



Cedar/Jones
Early Childhood Iowa

**Preschool Scholarship Program
Application 2026-2027**

_____ **Date**

Thank you for your interest in our Preschool Scholarship Program. State tax dollars are allocated to Cedar and Jones counties through Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa to help support children and their families when they choose high quality early education for their child. Scholarships allow access to financial assistance to help offset costs associated with preschool education. This application must be completed in its entirety to be considered.

Child's Legal Name: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____

Child's Age: (as of September 15, 2026) 3 or 4 or 5 yrs. old (Circle One)

Legal Gender: Male or Female (Circle One) Is the Child Hispanic/Latino: ☐Yes ☐No

Race of Child: ☐Black/African American ☐Asian ☐White ☐Multiracial

☐American Indian/Alaskan Native ☐Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

School district in which child resides: _____

County in which child resides: _____

Preschool Name: _____ Number of days per week: _____

ELIGIBILITY (check all that apply):

- ☐ Child will be 3, 4, or 5 years of age as of September 15th, 2026 and not entering Kindergarten.
- ☐ Child lives in Cedar or Jones County.
- ☐ Child is not eligible for other funding for this service (i.e. State Child Care Assistance – must show proof of denial or sign an Attestation Form, Head Start).
- ☐ Child attends or will attend a high-quality participating preschool in Cedar or Jones County.
- ☐ Family meets income guidelines of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Please note that this is gross annual income and includes salary/wages/stipends, unemployment benefits, SSI, FIP, Social Security, Child Support, Veteran's benefits, and direct student loans.
- ☐ Child is in Foster Care warranted through the Iowa Dept of Health and Human Services.
- ☐ A parent/guardian, you agree to completed Ages and Stages Screenings on your child.

Primary Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Relationship to Child: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Marital Status: ☐Married ☐Single ☐Widowed ☐Partnered ☐Divorced ☐Separated

Education Level: ☐Middle School or Lower ☐Some High School ☐HS Diploma ☐GED

☐Some College ☐2-Year College Degree ☐Trade/Vocational Training

☐4 Year College Degree ☐Master's Degree or higher

List all other individuals who live in your home: Must be completed in its entirety.

Name (First, Last)	Relationship to child (applicant)	Employer	Hours per week

Total number of adults living in the home: _____

Total number of children living in the home: _____

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY :

The following table outlines 2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Requirements for Preschool Scholarships are for eligible children whose families are 200% or below Federal Poverty Guidelines. Family income will be verified through the submittal of the first 2 pages of the most recent Federal Income Tax Returns for all household wage earners.

****Children at or below 100% of poverty could be eligible for Head Start and need to contact the Head Start Center nearest to their home.***

****Children at or below 160% of poverty and attending a licensed HHS preschool will need to show proof of denial from HHS State Child Care Assistance or complete a Parent Attestation Form (contact ECI Director for further details.)***

Preschool Scholarship funds are to avoid duplication of services and utilization of other funds for preschool programming including Head Start and HHS Licensed childcare and preschool programs.

Persons in family or household	100% of poverty	125% of poverty	130% of poverty	160% of poverty	185% of poverty	200% of poverty
1	\$15,960.00	\$19,950.00	\$20,748.00	\$25,536.00	\$28,952.50	\$31,300
2	\$21,640.00	\$27,050.00	\$28,132.00	\$34,624.00	\$39,127.50	\$42,300
3	\$27,320.00	\$34,150.00	\$35,516.00	\$43,712.00	\$49,302.50	\$53,300
4	\$33,000.00	\$41,250.00	\$42,900.00	\$52,800.00	\$59,477.50	\$64,300
5	\$38,680.00	\$48,350.00	\$50,284.00	\$61,888.00	\$69,652.50	\$75,300
6	\$44,360.00	\$55,450.00	\$57,668.00	\$70,976.00	\$79,827.50	\$86,300
7	\$50,040.00	\$62,550.00	\$65,052.00	\$80,064.00	\$90,002.50	\$97,300
8	\$55,720.00	\$69,650.00	\$72,436.00	\$89,152.00	\$100,177.50	\$108,300
For each additional person add	\$5,680.00	\$7,100.00	\$7,384.00	\$9,088.00	\$10,175.00	\$11,000
Program Eligibility	Head Start, Early Head Start		SNAP, Free School Lunch	Child Care Assistance	WIC, Hawk-I, Reduced School Lunch	ECI Scholarship

PAYMENT: If your child is awarded a scholarship, payment will be made directly to the preschool program. Scholarships will only be paid to preschools within Cedar and Jones counties meeting program guidelines & demonstrating meeting quality standards. Parents/guardians will be notified in writing the terms and monthly amount of the scholarship. No payment will be made to parents/guardians.

