



# EITC Pre-k Scholarship for Families

According to the Pre-K for PA Campaign, 70% of three and four-year-olds in Pennsylvania do not have access to high-quality, early education. In addition, the average cost of pre-k for one year is \$10,100. In response to these challenges, Pennsylvania created The Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC), giving businesses an opportunity to direct a portion of its tax credits to organizations that distribute pre-k scholarships to families.

As an approved scholarship organization for the EITC program, Trying Together is able to provide pre-k scholarships to qualifying families.

## What are the scholarship eligibility requirements?

- Must be a resident of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, or Westmoreland County;
- The child applicant must be three or four years of age by the beginning of the pre-k program;
- Registered, enrolled, and/or attending a high-quality pre-k program located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. High-quality is defined as being NAEYC Accredited, having a 3 or 4 Keystone STAR rating, or a Pre-K Counts program; and
- A member of a household with an annual household income of not more than \$105,183, except that an additional income allowance of \$18,514 is permitted for the child applicant, and for each other dependent as defined by the IRS living within the same household.

## What benefits will your family receive?

- Full or partial scholarship funds to pay for up to one year's tuition at a 3 or 4 Keystone STAR-rated, or NAEYC accredited pre-k program of the parent's or guardian's choosing. Scholarships can be also be used for Pre-K Counts programs or public school district pre-k programs that require tuition payment;
- The parent or guardian may choose a half- or full-day program for their child; and
- Tuition can also include related fees charged by the pre-kindergarten program and may include: books, instructional materials, technology equipment and services, uniforms, and activities.

## How to Determine Your Income Eligibility

The most recent Federal 1040 form must be submitted to verify household income. In calculating household income, all monies and property received of whatever nature and from whatever source are to be included, except for the following:

- Periodic payments for sickness and disability other than regular wages received during a period of sickness or disability;
- Disability, retirement, or other payments arising under workers' compensation acts, occupational disease acts, and similar legislation by any government;
- Payments commonly known as public assistance or unemployment compensation payments by a governmental agency;
- Payments to reimburse actual expenses;
- Payments made by employers or labor unions for programs covering hospitalization, sickness, disability or death, supplemental unemployment benefits, strike benefits, social security and retirement; and
- Compensation received by a United States service member serving in a combat zone.

The breakdown of maximum eligible income per household size is as follows:

Number of Dependents in Household*	Maximum Eligible Income
1	\$123,697
2	\$142,211
3	\$160,725
4	\$179,239
5	\$197,753
6	\$216,267

\* A household includes an individual living alone or an individual living with the following: a spouse, parent and their unemancipated minor children; other un-emancipated minor children who are related by blood or marriage; or other adults or unemancipated minor children living in the household who are dependent upon the individual.

## Upon Acceptance of a Scholarship

Parents will receive a letter confirming delivery of the application and eligibility status of the application. Scholarship decisions will not be announced until 20 days after the application deadline.

All scholarship awards are paid to the approved pre-k program on behalf of the child applicant and should be credited by the program to the child's account. Scholarship awards will not exceed the actual amount of tuition charged by the program, after including other scholarships or tuition assistance for the child; nor shall the scholarship exceed the amount of tuition charged to non-scholarship children.

Should the child leave the pre-k program before the end of the program year, the parent/guardian and pre-k program must notify Trying Together and the remainder of the scholarship be reimbursed to Trying Together by the program.

### What materials are required for a complete application?

- The application form <https://tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/EITC-Application-Form-2023-print.pdf>;
- A copy of the most recent 1040 Federal Income Tax Return for all wage-earning adults residing in the household;
- Signed Policy and Procedures Agreement <https://tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/EITC-Agreement-2023-print.pdf>; and
- Signed Scholarship Payment Agreement <https://tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/EITC-Pre-K-Scholarship-Program-Payment-Agreement-On-Letterhead.pdf>.

If you have questions about the EITC Pre-k Scholarship, visit the Trying Together website at [tryingtogether.org/eitc-for-families/](https://tryingtogether.org/eitc-for-families/) or reach out to **Kerry May**, Assistant Director of Development, at **412.206.1053** or [kerry@tryingtogether.org](mailto:kerry@tryingtogether.org).