Closing the opportunity gap for infants, young children and families

Nebraska’s Early Head Start and Head Start programs are working to close the gap for young children and their families by providing educational and comprehensive services within communities across the state. Today’s youngest will be the workforce of the mid-century. When families and young children have the support they need, communities benefit with healthier families, stronger schools, higher graduation rates, and a prepared workforce to compete in the future.

Who is eligible?

- A pregnant woman or child whose family income is equal to or below the Federal Poverty Level which is $25,100 (as of 2019) gross income for a family of four or the family is receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- At least 10% of enrollment is required for children with special needs.
- Children in foster care or whose families are homeless are categorically eligible.
- If a family’s income is above the poverty line a program may enroll a pregnant woman or child who would benefit from services. These participants may only make up 10% of the enrollment.
- For Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, 51% of income must come from agricultural work.

What services do programs offer?

- age appropriate learning activities
- nutritional meals and snacks
- dental/physical exams
- vision, hearing, and developmental screenings
- social/emotional screenings
- transition to kindergarten support
- parent education services
- GED and literacy opportunities
- financial stability assistance
- connection to community resources
- employment/volunteer opportunities

Economic Impact

Fiscal Year 2018 Federal Funding: $54,190,068
Total Jobs: 1,906
State Average Salary for Head Start Teachers with a BA: $36,963

Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social, and other services. Since its inception, Head Start has served more than 35 million children, birth to age 5, and their families.

Program Options

- Center-Based services: early care and classroom education setting learning, home visits at least twice per year
- Home-Based services: weekly home visits, group learning, discussion, and social activity twice a month
- Family child care services: care and education to children in private home or family-like setting

For more information

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Early Head Start & Head Start

An investment in tomorrow for the child, family, and community

HEALTHY BABIES AND CHILDREN • SCHOOL READINESS PREPARATION • STRONG FAMILIES • PRODUCTIVE COMMUNITIES • ROBUST ECONOMY