

Early Head Start and Head Start Eligibility Process

Early Head Start Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible, a woman must be a resident of Shawnee county, pregnant or a child must be under three (3) years of age on or before August 31 of the current year.

At the time of application, residency will be verified with a valid lease, mortgage statement or utility statement.

A physician's verification of pregnancy is required for prenatal applications. A hospital certificate or state-certified birth certificate is required as verification of age for applying children. Alternate certifications of a child's date of birth will be considered by the Family and Community Partnership Content Area Expert for homeless families and children who are in foster care.

Head Start Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible, a child must live in the Community Action Head Start service area and be three (3) or four (4) years old on or before August 31 of the school year in which a child is applying to attend.



At the time of application, residency will be verified with a valid lease, mortgage statement or utility statement. A state-certified birth certificate is required as verification of age.

Children who are currently in foster care, or who are in families receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or SRS cash assistance, or are homeless as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, are automatically income eligible based on these circumstances.

Head Start Program Definition of Income:

Income means total cash receipts before taxes from all sources, with the exceptions noted below.

Income includes:

- Money wages or salary before deductions
- Net income from non-farm self-employment
- Net income from farm self-employment
- Regular payments from Social Security or railroad retirement
- Payments from unemployment compensation, strike benefits from union funds, workers' compensation, veterans benefits (with the exception noted below), public assistance (including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income, Emergency Assistance money payments, and non-Federally funded General Assistance or General Relief money payments)
- Training stipends
- Alimony, child support, and military family allotments or other regular support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household
- Private pensions, government employee pensions (including military retirement pay), and regular insurance or annuity payments

- College or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, and assistantships
- Dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, and periodic receipts from estates or trusts
- Net gambling or lottery winnings

As defined here, income *does not* include:

- Capital gains
- Any assets drawn down as withdrawals from a bank, the sale of property, a house or a car
- Tax refunds, gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances, one-time insurance payments, or compensation for injury.
- Noncash benefits, such as the employer-paid or union-paid portion of health insurance or other employee fringe benefits
- Food or housing received in lieu of wages
- The value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms
- The imputed value of rent from owner-occupied non-farm or farm housing
- Federal non-cash benefit programs as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, school lunches, and housing assistance, and certain disability payments made to disabled children of Vietnam veterans as prescribed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

The period of time to be considered for eligibility is the twelve months immediately preceding the month in which application or reapplication for enrollment of a child in a Head Start program is made, or for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year in which the application or reapplication is made, whichever more accurately reflects the family's current needs.

2009 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Persons in Family	Poverty Guideline
1	\$10,830
2	\$14,570
3	\$18,310
4	\$22,050
5	\$25,790
6	\$29,530
7	\$33,270
8	\$37,010

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$3,740 for each additional person.