

## YAVAPAI REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

### CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

#### The Emergency Scholarship Program

The FTF Emergency Child Care Scholarships became available to families in April 2009. A total of \$542,045 in statewide discretionary funding was allocated to the Yavapai Region for this program.

Emergency Scholarship Amounts: The rate of payment for emergency scholarships is based on the most current market rate survey (2008) and was set at 90% of the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for the average across the state. (*DES childcare subsidy rates are currently paid at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the year 2000 market rate survey rates: [azdes.gov/childcare/rates](http://azdes.gov/childcare/rates)*). The administrative home (United Way) charges a 5.24% administrative fee.

Payments are based on age and part-or full-time status as follows:

Type of Care	Maximum Per Day Scholarship for Full-Day Enrolled Children (more than 4 hours per day)	Maximum Per Day Scholarship for Part-Day Enrolled Children (4 hours or less per day)
Infant / Toddler (birth – 35 months)	\$34.00	\$17.00
Preschool (36 months – 5 years or kindergarten entry)	\$28.00	\$14.00
Large Group Home Providers	\$25.00	\$12.50
Small Family Provider	\$20.00	\$10.00

Emergency Scholarship Eligibility Criteria: Families whose household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines who are employed, seeking employment or advancing their skills to attain or maintain employment are eligible for the scholarships. Families receiving a DES subsidy are not eligible for emergency scholarships. Those who qualify for a DES child care subsidy but are on a waiting list also do qualify, but they must retain their status on the waiting list, especially since the First Things First Emergency Child Care Scholarships are temporary. Up to three children per family are eligible for scholarships if they are between the ages of birth through five. Centers and homes must have applied to participate in Quality First to be eligible to participate in the emergency scholarship program.

Current Status of Emergency Scholarships in the Region: As of July 31, 2009, emergency scholarships were being provided to 63 infants and toddlers, 107 3 to 5 year olds, and 17 children in group homes (187 total). A total of \$266,857 had been spent, leaving an August 1 beginning balance of \$275,188. Emergency scholarships in the Yavapai region are projected to end in mid-October 2009.

#### Yavapai RPC Scholarship Strategy

The Yavapai RPC allocated \$285,151 to fund scholarships to assist low income families access quality child care. When the amount is reduced by 5.24% to adjust for the administrative fee, \$270,209 is available for scholarships for the nine month period beginning on October 1, 2009.

#### Scholarship Considerations for Discussion

1. Scholarships are about continuity of care for children
2. There are limited resources (not all providers, and not all children currently receiving emergency scholarships will be able to continue receiving regionally funded scholarships).
3. Programs participating in the ongoing scholarships strategies should be tied to quality (i.e. participating in QF or accredited)

4. Programs that provide all-day, all-week, year-round services and, where possible, extended/evening hours should receive priority to meet the needs of working families.
5. Families that receive scholarships are to be prioritized if they are employed, actively seeking employment, or participating in training or school to compete better in the labor market.
6. Scholarships should be targeted to serve the most vulnerable families/children
  - a. Children with Special Needs
  - b. Children in single parent families
  - c. Infants/Toddlers vs. Preschoolers
  - d. Should not be eligible if have funding from another source (Head Start, DES, ECBG, etc.)

Scholarship Amounts: The sub-committee will recommend an amount for scholarships.

For example: If scholarships were \$500 each we could fund 60 scholarships per month

$$(\$500 \times 9 \text{ months} = \$4500/\text{child } \$270,209/\$4500 = 60 \text{ scholarships per month})$$

Note: The RPC would need to allocate \$380,200 in SFY2011 to maintain this level of scholarships. OR another option would be that if children leave a slot, it would not be filled so a decrease in 2<sup>nd</sup> year funding would happen by attrition.

Current Recipients of Emergency Scholarships

Current Providers by Quality First (VS = very small; S = small; m=medium; h= home)

<u>State Quality First</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Total Sept.</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Scenario I</u>	<u>Scenario 2</u>
Sonshine Learning Center	Black Canyon	12	VS	3	4
Bright Future Child Care	Cottonwood	12	M	6	7
Buena Vista Preschool	Cottonwood	8	VS	3	4
First Steps Child Care	Cottonwood	24	M	6	7
Grannie's House	Prescott Valley	2	H	2	2
Noah's Ark Child Care	Prescott Valley	6	H	2	3
Prescott Child Development Center	Prescott	12	M	6	7
Prescott YMCA Early Childhood Center	Prescott	N/A			
Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center	Prescott	18	M	6	7
				<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Regional Quality First</b>					
[REDACTED]	Rimrock	N/A			
[REDACTED]	Chino Valley	6	H	2	3
Noah's Ark Day Care	Cottonwood	8	VS	3	4
***Rays of Sunshine	Camp Verde	15	M	6	7
[REDACTED]	Prescott Valley	N/A			
[REDACTED]	Sedona	13	S	4	5
Rock of Ages Lutheran Church	Sedona	N/A			
South Verde Middle and High School	Camp Verde	N/A			
[REDACTED]	Prescott Valley	N/A			
[REDACTED]	Sedona	10	S	4	5
				<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Not in Quality First</b>					
Gwen's House	Cottonwood	1		1	
Hilltop Christian Preschool	Cottonwood	9		2	
Discovery Gardens	Prescott	9		2	
St. Luke's Montessori	Prescott	6		2	
Acorn Christian Montessori	Prescott Valley	9		2	
Sacred Hearts Little Dove	Prescott	4		2	
Buena Vista Children	Clarksdale	1		1	
				<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>58</b>