



Educating the Workforce

The Gateways to Opportunity Scholarship Program is an individual-based scholarship opportunity for practitioners working in Early Care and Education (ECE), and school-age care.

How does it work?

The Gateways Scholarship Program will pay a percentage of the cost of tuition and fees based on an eligible participant's child care position income. Scholarships are awarded dependent upon availability of funds.

Goals of the program

- Enabling practitioners to continue education in ECE and to earn degrees and/or credentials.
- Promoting increased earning ability through increased education.
- Improving the quality and consistency of care received by children in licensed child care settings.

Who is eligible

Practitioners working in Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) licensed centers and homes can apply for a Gateways Scholarship. Applicants must also meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Care for Illinois Children.
- Work in an IDCFS Licensed setting that is full-day/full-year or a School-Age program that operates a minimum of nine months (full day is defined as: being open for eight consecutive hours or more serving children; full-year is defined as: caring for children at least 47 weeks).
- Have been employed at current center or home, working 15 hours per week on a continuous employment basis, for a minimum of one year (including work and benefit time).
- Meet wage requirements.
- Commit to work in early care and education based on scholarship type.

For more information on Gateways Scholarships or to apply visit www.ilgateways.com.

