

Teton Valley Collaborative for Early Learning

Tuition Assistance Rationale and Guidelines



Research demonstrates that tremendous brain development occurs in children from birth through 5 years of age. This means that environments that support exploratory, hands-on learning for children prior to entering elementary school are extremely important. In Idaho there are no state-funded or state-supported early learning facilities, requiring families to rely on privately owned options which tend to be limited in number and high in cost - thereby creating challenges related to access and affordability for most families. To increase options for families to access quality early learning programs, the Teton Valley Collaborative for Early Learning uses grant and donation funds to support affordable high-quality early care and learning opportunities in our community. By providing tuition assistance support, we seek to ease the financial burden for families deemed in the greatest need of care for their young children.

The implementation of this pilot program is outlined below. Adjustments may be necessary on a monthly and/or yearly basis due to availability of funding, through evaluation of the process, and through participant feedback. Being awarded Tuition Assistance is one time, temporary support of \$1,000 per qualifying family. Families may apply and are eligible for each new round of funding, which will be on a quarterly basis (planned for January, April, July, October).

Identification of Tuition Assistance recipients:

1. The Teton Valley Collaborative for Early Learning will utilize household size and annual income based on self-reported data the family provides when filling out the application. Assistance will be allocated as follows:
 - a. Tuition Assistance will be based on the greatest family need and annual income.
 - b. Households that qualify for ICCP *and* have a child enrolled in a program which participates in ICCP will not receive Tuition Assistance. The Collaborative will gladly support a qualifying family with the application process for ICCP if requested.
 - c. Households with an annual income above \$70,000 will not be eligible for Tuition Assistance at this time.
 - d. Starting March 2024, completed applications need to be emailed to collaborative@tetoneducation.org before 5pm on the 15th of the month prior to the next quarter (stated below).
 - 5pm on Dec 15th for January-March, 5pm on March 15th for April-June, 5pm on June 15th for July-September, 5pm on September 15th for October-December.
2. The TVCEL will notify the provider/center where the student is being hosted of the student name and amount of assistance and will email a contract to be signed by the provider/center.
3. The TVCEL will email the contract to each family who has been awarded assistance, which will outline the Tuition Assistance amount (\$1,000 to be used over 3 months of Tuition) and other relevant details. The contract will be sent to the family to sign and TVCEL will retain a final copy for their records.

Invoicing and other provider/center responsibilities:

1. The provider/center will be asked to fill out the bottom portion of the application for the families seeking assistance, which verifies the daily and monthly cost of the program, and sign a contract with the TA award.
2. TVCEL will confirm via email with the provider/center as to whether the child is enrolled and maintains regular attendance. We appreciate prompt confirmation in order to be able to get a check to you quickly.
3. TVCEL will submit a check directly to the provider/center prior to the 1st day of the new quarter.
4. Providers will need to file a 1099 since the income is greater than \$600
5. The TVCEL will conduct check-ins with the provider/center to assess how things are going as needed. If changes to process or procedure are needed to effectively deliver the program, TVCEL will work to implement feedback in a timely manner.
6. The TVCEL may request evaluation and a data sharing process.

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Tuition Assistance Program Quick-Read Version

Overview

We know that the first five years are super important for a child's brain growth. Kids learn a lot by playing and exploring during this time. We also know that, when you are paying for quality, it can be expensive. The Teton Valley Collaborative for Early Learning wants to help by using money from grants and donations to make high-quality early learning more affordable for families.

- Our program helps families with the cost of quality childcare and early learning.
- We provide \$1,000 assistance per qualifying family.
- This is a new program but we are hoping applications can be made quarterly (January, April, July, October).

Eligibility

- Assistance based on family need and income.
- Families already receiving ICCP will not qualify, but we can help apply for ICCP.
- Income above \$70,000 is not eligible at this time.
- Email applications by the 15th of the month before the new quarter starts.

Process for Providers

- Providers fill out part of the application to confirm program costs.
- Providers will be notified of the awarded students and receive a contract.
- Checks will be sent directly to providers and the discounted cost will be reflected in their invoice to the family before the quarter starts.
- Regular check-ins and feedback sessions will be conducted for improvement.
- Providers will need to file a 1099 since the income is greater than \$600

Other Key Points

- The program aims to support families in greatest need.
- Providers play a crucial role in confirming enrollment and attendance.
- We aim for a smooth and effective process, with adjustments based on feedback.