

Early Head Start (EHS)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

OVERVIEW

Early Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that aims to improve the growth and development of children before they transition to Head Start by providing early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services on a year-round basis.

Goals:

- Support and enhance the continuum of infant and toddler growth and development, including cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development
- Support parents as they identify and meet their own goals and fulfill their parental roles, nurture the development of their child, and advocate for communities that are supportive of children and families of all cultures
- Collaborate with partners in communities to foster the development of a comprehensive system of family-centered services attuned to the complex and diverse needs of children and families
- Help parents move toward self-sufficiency

WHO IS SERVED?

Population(s)/Age Group:

Children under the age of three, pregnant women

Eligibility Criteria and Screening Tools:

There are two primary kinds of eligibility: categorical and income.

- A pregnant woman or child is categorically eligible if: homeless, in foster care, or in receipt of TANF or SSI
- A pregnant woman or child is income eligible if family income determined to be less than the Federal Poverty Level

HOW ARE SERVICES DELIVERED?

Local Service System

Early Head Start grantees and their delegate agencies provide services through center-based, home-based, and combination partnerships.

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Referrals into Program

Outreach varies by program

Data Systems Used

COPA, Teaching Strategies Gold

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OR CONTACT

Office of Head Start, Region V
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(312) 353-4237

Program Website:
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc;1409266202322>