

# Head Start and Early Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded program that provides comprehensive services for low-income Hoosier children and their families. Head Start programs are available in every county and serve children ages three through five. Sixty-six Indiana Counties have Early Head Start programs which serve pregnant women, infant and toddlers (ages birth to three). All programs provide early childhood educational, social, medical, dental, nutritional and mental health services to enrolled children and families. Head Start Services are provided at no cost to enrolled children and families

## Who is Eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start Services?

In order to qualify for Head Start or Early Head Start, you must be a resident of the county for which you are applying and your child must fall within the program's age and income requirements. Please contact your local program to learn more and to complete an application.

## What Services are Available?

Head Start and Early Head Start programs provided:

- Educational
- Health
- Nutritional
- Social
- Other services

Services may be provided in a center setting or within a family's home, depending on the structure of a community's program.

## Enrolling in Head Start or Early Head Start

The best way to know if your child will qualify is to apply. Openings for Head Start programs are filled from a waiting list of eligible applicants. Contact the Head Start or Early Head Start that serves the county in which you live to complete an application. To find a Head Start or Early Head Start program near you, call 866-763-6481 or use the Head Start locator at: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator/embedded?NoMenu=>

## Learn More:

Families interested in learning more about Head Start or Early Head Start can visit the Indiana Head Start Association website at: <https://www.indianaheadstart.org/> or call 317-916-0910. Families can also call the Head Start Collaboration Office at 317-232-1951.

Additionally, families who need more information are encouraged to contact:

**Tonia Carriger, Director**  
Indiana Head Start State Collaboration Office  
402 W. Washington St., Room W362, MS02  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Telephone: 317-232-1951  
Email: [tonia.carriger@fssa.in.gov](mailto:tonia.carriger@fssa.in.gov)

To learn more  
about Head Start,  
call the Head  
Start  
Association:  
(317) 916-0810 or  
the Head Start  
Collaboration  
Office:  
(317) 232-1951

**Rhett Cecil, Executive Director**  
Indiana Head Start Association  
1845 W. 18th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Telephone: 317-916-0810  
Email: [rcecil@indianaheadstart.org](mailto:rcecil@indianaheadstart.org)

**To learn more  
about Head Start,  
call the Head  
Start  
Association:  
(317) 916-0810 or  
the Head Start  
Collaboration  
Office:  
(317) 232-1951**

Programs and systems change often. It is important to ensure that you are using the most current information. This fact sheet was updated February 2023. Please check <https://www.inf2f.org/fact-sheets.html> for the most recent edition.

This fact sheet was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$93,175 with 87% percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of INF2F and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).