

Ellis Financial Aid Frequently Asked Questions

Is my family eligible for the scholarship?

- This scholarship is **meant for our families who pay full tuition at Ellis and demonstrate financial hardship in paying the full tuition**; however, certain exceptions may be made for extenuating family income circumstances (e.g., a family who, based on income levels, should be eligible for a voucher but has not received one).
- While families who are currently receiving state subsidies to attend Ellis are not eligible for this program, Ellis is committed to continuing to provide support for our subsidy-based attendees, who comprise the majority of our families.

How will the decision be made?

- Ellis is partnering with FACTS, a third-party grant and aid platform, that uses a comprehensive formula to determine anticipated need by family. All decisions will be finalized by the Aid committee, which is composed of Ellis staff and members of the board. The Ellis Aid Committee reviews the outcomes, exercises limited discretion for extraordinary circumstances and finalizes award amounts within the total Board-approved budget.

How will the financial aid be awarded to my family?

- The award will be posted as tuition credits for families on a percentage basis, which will be applied to every Ellis tuition payment for the year.
- For example, if your child is in the infant class and your family is awarded a scholarship of \$6,000, that corresponds to roughly ~15% discount on every tuition payment for Ellis for one year.
- If your family withdraws from Ellis during the scholarship award year, the remaining balance will be returned to the Ellis financial aid pool.

How much financial aid can I expect?

- Because scholarship funds are limited, not all applicants will receive an award, and the amount granted may cover only a portion of what the family requests.

- The typical range of the scholarship is expected to be around ~\$2-6k per child, or 10-15% of the annual tuition expenses, depending on what grade your child is in.
- However, all awards will vary based on individual family circumstances, collected in our application, including, but not limited to income, monthly expenses, annual expenses, childcare education expenses, major job changes, etc. Additionally, the committee will look at extenuating circumstances to see if there are factors outside of this range.

What is FACTS?

- Ellis is partnering with FACTS Grant & Aid, a 3rd-party software provider that hosts the scholarship application. As a platform, FACTS will collect and verify application documentation, provide an unbiased formula to evaluate family needs, and notify families of decisions on Ellis's behalf.

Is my data secure?

- Ellis is partnering with FACTS to ensure data security via storage and verification of document applications. FACTS maintains data encryption and secure document storage; Ellis retains no hard copies. All digital access is permissioned. Recipient identities remain confidential outside the Aid Committee and billing staff.
- For more information on data security at FACTS, please refer here: [FACTS Data Security](#)

What if I don't have some of the information in the application?

- Please fill out the application to the best of your abilities. For any questions that do not apply to you, please answer with "0".

When will I find out about the outcome?

- All awards are expected to be announced in early September. Families will have a few days to accept or reject the awards.

Who do I contact with questions?

- If you have any questions about the scholarship, eligibility, or the application process, please contact the Ellis Finance team at billing@ellisearlylearning.org