A co-payment may be required by the preschool and will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Parents/guardians are responsible for any late fees, late pick-up charges, transportation fees, activity fees, or registration fees.

Parent/guardian understands a referral may be made to an investigative unit when fraudulent practices are suspected. Parent/guardian understands that repayment of scholarship benefits may

be necessary if a scholarship was received in error, because of misrepresentation of any information, or fraudulent billing.

ATTENDANCE: Preschool attendance will be monitored by the school and reported to the Preschool Scholarship Program Manager monthly. At least 85% attendance will be required for participation in the scholarship program. If the child is sick and misses school, these days will not be included in the 85% attendance requirement if a written doctor's excuse is provided.

If attendance falls below 85%, one warning will be given to parents by program management. The second time attendance falls below 85%, the child may be terminated from the scholarship program and not be allowed to re-enter during the current school year. Full preschool tuition will then be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

SCREENINGS: Parents/guardians are required to complete Ages & Stages Developmental and Social/Emotional Screenings for their child. By submitting this application, you are agreeing to complete two different screenings for your child. The screening tools will be sent out with scholarship award letters and need to be returned prior to receiving a scholarship. Screenings can be returned to your child's preschool and then forwarded to the contract manager.

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 address your child's development including areas of communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal social skills. You will be asked questions about things your child can and cannot do.

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Social/Emotional-2 addresses social-emotional development. Social-emotional development within the first few years of life prepares your child to be confident, trusting, curious, and able to develop positive relationships with others. A child's positive social-emotional development forms a foundation for learning throughout life.

Was the child was born 3 or more weeks premature? ? _____ Yes _____ No If so, note the # of weeks premature. _____. This will help us determine the appropriate questionnaire for you to complete.

Have you previously completed an ASQ:3 or ASQ:SE2 for the child? _____ Yes _____ No

Has the child been evaluated for developmental or social/emotional concerns? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, has the child received developmental services such as Early Intervention through Early Access, IEP Services through their local school district, or private therapy? _____ Yes _____ No

Results of the screenings will be evaluated by Grant Wood AEA and a summary will be shared with your child's preschool teacher and a copy sent to the parents.

REQUIRED NOTIFICATION: As the parent completing this application, I will notify Cedar/Jones ECI within 10 days of change in employment status, family income, household makeup, or other circumstances related to preschool at 319-551-3402 or sherri.hunt@jonescountyiowa.gov.

I also agree to notify Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa if the child's eligibility changes and/or the child becomes eligible for other sources of funding such as State Child Care Assistance, Early Childhood Special Education, Head Start, and/or others. If the preschool program the child is attending is eligible to accept State Child Care Assistance, I agree to apply for State Child Care Assistance and provide Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa a copy of the CCA decision upon receipt of notification.

Scholarships will end before the termination date if the family no longer meets eligibility requirements or fails to provide updated information.

Applications for Preschool Scholarships will not be considered until a completed application and most recent copies of the first two pages of the Federal Income Tax Returns for all individuals supporting the household income have been received.

Applications should be returned and questions directed to:

Sherri Hunt
Preschool Scholarship Manager
Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa
22400 102nd Street, Anamosa, IA 52205

sherri.hunt@jonescountyiowa.gov
(319) 551-3402

By signing below, you, as parent/guardian of the child applicant, agree to the terms of participation in the Cedar/Jones ECI Preschool Scholarship Program including attendance, co-payment requirements, completion of screening tools and sharing of screening results with our program evaluator and your child's preschool, and release of information to Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa for program data collection and reporting.

You are also stating that all above information is correct and all information relevant to the processing of this application has been disclosed. Individual personal information will be kept confidential.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

