

**Republika e Kosovës**

**Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo**

**Qeveria - Vlada – Government**

*Ministria e Arsimit, Shkencës, Teknologjisë dhe Inovacionit - Ministarstvo Obrazovanja, Nauke, Tehnologije i Inovacije / Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation*

The Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, based on Article 2 of the Grant Agreement TF0C3867-XK signed on June 28, 2024 by the Republic of Kosova and the World Bank and in decision no. 01B-246 dated 23.12.2024, does

**CALL FOR APPLICATION OF FAMILIES REGISTERED IN THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

**FROM MUNICIPALITY OF PRISHTINA, LIPJAN AND GJILAN**

 **IN PILOTING THE VOUCHERS PROGRAM**

Date: 23.01.2025.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) has started the implementation of the Vouchers Program piloting. The program aims to improve the access of children aged 3 to 5 years to Early Childhood Education Institutions (IEFH) from families who are registered in the Social Assistance Scheme (SAS).
Through the Voucher Program, MESTI will reimburse the education and transportation fees for the selected children.

The Voucher Program will run from December 2024 to June 2027. While the pilot phase will last for 6 months from the beginning of the children's education at EChEI.

The municipalities selected for piloting are: 1) Municipality of Pristina; 2) Municipality of Lipjan; and 3) Municipality of Gjilan.

Families registered in SAS who reside in these municipalities are invited to apply to the Voucher Program in order to benefit from the program.

**Criteria for application are:**

The family must be registered in SAS as a beneficiary;

* To have at least one child between the ages of 3 and 5 at the time of enrollment in the EChEI. The child's age is calculated from the date of service provision at EChEI, not from the application date to the Program. Consequently, the parent or legal guardian can apply even before the child has reached the age of 3 or 5, starting from 2 years and 6 months to the age of 4 years and 6 months. Provided that to start attending EChEI at the age of 3 and to finish it when the child starts compulsory pre-primary education after the age of 5;
* The child must have residence in the municipality where applies to attend EChEI.

All children who meet the aforementioned criteria will be subject to automated random selection in accordance with the Voucher Program Guide approved by decision No. 01B-246 dated 23.12.2024.

**Expenses that will be covered by the program:**

* The program will cover the EChEI payment for the child for six months of the piloting;
* Payment for transportation of children who are unable to travel safely accompanied by their parents or legal guardian, whose distance is at least 4 kilometers to the EChEI.

The amount of the transport payment will be determined by the Commission for the Evaluation of Applications for the Voucher Program in the amount of 60 euros to 100 euros per child depending on the respective municipality and road distance.

**Application procedure:**

The application is made only through e-Kosova; <https://rks-gov.net/596>

Applicants can only be parents or legal guardians of children.

Applicants may apply for more than one child.

**The data and documents required in the application procedure are:**

-Name Surname of parents or guardian;

-Address:

-Region;

-The contact number;

-The number of children for whom they seek support from the Voucher Program;

-Name Surname of the child/children;

-Social assistance card;

-If the applicant is a legal guardian (and not a parent) then proof of legal guardianship must be uploaded;

-Proof of vaccination, children's vaccination passport;

-Selection of EChEI within the municipality of the applicant;

-Data if the child has limited abilities;

-Distance from residence to EChEI;

-If there is a need for transport.

**Application deadline**

The application is open for 21 days from 23.01.2025 and ends on 12.02.2025.

The Voucher Program Application Evaluation Commission will compile the final list of beneficiaries within 15 days after the application process closes. The decision will be published on MESTI's official channels and will be shared with all applicants through e-Kosova.

For additional information, you can contact the following phone number: 038 200 65048 and/or by sending e-mail to the address: programiikuponave@rks-gov.net.