

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

PURPOSE

Head Start provides a comprehensive program of health, education, parent involvement, and services for children with disabilities, all of which are coordinated with community-based service systems. Early Head Start programs also include services to low income families with infants and toddlers, and pregnant women. In addition to the full range of services provided to all children, special services may be available for children with disabilities enrolled in the program including equipment and materials or modifications to existing facilities. These types of support services may be provided through Head Start, outside agencies, or a combination of both. Head Start services are provided at no charge to eligible families.

CONTACT

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<http://okacaa.org/head-start-2/>

See Appendix B for Head Start & Early Head Start Offices.

FINANCIAL CRITERIA

- 90% of recipients have low income; 10% can be above the federal poverty level.

ELIGIBILITY

- Children ages birth to 5;
- those with disabilities must have been diagnosed by appropriate professionals; and
- a minimum of 10% of Head Start enrollment opportunities must be reserved for children with professionally diagnosed disabilities requiring special services.

AT SERVICES PROVIDED/COVERED

- Assessments & Evaluations
- Information & Referral
- Case Management
- Locating Alternate Funding
- Advocacy/Other
- Training For Family

AT DEVICES PROVIDED/COVERED

- Support services may be provided through Head Start, outside agencies, or a combination of both. Head Start programs use non-Head Start resources whenever possible.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Contact your local Head Start to apply. See Appendix B for Head Start listings.

APPEALS PROCESS

1. Each Head Start program has its own formal appeals process in place.
2. If a parent has a disagreement with the program that is not resolved at the local level, the parent can go to the Head Start Policy Council for review of the issue.

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

- To ensure appropriate special services and optimal transition into public schools, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed for each child who has a disability by the diagnostic team, parents, and teacher. The IEP reflects the child's participation in the full range of Head Start services and also describes the special education and related services needed to respond to the child's disability. Needed AT devices and services should also be addressed in the IEP.
- Head Start programs in Oklahoma are administered locally by Community Action agencies, private nonprofit agencies, American Indian Tribes, and a school district.