



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

James C. Bridgers, Jr., Ph.D., MBA
Director

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EARLY HEAD START COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM

The Montgomery County Early Head Start community-based program provides Head Start comprehensive services for eligible **children from birth to three years old**. The Early Head Start community-based program supports a nine-hour per day, 12 month per year Early Head Start slot in participating childcare centers and family childcare homes.

Interested in applying?

Request an invitation to apply with the QR code at the bottom of this notice or this link:

<https://forms.montgomerycountymd.gov/f/HSRequest>

FAQs

Q: What is Head Start?

Head Start is a national early care and education program that provides comprehensive education, health and social services support to families with young children aged to five. **These services are provided at no cost to families.**

Q: Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) also has Head Start. Where should I apply?

If your child is 3 or 4 years old: Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is the agency providing Head Start services. You can find out more on their website:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/dtecps/earlychildhood/prek/>

If your child is under 3 years old: This Early Head Start program is your resource, which is provided by Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services' Early Childhood Services office.

Q: How do families enroll in the program?

1. Interested families request an invitation to apply with the QR code at the bottom of this notice or this link: <https://forms.montgomerycountymd.gov/f/HSRequest>
2. Families will receive a personalized invitation to an online application within 1–2 business days via email. Do not share this email with others, as the link is personalized to you and your family.
3. Once families apply, their application will be reviewed for eligibility. Families with incomes at or below 100% federal poverty level are eligible for this program.
4. Eligible families will receive a list of participating childcare programs from which to select.
5. Families will enroll in their selected childcare program using that childcare's enrollment process.
6. Families will notify Early Head Start to confirm their choice.

Families are encouraged to contact participating childcare programs and visit programs before selecting a program that best fits their needs (location, size of program, etc.).

Office of the Director

Q: How long is the commitment?

Families are eligible to remain in the program until their child reaches three years of age, however families may choose to leave the program at any time. If a family disenrolls from the program and desires to return, they must re-apply.

Q: What are the requirements to participate?

- Families must have an income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL). However, children in foster care and/or receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are automatically eligible for the program regardless of family income.
- Families must reside in Montgomery County.
- Child must be birth to three years of age.

Q: What are the benefits of participating in this program?

In addition to providing quality education, Head Start uses a comprehensive services team approach to serving families that are enrolled in the program. This approach provides resources and services so that families and children can improve their lives. It also prepares parents to advocate for their children and families. Services include health, nutrition, mental health, social skills, disabilities, and early childhood education services.

Contact:

Jessica Huitz

Head Start Program Specialist

Early Childhood Services/Birth to Five Head Start

Department of Health & Human Services

Jessica.huitz@montgomerycountymd.gov

Direct Line: (240) 777-1426

Registration QR Code

