

# HEAD START

**CHILDREN ARE ELIGIBLE FOR EARLY HEAD START (FROM BIRTH TO AGE 3) AND HEAD START (FROM AGE 3 TO 5)** regardless of income IF they are in foster care or are homeless or live in families receiving Public Assistance (PA), also called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Other children are eligible if their families have income at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). As per information from the NYS Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) (**866-763-6481**), the Head Start Program uses the 2021 Federal Poverty Level numbers to determine family eligibility.

Head Start, administered by the federal government, is often preferred to other childcare because it offers a whole child/whole family program design and includes national standards, monitoring, professional development, and family engagement.

## HEAD START LOW-INCOME ELIGIBILITY:

### Maximum Income by Family Size\*

This chart reflects the 2021 Federal Poverty Level numbers.

Family Size*	1	2	3	4	5
Annual Gross Income 100% FPL	\$12,880	\$17,420	\$21,960	\$26,500	\$31,040
Monthly Gross Income 100%FPL	\$1,073	\$1,452	\$1,830	\$2,208	\$2,587

\*A pregnant woman counts as ONE person for Head Start, and can participate before giving birth.

There are provisions for some families whose income is higher than the above. Apply and see.

If you are ineligible for Head Start, the Child Care Aware program can help you in locating other childcare services. To find the local child care resource and referral agency, please contact Child Care Aware at **800-424-2246** or visit <http://www.childcareaware.org/>

## **INFORMATION ABOUT HEAD START, AND HOW TO APPLY:**

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/article/frequently-asked-questions-about-head-start>

and

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/how-apply>

or:

NYS Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC), **866-763-6481**

## **HOW HEAD START IS AFFECTED BY COVID-19**

Full details

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/coronavirus/ohs-covid-19-updates>

Highlights

- By federal law, all Head Start staff must be vaccinated by January 2022.
- Case management is available for families re: all the COVID economic benefits for which they are eligible.
- Mental health services increased for children and staff because of the pandemic.