

The Livingston County 4C Council
BREAKING THE BARRIERS TO CHILD CARE
Scholarship Program

This Scholarship Fund is funded through the Livingston County United Way and Great Start Livingston. The Breaking the Barriers to Child Care scholarship program was established to help the children of income eligible parents and clients of the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) attend quality child care. Recipients of this scholarship will be able to attend Work First, begin a job, or attend school, thus being able to continue down the path to financial independence.

Approximately half of the child care businesses and family/group day care home providers in Livingston County charge registration and activity fees and deposits. The average registration or activity fee is \$25 and the average deposit ranges from one to two weeks tuition. In Livingston County, most providers charge a weekly rate with full time care ranging from a low of \$100 to a high of \$250 per child. Previously there was no government, public, or private subsidy for child care registration, deposits, or extra activity fees.

Being Unemployed and on Public Assistance, some of the DHS clients are unable to come up with the start-up amount to enroll their child. Often times, this leads to missed opportunities for job placement. The scholarship fund *will not* pay the child's tuition, it is meant only to help with the initial costs of registration and deposits. All other costs will be the responsibility of the parent.

HOW DOES A PARENT APPLY FOR THE *PROGRAM*?

Applications need to be submitted in person at the Livingston County 4C Council. To be eligible to apply the parent will need to present the following at time of application:

1. Willingness to use only Livingston County child care providers who are licensed or registered with the Michigan Child Care Licensing Division.
2. Proof of income eligibility.
3. Picture Identification.
4. Social Security Card for the parent and child or children
5. Written statement from the provider listing registration, activity and deposit fees.
6. A copy of the provider's parent policies and contracts regarding deposits, registration fees, activity fees and refund policies.

Livingston 4C understands the need for Child Care can be time critical. It will be our policy to review all applications and respond to applicants within two business days.

If approved, Livingston 4C will contact the approved child care provider to arrange payment directly to the provider of all appropriate deposits and fees.

If you have any questions about the Breaking the Barriers to Child Care Program, please call the Livingston 4C at (517) 548-9112.