

## HEAD START PROGRAMS

### What is Head Start?

Head Start programs are committed to giving children the best opportunities for succeeding in school. These programs provide comprehensive early learning services to at-risk children and families, prioritizing enrollment to families at 100 percent of the federal poverty level or other categorical eligibility area. Its mission is to promote school readiness in the areas of education, health, nutrition, and social development while encouraging strong parent involvement.

### How Does It Work?

Head Start takes a whole child-whole family approach and includes local programs run by professionals in the context of federally designated national standards. It ensures that parents receive help with a wide range of family needs, such as housing, employment, and parenting education. It even offers assistance to parents by connecting them to information about adult education and employment opportunities. Each Head Start program has a locally designed program model based on the needs of its local community. Depending on the community, the program may be offered in the home, with structured home visits, or in a classroom. Many programs offer full day classes for working parents, and are sometimes provided in cooperation with child care programs.

### Early Head Start

Early Head Start gives low-income families and pregnant women the skills they need to enhance their children's growth from birth to three years. Early Head Start home-based services include weekly 90-minute visits and two group socialization activities per month for parents and their children. Families earning up to 100% of the federal poverty level may be eligible. The program serves pregnant women, as well as infants and toddlers.

### How Much Does It Cost?

Head Start is free to all families who are eligible for the program.

### How Can I Enroll My Child?

If you are interested in enrolling your child in a Head Start Program, call 717-526-4646, or visit <http://paheadstart.org/index.php/head-start-in-pa/local-head-start-information/>.

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## Does My Family Meet the Federal Poverty Guidelines?

To find out if your family meets the Federal Poverty Guidelines needed to qualify for participation in Head Start/Early Head Start, simply follow the sample chart below.\*

1. Under the Household Size column, locate the number of individuals residing in your household. Age does not matter.
2. Follow the row across to the maximum amount of total income in your household.

\* These guidelines are subject to change annually. To locate the most updated guidelines, visit: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov>.

Household size	100%	133%	150%	200%	300%	400%
1	\$11,770	\$15,654	\$17,655	\$23,540	\$35,310	\$47,080
2	15,930	21,187	23,895	31,860	47,790	63,720
3	20,090	26,720	30,135	40,180	60,270	80,360
4	24,250	32,253	36,375	48,500	72,750	97,000
5	28,410	37,785	42,615	56,820	85,230	113,640
6	32,570	43,318	48,855	65,140	97,710	130,280
7	36,730	48,851	55,095	73,460	110,190	146,920
8	40,890	54,384	61,335	81,780	122,670	163,560
For each additional person, add	\$4,160	\$5,533	\$6,240	\$8,320	\$12,480	\$16,640

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Phone:** For information on these programs, call the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (717) 346-9320, or call (717)-526-4646.

**Website:** To locate a Head Start program near you, visit:

<http://paheadstart.org/index.php/head-start-in-pa/local-head-start-information>

**Age Range:** Age ranges are listed below.

- **Head Start:** Ages 3 and 4
- **Early Head Start:** Pregnant women, as well as infants and toddlers up to 3 years of age

**Eligibility:** Eligibility requirements are listed below.

- **Head Start:** Families at 100 percent of the federal poverty level or other categorical eligibility area are prioritized.
- **Early Head Start:** Pregnant women, low-income families, families earning up to 100% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Tom Wolf, Governor

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