

## EVERY CHILD IN SOUTH CAROLINA

should have high quality child care that's suited to their needs. That's why parents seek child care providers that participate in ABC Quality, the state's voluntary quality rating and improvement system.



Use the QR code for more details  
about child care scholarships.



[ABCQuality.org](http://ABCQuality.org)



ABC Quality is administered by the Early Care and Education division of the South Carolina Department of Social Services.



..... PUTTING .....  
**Quality Child Care**  
..... WITHIN REACH .....



**CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM**





Currently more South Carolina households than ever are eligible for scholarships from the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) to help with the costs of quality child care. The newest scholarship program is known as COVID-300.



## How does a household qualify?

To be eligible for a COVID-300 child care scholarship:

1. Parent(s) or guardian(s) must have a child or children between birth and 12 years of age.
2. Parent(s) or guardian(s) must:
  - » work at least 15 hours per week or attend school or a training program
  - » have a gross income below 300% of the federal poverty level\*; for a family of four, this would be up to \$112,500 annually.

Scholarships for child care are also available to support children ages 13 to 18 in certain circumstances: those who have disabilities, developmental delays or who are in foster care.



## INCOME GUIDELINES FOR COVID-300 CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS\*

| Family Size | Gross Family Income Limit |                 |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
|             | MONTHLY                   | ANNUAL          |
| 1           | \$0 – \$4,553             | \$0 – \$54,630  |
| 2           | \$0 – \$6,160             | \$0 – \$73,920  |
| 3           | \$0 – \$7,768             | \$0 – \$93,210  |
| 4           | \$0 – \$9,375             | \$0 – \$112,500 |
| 5           | \$0 – \$10,983            | \$0 – \$131,790 |
| 6           | \$0 – \$12,590            | \$0 – \$151,080 |
| 7           | \$0 – \$14,198            | \$0 – \$170,370 |

\*Guidelines are updated annually.

## How much support is available?

The scholarship amount your household is eligible for can vary, but will be determined by factors including your provider's tuition rate, their ABC Quality level and your child's age. A scholarship may cover all or some of your child care costs.

## Where can this funding be used?

If your household qualifies and is approved, tuition will be paid directly to your child care provider for up to 52 weeks. *Only licensed, registered or exempt providers enrolled in ABC Quality are eligible to receive payments.*

## Why only ABC Quality providers?

ABC Quality is the state's voluntary quality rating and improvement system, administered by the Division of Early Care and Education at the SC Department of Social Services (DSS). ABC Quality staff review participating providers to ensure they meet or exceed program standards.

## Are there other categories of scholarships for child care?

Yes. Funding to offset the cost of child care is available through other programs and categories such as TANF, homeless, dual language learners, and others. For more information on these programs, contact the Child Care Operations Center at **(800) 476-0199**.