend a program located in McKean County.
- ◆ Eligible children must be aged birth to five.
- ◆ All other sources of supplemental child care or preschool funding must be fully disclosed in order to determine and maintain eligibility.
- ◆ Scholarships will be applied to the child's account using a prorated monthly rate. Families are responsible for the remaining balance of their child's tuition/fees.
- ◆ No person(s) shall receive any direct cash benefit from any scholarship award (s).
- ◆ Children need to attend at least 85% of their enrolled schedule per month.
- ◆ Scholarship awards shall be made without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, sex, or limited English proficiency, in accordance with applicable law.
- ◆ All application information will be maintained by the Early Learning or Child Care program in the strictest of confidentiality and will not be used for purposes other than application for the scholarship and providing required reports.

