

### Who is eligible for Head Start?

There are three different ways to look at eligibility for the Head Start program. They are:

1. Age eligibility: Children who are between birth and five years of age, and are not yet old enough to go to Kindergarten, are age eligible for our program. The Early Head Start program also serves pregnant mothers.
2. Income or Categorical eligibility: Homeless and foster children are eligible for the Head Start program. Families otherwise qualify based on income eligibility. We have three different income guidelines we follow for all of our programs, which are all based on family size:
  - a. Head Start/Early Head Start Guidelines
  - b. California State Preschool and State Child Development Guidelines
3. Need eligibility: If you are applying for our full-day, full-year program, parents need to be working, in school or training, or incapacitated. Documentation is required for all need requirements.

There is also a requirement that 10% of enrollments should be offered to children with disabilities.

Community-based organizations who work with families who can benefit from the Head Start program can make a referral by completing and printing the form *CSB620-Referrals to HS or EHS* and sending it to the program as instructed at the top of the document.

### Enrolling in Head Start

To apply for our program, you can do any one of the following:

1. Call our enrollment hotline number: **(925)272-4727**

OR

2. Fill out and print the Pre-Application Screening form and send it to our program as instructed at the top of the form (English / Spanish).

### No Cost for Head Start Program

The comprehensive Head Start program is completely free to income-qualified families. If applying for the full-day program, a small fee may be assessed for childcare services based on family income.

### Duration of the Program

Full-day programs operate a full year (12 months) whereas part-day programs operate part-year (typically from September to May).

## *Community Services Bureau/ **HEAD START***

### **Hours of the Program**

Community Services Bureau operates morning (8am to 11:30am) and afternoon (1pm to 4:30pm) sessions for part-day Head Start preschool. Full-day centers operate from 7am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday, with hours based on childcare needs of the family. Numerous partner agencies, with varying hours of operation, also provide Head Start services to eligible families. Please contact our enrollment hotline (925-272-4727) and staff can connect you with these centers.

### **Head Start Curriculum**

The program's curriculum, environment (indoor and outdoor), choice and implementation of activities, and child guidance strategies are designed to maximize opportunities for each child to develop social and cultural competence.

Additional information on the Head Start program, including regulations on eligibility for participation in Head Start (Head Start Act, Sec. 645) can be found on the Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center (ECLKC) at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>.