



Special Circumstance Scholarship for Families During COVID-19, Released on August 19,2020

The COVID 19 Pandemic has not only impacted the economy and workforce but has also created unique challenges for Montana’s families who are working to balance childcare and support needs with remaining or re-entering the workforce.

There is widespread uncertainty about school options for school age kids as a result of the pandemic. Plans range from 100% virtual to a hybrid approach to full in person instruction. Some districts are encouraging families to establish childcare backup plans.

Some families include vulnerable, at-risk children who may not be able to return to school due to the pandemic, requiring in-home care.

This funding is administered by [Child Care Connections](#), or your local [Child Care Resource and Referral agency](#).

Eligibility:

- Special Circumstance qualification are the first criteria. ***Examples below, but not an exhaustive list:***
 - Compromised health of child and/or family
 - Unique work schedules
 - Children with developmental and physical disabilities, serious emotional disturbance who are not able to be in the schools or need additional support at home due to remote learning
 - Foster families, kinship families needing respite or extra in home, remote learning support.
 - Lack of child care available
 - Note: Just because there is no ‘in person school’ is not necessarily a special circumstance. The intent of the scholarship is to provide a solution for those unique, special circumstances that cannot be served under the school or regular childcare model.
- Families will explain their special circumstance and then select all that apply:
 - Remote learning support
 - Health and safety
 - Respite care
 - In home care or support
 - Rural – limited provider access
 - Other _____
- NOTE: These scholarships are not intended for attendance at registered/licensed family and group home child care facilities. They are intended to offset the cost of alternative child care in-home or at the home of, for example, a family member.