



# ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

## Head Start Eligibility Requirements

Children applying to Head Start must meet the following requirements:

- Be a resident of the county where the application is being submitted (proof of address may be requested if needed)
- Be between the ages of 3 and 5 by their school district's cutoff date
- Meet the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines - 10% of children that exceed the income guidelines may be accepted if there are no more eligible children on the waiting list from the county in which you are applying.

In order for a child to be age eligible for our program he or she must be 3 or 4 years old on or before August 31st in the year in which the application is submitted. Five-year old children are eligible if their birth dates are after August 31st which would make them too young to enroll in Kindergarten.

Head Start is a child development program for low income families. Family income is one key factor in determining eligibility.

Since income is a principal factor in determining eligibility of applicants for enrollment, providing documentation of a source of income is required. **All families are expected to have some type of financial support whether from employment, SSI, TANF, child support statement (if income is registered with the Department of Social Services, please get a statement of income received in the previous year), other means according to program guidelines, or a personal contributing source. Income verification may be the previous year's W2 or 1040 Tax return documents.**

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