



■ On My Way Pre-K

On My Way Pre-K is Indiana’s first state-funded pre-kindergarten program. On My Way Pre-K provides grants to eligible children for qualified early education services delivered via high-quality providers that are enrolled as approved On My Way Pre-K providers.

How does an applicant know if a child qualifies for an On My Way Pre-K grant?

To qualify for the On My Way Pre-K grant, an applicant’s child must be 4 years old, but not yet 5 years old by August 1 of the grant year and must be entering kindergarten during the following school year. The child must meet eligibility requirements.

What are the income limits?

An eligible child must live in a household with an income below 127% of the federal poverty level. Parents or guardians living in the household must be working, going to school or attending job training. If funding remains, there may be a limited number of vouchers available for children who live in households with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty level. These children must also have:

- A parent or guardian living in the household who is working, going to school or attending job training. OR
- A parent/guardian who receives Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income (also known as SSDI or SSI) benefits.

On My Way Pre-K income limits	
Household Size	Monthly
1	\$1,363
2	\$1,844
3	\$2,324
4	\$2,805
5	\$3,285
6	\$3,766
7	\$4,246
<i>2021 federal poverty levels at 127%</i>	

*The information in this guide is correct as of April 1, 2021.
For the most up-to-date information, refer to www.fssa.in.gov.*



What is an On My Way Pre-K provider?

Families receiving a grant may choose from any approved On My Way Pre-K program enrolled with the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning. On My Way Pre-K programs have demonstrated a commitment to high-quality early education and can be found in public and private schools, Head Start centers, licensed centers, licensed child care homes and faith-based registered ministries. All programs must also meet Child Care and Development Fund Eligibility requirements.

- Community-based programs including Head Start, licensed centers, licensed family homes and registered ministries must be rated at Level 3 or Level 4 on Paths to QUALITY.
- Public schools including charter schools must be rated Level 3 or Level 4 on Paths to QUALITY for Public Schools.
- Private or nonpublic schools must be accredited by a regionally or nationally approved state board of education accrediting body.

How does someone qualify?

All families must meet financial need, residency and age requirements, and be working or attending an education or job training program to complete a family application. Beginning in 2020, there will be a limited number of grants available for families meeting eligibility requirements. Once a grant is awarded, families must then verify eligibility by completing an appointment with a local intake agent and by choosing an eligible provider.

How does an applicant apply for an On My Way Pre-K grant for their child?

- Applicants can go online at www.onmywayprek.org during the enrollment period each year.
- Visit the local intake agency located within the county in which the family resides.

Who counts in my household (family) income?

A household is considered one or more custodial adults and children related by blood or law receiving the grant residing in the same household. Income requirements are waived for foster children of licensed foster parents.

How does someone find an eligible provider?

For help finding an approved On My Way Pre-K-eligible provider, applicants can contact their local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency. Eligible providers are also listed online at www.onmywayprek.org or www.in.gov/fssa/childcarefinder/.



Does an applicant have to be working or have a service need to be eligible?

Yes, applicants need to be working or attending an educational or job training program to be eligible for an On My Way Pre-K grant. Beginning in 2020, individuals who are receiving SSI or SSDI may also be eligible under limited eligibility criteria.

What happens at the interview appointment?

The intake agent will ask questions about the individuals living in the applicant's home, income and other pertinent information needed to determine eligibility. The applicant will be given or mailed a form listing all needed information to bring to the appointment. Applicants will be notified during the appointment if they are eligible.

On My Way Pre-K intake agencies are the same as Child Care Development Fund agencies and can be found on page 16.

■ Paths to QUALITY™

Research shows that high quality early learning experiences prepare children for future success in school, work and life. From birth through age 5 is the most important time for growth of the human brain. A child's brain develops in response to the child's experiences by building neurological networks in reaction to the environment.

A child's experiences in an early childhood program can significantly contribute to that brain development and the future success of the child. High quality early childhood programs are essential not only to Hoosier children, but also to their families and to the communities in which they live.

Paths to QUALITY™ is Indiana's statewide rating system for early childhood and education programs. It is a free resource to help families make informed decisions and to help early childhood and education programs improve their quality. There are four levels of quality that can be achieved by participating programs. Each level builds on the foundation of the previous one, resulting in significant quality improvements at each stage and in national accreditation at the highest level. The system validates early childhood programs for ongoing efforts to achieve higher standards of quality and provides incentives and awards for success. The four levels address:

- **Level 1:** Health and safety needs of children met.
- **Level 2:** Environment supports children's learning.
- **Level 3:** Planned curriculum guides child development and school readiness.
- **Level 4:** National accreditation (the highest indicator of quality) is achieved.

For more information about Paths to QUALITY™, visit www.in.gov/fssa/pathstoquality.