

Head Start

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

OVERVIEW

The Head Start program helps break the cycle of poverty and promotes school readiness by providing preschool children of low-income and families with a comprehensive program to meet their educational, health, nutritional, and social needs.

Goals:

- Support the continuum of children's growth and development, including cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development
- Support parents as they identify and meet their own goals, nurture the development of their child, and advocate for communities that are supportive of children and families of all cultures
- Collaborate with partners in the communities to foster the development of a comprehensive system of family-centered services attuned to the complex and diverse needs of children and families

WHO IS SERVED?

Population(s)/Age Group:

Children ages three to five.

Eligibility Criteria and Screening Tools:

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

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

HOW ARE SERVICES DELIVERED?

Local Service System

The program is administered locally by community-based non-profit organizations, school systems, and other social service agencies

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Referrals into Program

Outreach varies by program

Data Systems Used

Varies by program, i.e. COPA, Child Plus, PROMIS

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>

Additional contacts:

Illinois Head Start Association
(217) 241-3511
www.ilheadstart.org

Illinois Head Start State Collaboration Website
www.ilEarlyChildhoodCollab.org