CHILDCARE SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Childcare Scholarship is to provide childcare financial assistance to those parents who are pursuing financial stability, through higher education and/or full-time job training. Scholarships may only be used for childcare; payments are made directly to the childcare provider.

AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship will provide full or partial childcare assistance based on needs of the family. Individuals may re-apply annually, as long as the family continues to meet the qualifying criteria, completes the application process, and maintains the required relationship with the referral agency. Re-applying does not automatically qualify an applicant to receive the scholarship. The scholarship is typically awarded for up to a maximum of two years, however at the committee’s discretion and on a case by case basis; extenuating circumstances may allow the award of the scholarship for a longer period of time.

$100 per week for fulltime care per child in a NON-NAEYC or Texas Rising Star (3 or 4 star) Accredited Center
$50 per week for part-time care per child in a NON-NAEYC or Texas Rising Star (3 or 4 star) Accredited Center
$120 per week for fulltime care per child in an NAEYC or Texas Rising Star (3 or 4 star) Accredited Center
$60 per week for part-time care per child in an NAEYC or Texas Rising Star (3 or 4 star) Accredited Center

CRITERIA

Parents selected for childcare scholarships will meet the following criteria. They must:

1) Attend school or be employed in Bexar County.
2) Be a citizen or legal resident of the United States and a resident of Bexar County.
3) Have demonstrated financial need.
4) Not qualify, or have been denied or wait-listed, for any other eligible childcare assistance.
5) Have a demonstrated plan for reaching his/her educational and employment goals.
6) Be screened by referral agents or selection committee.
7) Maintain a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5.
8) Be enrolled in school or technical skills training for a minimum of 12 hours if not working, or enrolled for a minimum of 6 hours if working 19 hours or more weekly.
9) Provide referral agent all class and/or work schedules when available, and must keep referral agent informed of changes in contact information, employment, school status.

We encourage you to enroll your child(ren) in a NAEYC accredited center or Texas Rising Star Center (3 or 4 Star). A quality childcare center will provide:

a. **Developmentally Appropriate Practices** – that includes materials, curricula, activities, and staff expectations of children’s behavior that are appropriate for a child’s stage of development and that support the child’s development and learning.

b. **Structural Quality** – characteristics that include staff-to-child ratio, group size, staff education and experience, and square feet of facility per child.

c. **Accreditation** – a process through which child care programs voluntarily meet specific standards to receive endorsement from a professional agency, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or Texas Rising Star.

d. **Licensed** – a document issued by the State Department to a person, a group of people, or corporation who has met the state minimum standards for childcare, which allows them to legally operate a childcare program.