



**Resilient from the Start**

## Outreach Messages For Early Learning Scholarships Program Priority Areas

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In collaboration with Greater Twin Cities United Way's [80x3: Resilient from the Start](#) initiative, we're committed to making a difference in the lives of young children. Children's brains are like sponges, and in the first three years of their life, 80% of the brain is developing. Given the rapid brain development during early years, children are highly susceptible to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that can result in enduring trauma.

Research indicates that children exposed to traumatic events encounter significant developmental hurdles unless addressed through trauma-sensitive approaches. This is where initiatives like 80x3 play a pivotal role. 80x3 offers comprehensive support to educators and program administrators in the early childhood sector. This includes professional development opportunities centered on trauma-sensitive care, connections to partners and communities dedicated to fostering resilient children, assistance with staff recruitment and retention, and access to shared curriculum, best practices, and mental health resources for both educators and families.

Trauma-sensitive care is rooted in empathy and understanding, aiming to recognize and respond to the effects of ACEs. By prioritizing the child's mental health and well-being, we empower them to heal, build resilience, and be ready to succeed in school.

**Early Child Care Scholarships Available:** The state of Minnesota's Early Learning Scholarships Program offers crucial support for families, ensuring access to high-quality early childhood education for children aged 0 to 5. Priority is given to a child of teen parent(s). These scholarships provide an opportunity for quality care and education, offering a pathway to positive outcomes. Scholarships are awarded directly to families who meet the eligibility requirements. [Click here for more information](#) and if you know someone who may qualify, please urge them to apply.

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**Early Child Care Scholarships Available:** The state of Minnesota's Early Learning Scholarships Program offers crucial support for families, ensuring access to high-quality early childhood education for children aged 0 to 5. Priority is given to children who have experienced homelessness in the last 24 months. These scholarships can help provide a sense of security and consistency, fostering resilience and supporting their transition to stable living conditions. Scholarships are awarded directly to families who meet the eligibility requirements. [Click here for more information](#) and if you know someone who may qualify, please urge them to apply.

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Scholarship priority is given to the following children:

- Child of a teen parent
- Currently in foster care
- In need of child protective services
- Experienced homelessness in the last 24 months

Starting July 1, 2024, the scholarship program will incorporate additional priority areas:

- Child of an incarcerated parent
- Child with a parent in a substance use treatment program
- Child with a parent in a mental health treatment program
- Child who has Experienced Domestic Violence

These scholarships serve as a beacon of hope and support, offering access to high-quality early childhood programs, and providing a safe and nurturing environment where children can thrive. Scholarships are awarded directly to families who meet the eligibility requirements. [Click here for more information](#) and if you know someone who may qualify, please urge them to apply.

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