

Selection

Head Start Performance Standards

§ 1302.14

Policy

Children, pregnant women, and pregnant people are selected for enrollment according to the established criteria that weigh the prioritization of the selection of the highest-need participants. The selection criteria are established annually based on the needs identified in the Community Needs Assessment. The identified needs will also include family income, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, children's age, children with special needs, and other risk factors. The selection criteria must be approved by the Community Action Head Start Policy Council and the Community Action Board of Directors before being implemented.

Selection Procedure

Selection Criteria 2025-2026 Program Year

<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Age – Early Head Start	
Prenatal	150
Birth – 12 months	125
13 – 24 months	75
25 – 30 months	50
31 – 36 months	25
Age – Head Start	
3 years – 3 years. 5 months	150
3 Years 6 months – 3 years. 11 months	75
4 Years	25
Family/Child Status or Public Assistance	
Homeless or	150
Foster Child or	150
Receiving TANF or	150
Receiving SSI or	150
Receiving SNAP	150
Income	
0 – 100% of Poverty	150
101 – 130% of Poverty	100

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131% of Poverty or Over	0
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Disability	
Suspected/In Referral Process or Diagnosed, but not receiving services	150
Diagnosed Disability and receiving services	75
Doctor Referral	10
Mental Health Referral	10
NWRESD Referral	5

Risk Factors	
Two or more factors*	150
Single Parent/Guardian	60
High-Risk Family:	
• Death of Parent/Guardian/Caregiver or Immediate Family Member • Having Incarceration experience, Deported Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, or Refugee • Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, Sexual Abuse, and/or Mental Health needs	50
Sibling/Child/Prenatal in EHS or Head Start	30
Non-English-Speaking/English as a 2 nd Language Child/Family	20
Transitioning from another Head Start (internal or external)	20
Unemployed Parent/Guardian and/or Enrolled in School/Job Training	20
Internal or External Referral	10
Teen Parent (current or at birth of 1 st child)	10
Parent/Guardian Diagnosed with a Medical Condition	10
Previous EHS/HS Experience (Past)	10
Lack of Childcare	10
CAO Staff	5
Other:	
Returning Child (must be returning in the same program term)	1000

***Use a combination of any two or more or more only when the total is equal to or greater than 150. If the total is less than 150, use the actual points.**

Selection Process

1. Once eligibility has been determined, a child or a pregnant person is placed on the waitlist, and the selection criteria points are assigned.
2. The waitlist is sorted by the number of selection criteria points assigned (highest first) to each child or pregnant person, then class age (youngest first). The children or pregnant person with the highest criteria points is selected for the program.
 - When the criteria points are equal between two participants, the eligibility date will determine who is offered enrollment first.
3. Once a child or pregnant person is selected for the program, the enrollment process is followed. Refer to Enrollment—Center-Based or Enrollment Home-Based Policy and Procedure.

Over-Income Families

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Only 10% of all children and pregnant women, regardless of eligibility points, may be over income. An additional 35% of children and pregnant women may be from families whose incomes do not exceed 130% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Overcome participants will be selected when no income-eligible children are on the waitlist.

The Head Start Director and ERSEA Supervisor must review and approve the enrollment of over-income children to ensure the thresholds are met and maintained as indicated in the Head Start Performance Standards.