

Carson Smith Opportunity Scholarship Program Information

What Is the Carson Smith Opportunity Scholarship (CSOS)?

The Carson Smith Opportunity Scholarship (CSOS) is a state-authorized program that helps Utah students with special needs access educational services that best fit their needs — whether through private school or home-based education. The scholarship is available to eligible students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Through CSOS, families can use their scholarship funds not only for tuition but also for therapies, tutoring, adaptive learning tools, and specialized services — but only through approved vendors.

What Is Children First Education Fund (CFEF)?

Children First Education Fund (CFEF) is a Utah-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit designated by the state to administer the CSOS program. We serve over 1,400 students across the state and help families:

- Apply for and receive scholarships
- Use funds responsibly on approved educational expenses
- Connect with trusted private schools and service vendors

Visit us at: <https://cfe-fund.org>

Why Become an Approved Vendor?

By becoming a CSOS-approved vendor:

- You support children with special needs in reaching their full potential
- Families can use scholarship funds to pay for your services
- Your organization is listed in our Approved Vendor Directory
- There is no cost to apply and minimal administrative burden

Who Can Apply?

We accept vendor applications from:

- Licensed therapists (PT, OT, speech, ABA)
- Academic tutors and interventionists
- Learning centers and rec programs
- Hospitals, clinics, and medical providers
- Educational suppliers and curriculum developers
- Arts, athletics, and music providers (if tied to a child's education)

How to Become an Approved Vendor (Takes ~5 Minutes)

1. Visit <https://serviceprovider.cfe-fund.org/>
2. Fill out the short application form
3. Upload a completed W-9 Form
4. Our team will review and approve qualified vendors within 3–5 business days