

Rainbows United, Inc.
Smart Start of Butler County
2012 Early Childhood Block Grant Child Care Scholarships
Purpose and Criteria

Purpose: In an effort to reduce the financial burden of child care costs for Butler county families, Smart Start of Butler County has been awarded funding to provide child care scholarships for twenty Butler County children. This supplement is to be paid to the child care provider, and the provider is required to bill the parents/guardians their typical rate minus the amount of the scholarship.

Criteria:

- One application per family will be accepted. If approved for funding, a family could potentially receive a reduction of up to **\$10 per day of attendance** for 50 weeks. All funding for this program will end no later than December 31, 2012 when grant funding ends.
- Applicant's child care setting must be a licensed child care home, group home, center, or preschool in Butler County; a copy of the child care license must be submitted with the application. The provider must be in compliance with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and provide satisfactory Notice of Survey Findings with the application.
- All Child Care Scholarships are **for full-time care** (30 hours or more per week). Scholarships are not to be filled by a provider's dependent. *Children who are in year-around care will be given preference over a child who is not in year-around care.*
- The application process is intended to be a joint process for parent and provider, as documents must be submitted by both. An agreement must be signed by both parent and provider. The application process is not considered complete, and will not be sent to the Smart Start Advisory Committee for approval, until all documents are submitted.
- Scholarships are partially based on the total gross income of the home where the child resides. Parents must provide the total gross income for the home, including assistance and child support. Families who receive SRS child care subsidies and children in foster care are eligible for this scholarship only if the SRS subsidy does not cover the full cost of child care. If at any point the family qualifies for SRS Child Care Subsidy, they are required to inform Smart Start for a re-evaluation of the scholarship.
- Providers must keep a record of the child's attendance with the ECBG Child Care Scholarship Tracking Form. This form must be signed by the provider and parent and mailed, faxed, or emailed to the project coordinator by the fifth (5th) of the following month or the month's payment will be void. Each month's scholarship will be determined by this time sheet.
- **Along with the timesheet, the provider must send either weekly or monthly lesson plans, specific to the age of the child receiving the scholarship, to the Smart Start Coordinator.**
- The scholarship will pay for 10 discretionary days of absence for the child. If more than 10 days are missed, the family will be responsible for paying the full tuition for days absent.

- If funded, **parents/guardians must attend two hours of training on family, children, and parenting related topics.** The parents are required to send proof of attendance of two hours of training to the Smart Start Coordinator no later than December 1, 2012. Smart Start will provide four, two-hour trainings at no cost to parents. (Lists of free training provided throughout the county can be obtained from www.butlerkids.org or by contacting the Smart Start Coordinator.) If parents do not submit this documentation to the Smart Start office, the child will not be eligible for scholarship in 2013.
- ONLY applications regarding children age birth through five years of age will be accepted; scholarship funding will cease when a child turns six or begins Kindergarten. If funded and the child is no longer in care of the provider, both parent and provider must contact the Smart Start Coordinator. If the family changes child care providers, a new agreement must be signed with the new provider or the scholarship will not continue for the family.
- For quality assurance purposes, the project coordinator will conduct at least one visit to the child care provider within the calendar year.
- The decision to award an ECBG Child Care Scholarship will be determined by an advisory committee. Only licensed providers who demonstrate their ability to provide quality care will be considered. All families with children receiving child care at a licensed child care home, group home, center, or preschool in Butler County are encouraged to apply.
- The child and family's identity will remain confidential between the provider and the Smart Start Coordinator. The family's income will be known only by the Smart Start Coordinator and will not be shared with the child care provider or the Smart Start Advisory Committee. The name of the child care home/center where the child attends will be given to the Smart Start Advisory Committee.

To qualify for this scholarship, the child/family must meet ONE of the following options:

- Children whose family income would qualify them for participation in the federal free or reduced lunch program
- Families who have a child at risk for developmental delay (or who has a child with a developmental delay; this does NOT have to be the child receiving the scholarship)
- Families with parents who have less than a high school education
- Families residing in communities with limited resources such as quality child care, health facilities, parks, and playgrounds
- Families whose primary language is not English
- Children without access to a consistent source of health care
- Teen Parents
- Military Families

If you have any question about whether or not you would qualify, consider contacting Audra in the Smart Start office – 320.1342. We would rather you apply and be turned down than be qualify for the scholarship and not know because you did not apply.

This is a taxable income to child care providers. The child care paid for by this scholarship should not be included in the yearly amount paid by the family, and is not tax deductible. We encourage child care providers and families to check with their tax preparer for additional information and assistance.