



Pima Early Education Program Scholarships

This document is intended for Quality First preschool providers in Pima County, who received extra scholarships through the Quality First Scholarship system. These scholarships are funded by Pima County for preschoolers from eligible households and are called Pima Early Education Preschool scholarships, or PEEPs.

Questions & Answers

What are PEEPs?

The Pima County Board of Supervisors voted to approve \$10 million for this year and the next two years to fund scholarships for high-quality preschool and directed staff to plan for a multiyear program.

There are also contributions from cities and towns, individuals, businesses and nonprofits that will complement and support the scholarship program.

Families and the community might refer to the scholarships as “PEEP” scholarships, Pima County scholarships or “preschool scholarships.”

How are the scholarships being distributed?

There are currently **two** ways the scholarships are being distributed:

1. Through the existing First Things First Quality First scholarship program AND
2. Through direct contracts between Pima County and a number of preselected school districts and Child Parent Centers/Head Start to provide additional hours to their existing Head Start half-day programs.

If we have questions, who should we contact?

Topic	Organization	Contact Information
Helping families seek alternative child care options	Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW) Child Care Resource and Referral	regionalscholarships@vsuw.org 1-866-973-0012 http://arizonachildcare.org 1-800-308-9000
Family documentation & provider reporting/payment information	VSUW	regionalscholarships@vsuw.org
Scholarship allocation determination	First Things First QF Scholarships Team	qfscholarships@azftf.gov
Quality First Program information	First Things First QF Program Team	qualityfirst@azftf.gov • 602-771-5000
Questions about PEEPs policy	Pima County	PEEPs@pima.gov

Who qualifies? How does a family access the scholarships?

Children who live in households with an annual income of 200% of the federal poverty level or less and are ages 3, 4 or 5 (not yet in kindergarten) qualify. Families access the scholarships through the preschool provider, the same way the Quality First scholarships work.

Family Size	2	3	4
Annual Income limit	\$34,980	\$43,920	\$53,000

For each person over family size of four, add \$9,080

Which providers are receiving scholarships?

The program was designed to support a “mixed delivery” system, meaning school district programs, family child care homes and child care centers are all potentially eligible. In the first year of the program (2021-22), providers in Quality First in Pima County who are two- to five-star rated are eligible.

First Things First used the existing allocation process to determine the number of scholarships that would go to the Quality First providers.

Note that through this allocation process not all “eligible” providers received scholarships.

What should a provider do after being notified they have scholarships?

The “new” scholarships funded by Pima County are distributed through the existing Quality First Scholarship Program.

This means that providers should pay attention to any communication about the scholarships, attend the mandatory training provided by Valley of the Sun United Way, and follow all the same policies and procedures that exist for the First Things First-funded Quality First Scholarships.

The only difference is that Pima County is paying for the scholarships rather than First Things First and the age requirement is different for the county-funded scholarships.