

529 SAVINGS PLAN

# First Step Program by CollegeInvest

A FREE \$121 contribution to jumpstart your child's college savings

## Who qualifies?

Any child born or adopted on or after January 1, 2020 in Colorado is eligible to receive a free \$121 contribution to a Scholars Choice Education Savings Plan account.

## 2 simple steps

1

With the help of your financial professional, open a Scholars Choice account at [scholars-choice.com](https://scholars-choice.com). Your savings and earnings grow tax free if the funds are used for qualified expenses.<sup>1</sup>

- Contributions you make to your account are eligible for a Colorado income tax deduction for Colorado taxpayers.<sup>2</sup>
- Savings can be used anywhere in the country, at almost any college, university, community college, trade school or vocational program.

2

Apply for the First Step Program online at [collegeinvest.org/first-step/](https://collegeinvest.org/first-step/). You will need the child's account number and their birth certificate state file number. If you and the Beneficiary meet all the eligibility requirements, you will be notified by email from CollegeInvest and the \$121 contribution will be deposited in your Scholars Choice account within 30 business days.

**What's more, for parents and legal Guardians who enroll by December 31, 2026, CollegeInvest will match your future contributions up to \$1,500!** If the Account Owner is the parent or legal Guardian, once you receive the \$121 from First Step, CollegeInvest will match your future contributions dollar-for-dollar, up to \$500 per year for the next 3 years!\*

\*Any Applicant/Account Owner may claim the gift contribution, but only the Beneficiary's parent or legal Guardian may claim the potential matching \$1,500 funds from CollegeInvest. CollegeInvest will contact the account owner in January of each year to confirm your account information. Then, if you are the Beneficiary's Parent or legal Guardian, all the contributions up to \$500 per year that you make for the next 3 years will be matched by CollegeInvest. Eligible contributions are contributions made by the Account Owner during the contribution period. Upromise, Ugift, employer, promotions including but not limited to the initial First Step award, and other non-account owner contributions do not qualify. See the next page and visit [collegeinvest.org/first-step/](https://collegeinvest.org/first-step/) for more information.

## FAQs

### Q. Who is eligible?

A. The one-time \$121 gift contribution is available for any child born or adopted in the State of Colorado on or after January 1, 2020. The Account Owner and child must be U.S. citizens or resident aliens with a Social Security number or federal tax identification number. The Applicant must apply for the program before the child's 8th birthday. There is a limit of one First Step award per Beneficiary.

For the First Step matching program, parents or legal Guardians of the eligible beneficiary who open a Scholars Choice account, naming the eligible child as the Beneficiary, and enroll in First Step are eligible.

### Q. When does match eligibility start?

A. Match eligibility starts the same year as the enrollment into First Step, provided that the participant contributes at least the maximum match amount for that year (\$500 for 2026). If the participant contributes less than \$500 during their enrollment year, then match eligibility will start the following calendar year. The match is for three (3) **consecutive** years.

### Q. When will matching funds be awarded?

A. The contribution period is for a calendar year from January 1 through December 31. The matching funds will be awarded the following year by May 1.

### Q. Are there any income thresholds with the First Step match program?

A. No, there are no income thresholds to be eligible for the First Step match program.

### Q. Is there a difference between the First Step program and the "Matching Grant Program"?

A. For children born before January 1, 2020 who are not eligible for First Step, CollegeInvest offers a separate Matching Grant Program. This program has different eligibility rules, including an income threshold and different application period. More details can be found at [collegeinvest.org/matching-grant-program](https://collegeinvest.org/matching-grant-program).

### Q. Can I be eligible for both the legacy Matching Grant Program and First Step match in the same year?

A. No, applicants are eligible for only one match program per year.

For more information about the Terms & Conditions, go to [collegeinvest.org/first-step](https://collegeinvest.org/first-step)

Contact us at [Specialist529plan@nuveen.com](mailto:Specialist529plan@nuveen.com) or call 888-5-SCHOLAR (888-572-4652)

Scholars Choice is a registered service mark of CollegeInvest.

1 A Non-Qualified Withdrawal is subject to federal and state income taxes on the earnings portion, and a 10% penalty on the earning portion. In addition, any state tax deductions for contributions may be subject to recapture in subsequent years.

2 Contributions are deductible from Colorado income tax for Colorado taxpayers in the calendar year of the contribution up to \$39,200 per tax filer/per-beneficiary for married filers (\$26,200 for single filers), and subject to recapture in subsequent years in which non-qualified withdrawals are made or if funds are transferred to a non-Colorado 529 plan or ABLE account.

The Scholars Choice Education Savings Plan is offered by the State of Colorado. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. is the Plan Manager and Nuveen Securities, LLC is the Distributor.

The TIAA group of companies does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your legal or tax advisor. There are various risks associated with an investment in the Scholars Choice Education Savings Plan; principal loss is possible.

The Scholars Choice Education Savings Plan's Investment Portfolios are subject to the risks of the underlying fund(s) in which they invest and other risks, as described in the Plan Description.

**Before investing, carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the Scholars Choice Education Savings Plan, including whether the investor's or Designated Beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investment in such state's qualified tuition program. Other state benefits may include financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors. For this and other information that should be read carefully, please request a Plan Description at 888-5-SCHOLAR (888-572-4652) or visit [scholars-choice.com](https://scholars-choice.com). If the funds aren't used for qualified higher education expenses, a federal 10% penalty tax on earnings (as well as federal and state income taxes) may apply.**

Participation in the Scholars Choice Education Savings Plan does not guarantee that the account's assets will be adequate to cover future tuition or other higher education expenses, or that contributions and the investment return on contributions, if any, will be adequate to cover future tuition and other eligible education expenses or that a Designated Beneficiary will be admitted to or permitted to continue to attend any eligible educational institution. Contributions to an Account and the investment earnings, if any, are not guaranteed or insured.

State Administrator, Trustee & Issuer



[www.scholars-choice.com](https://www.scholars-choice.com)

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