

Northwest Early Childhood Iowa (NECI)

PRESCHOOL TUITION PROGRAM

Tuition assistance for families who:

- Live in Cherokee, Lyon, Plymouth and Sioux Counties
- Are within the income guidelines
- Child attends one of the approved preschools
- Child is not approved to attend the Head Start or CDC program.

Approved Preschools

Cherokee County

Aurelia Preschool	Aurelia	712-434-5595
Beginnergarten Preschool	Marcus	712-376-2615
ECLC	Cherokee	712-225-6767
River Valley Preschool	Washta	712-447-6318

Lyon County

Learning Center Preschool	Doon	712-449-5109
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Plymouth County

Akron Children's Center	Akron	712-568-2990
A To Z Learning Tree Preschool	Kingsley	712-378-3112
Guardian Angel Preschool	LeMars	712-546-8732
Gehlen Catholic Preschool	LeMars	712-546-4181
Little Hawks Preschool	Hinton	712-947-4327
Little Royals Preschool	Remsen	712-786-1101
St Mary's Little Hawks Preschool	Remsen	712-786-1160

Sioux County

Covenant Kids Preschool	Orange City	712-737-2274
Apple Tree Early Childhood Center	Sioux Center	712-722-8273
Kiddieland Preschool	Hawarden	712-551-1949
Orange City Daycare & Preschool	Orange City	712-737-3889
Friendly Falcons	Ireton	712-278-2374

2025-2026 Income Guidelines

Family Size	Gross Annual Income at or Below
2	\$42,300
3	\$53,300
4	\$64,300
5	\$75,300
6	\$86,300
7	\$97,300
8	\$108,300

Contact the preschool of choice from the approved preschools chart.

Preschools have the Tuition Assistance Forms. Please complete the form and include income verifications. Return these items to the preschool so they can be submitted for review.

NECI/Mid-Sioux Opportunity will notify parents of status.

If approved, preschools will bill NECI/Mid-Sioux Opportunity for monthly tuition costs (up to \$200).

Income Guidelines

Preschool Scholarships follow the poverty guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services to determine eligibility. The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. Use the chart below to identify if you might be eligible for a Preschool Scholarship. Income based off of Gross Income.

Health & Human Services Eligibility Guidelines 2025				
Size of Family	100% (HS)	125%	160% (CCA)	200%
2	\$21,150.	\$26,437.50	\$35,040.	\$42,300.
3	\$26,650.	\$33,312.50	\$44,200.	\$53,300.
4	\$32,150.	\$40,187.50	\$53,360.	\$64,300.
5	\$37,650.	\$47,062.50	\$62,520.	\$75,300.
6	\$43,150.	\$53,937.50	71,680.	\$86,300.
7	\$48,650.	\$60,812.50	\$80,840.	\$97,300.
8	\$54,150.	\$67,687.50	\$90,000.	\$108,300.
For each additional add	\$5,500.	\$6,875.	\$9,160.	\$11,000.

HS – Head Start | CCA- Child Care Assistance

Source: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

* Early Childhood Iowa funds cannot supplant other state/federal programs and is a funder of last resort.

Northwest Early Childhood Iowa

2025-2026

NECI Preschool Scholarship

Cherokee, Lyon
Plymouth & Sioux Counties



Application Process

Applications are approved by the Mid-Sioux office. Parents complete the application questions.

Child must turn 3 or 4 years of age prior to September 15, 2025.

Incomplete applications may delay your funding start date.

Approved applications will be reimbursed starting in September (or month received after September) and ending in May.

Approval notice will be sent to the parent (by email or mail) and the preschool identified on the scholarship application.

Payment of preschool scholarships will be made directly to the preschool the child attends. Reimbursements will start in September and end in May. If the scholarship does not cover the cost of tuition the parents will be responsible for any remaining amount due.

