

Essential Worker Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

July 2, 2021

Q. What does it mean if my application shows “under review”?

A. An Essential Worker Scholarship (EWS) application will appear as under review if the program identified in the application requires additional review by OCFS. There are a variety of reasons why the application may need additional review. Examples include but are not limited to: the program email entered is incorrect; the program is marked as closed due to COVID-19; the program’s operation status is under review. Important note: when the application review is completed, information regarding next steps will be sent to the parent portal. Parents can log on to their portal to see the reason the application is under review.

Q. How does a parent or child care provider register for Essential Worker Scholarship?

A. To apply for EWS please visit: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/contracts/funding/COVID-relief/essential-workers.php>

Posted on the web page are a variety of tip sheets in English and Spanish, as well as recorded trainings that walk a parent and child care provider through the EWS process.

Q. Is my provider participating in Essential Worker Scholarship (EWS)?

A. EWS is a voluntary grant opportunity for essential workers and child care providers. Please ask your child care program if they are participating in EWS. Also note: to participate in the Essential Worker Scholarship, the child care program you enter in your application MUST be either a licensed/registered/permitted (Article 47) or enrolled legally exempt group program (enrolled with an enrollment agency). Informal child care settings are not eligible to participate in this grant opportunity.

Q. When will my child care program be paid?

A. Beginning Monday, July 5th, the approved child(ren)’s name(s) will be visible in the child care program portal. The program must log in to their account each week and certify attendance for the previous week. Payment will be disbursed to the child care program each week after attendance is certified.

Q. Who is eligible for Essential Worker Scholarship?

A. To be eligible for EWS, the individual **must**:

- be an essential worker as defined in Executive Order 202.6
- meet the income threshold (earns less than 300% of poverty)
- be required to report to work outside of the home
- attest that there is no other adult available to care for the children

For further information, or to apply for EWS, please visit:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/contracts/funding/COVID-relief/essential-workers.php>