Contact Information
Mid-Sioux Opportunity
712-786-3422
418 S Marion St
smith@midsioux.org



Start the NECI Application Here



Financial Aid and Child Care Assistance (CCA) Information.
Please complete the following, checking all that apply:

- ☐ Preschool is funded through the Dept of Ed (if yes, move to last question)
 - ☐ I already have CCA for my child
 - ☐ I am eligible for CCA and need to apply.
 - ☐ I am waiting to hear about CCA from HHS.
 - ☐ My CCA application was denied - you are asked to provide reason and proof.
 - ☐ I verify I have looked into all options to assist in paying for preschool and I am not eligible for any other funding source for preschool support.
- Continue onto page 2 of the application.**

Scholarships are dependent upon funding allocated to the NECI program and Mid-Sioux Opportunity.

NECI Preschool Scholarship Application 2025-2026 School Year

Preschool of Choice:											Location:		
Hours of Preschool Day:	Days Attending Preschool	☐	M	☐	T	☐	W	☐	TH	☐	F	Yearly Tuition:	

Start the application by completing the Financial Aid and Child Care Assistance (CCA) portion of the application, on the previous page.
All families may be asked to complete a CCA application, as a part of the application process.

CHILD INFORMATION ~ Please complete both Ethnicity and Race of Child information.

Name of Child Attending Preschool: First and last:	Date of Birth:	Ethnicity of child:	☐ Hispanic	☐ Not Hispanic
Race of Child, must choose one	☐ Native America or Alaskan Native	☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	☐ African American	☐ Multi-racial
	☐ White	☐ Asian		

PARENT & HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION ~ Please print clearly.

Name of Parent: First and last:	County of Residence:	☒							
Name of Parent: First and last:	Phone Number:								
Mailing Address:	City:					State:	IA	Zip Code:	
Marital Status of Head of Household:	Education Level of Head of Household: Select highest level completed							Household Size:	
☐ Married	☐ Single	☐ Partnered	☐ Middle school or lower	☐ Some High School	☐ GED	☐ High School Diploma	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4
☐ Divorced	☐ Separated	☐ Widowed	☐ Trade/Vocational Training	☐ 2 Yr. College Degree	☐ 4 Yr. College Degree	☐ Master's Degree or higher	☐ 5	☐ 6	☐ 7

HOUSEHOLD INCOME VERIFICATION: Eligibility is based on your income. **Please supply a copy of one of the following:** Page 1 and 2 of your tax return, or copies of paystubs for one month's time. Please send copies, your documents will not be returned and please cover up social security numbers.

Name of person/s with income:	Employer name:	(Please circle) Paid: Weekly - Twice a month - Every 2 Weeks - Monthly
Name of person/s with income:	Employer name:	(Please circle) Paid: Weekly - Twice a month - Every 2 Weeks - Monthly

Parent Agreement to Participate & Release of Information I, (name) _____, Agreement: I agree to participate as a recipient of low-income preschool support through the NECI scholarship program and assure that I will comply with the provisions identified on this application. Child is not eligible for other funding including State Child Care Assistance, Head Start, other tuition support, my family's income is under 200% of the federal poverty level. I will notify the NECI/Mid-Sioux Opportunity (MSO) office of any change in my income.

Release of Information: I authorize NECI/MSO and/or its agents or designees from the following agencies: preschool program in which the applicant enrolls and/or Head Start if my income is at or below 100% of the federal poverty level, have my authorization to share any necessary information with the above agencies related to eligibility, attendance, cost of program, and developmental level. I understand that this information may be requested throughout the year, and this release shall expire one year from the date of my signature hereto, contact the above organization to verify that we qualify for on the above assistance. I agree my child will attend preschool 85% of the time (unless excused) or I may be asked to pay the difference.

Signature of parent/guardian _____ **Date:** _____

Parents are responsible for partial payments to the preschool. **Return Applications either to your Preschool or send them to:**
 Mid-Sioux Opportunity; 418 S Marian St, Remsen IA 51050 and/or email: ssmith@midsioux.org Phone contract: 712-786-3422

FOR OFFICE USE:

Date Received	Student Qualifies	☐ < 100%	☐ 101-125%	☐ 160% CCA	☐ 161-185%	☐ 186-200%	☐ Denied CCA	☐ Ineligible CCA	☐ Over
\$		Notes:							