

Head Start and Early Head Start Program Information & Eligibility 2015-2016

Head Start

CAP St. Joe Head Start program is funded to serve 331 children age three to five years old. CAP St. Joe offers center-based services at 9 Head Start centers located in Maysville, Plattsburg, Savannah, and St. Joseph; part-day and full-day options are available depending on location. Children receiving center services receive daily breakfast, lunch and snacks that follow USDA guidelines; all centers are licensed by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Credentialed teachers utilize the High Scope educational curriculum to promote and achieve school readiness goals.

Home-based services are also available to residents of Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton, and Dekalb Counties. Families receiving home-based services receive parenting support and education in their home from a trained and credentialed Head Start Home Visitor. Home Visitors utilize the Parent's As Teachers home visitation curriculum.

Early Head Start

CAP St. Joe is funded to provide Early Head Start services to 92 children age birth to three years; 48 enrollment opportunities are offered via Early Head Start Child Care Partnership funding. Residents of Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton, and Dekalb Counties are eligible to receive center based or home based services. All center-based services are located in St. Joseph, at our South 9th Head Start Center, or via our child care partnerships with the YWCA of Greater St. Joseph and La Petite Academy. Early Head Start center-based services operate on a full-time basis, year round. High Scope educational curriculum is utilized in our infant and toddler classrooms.

Early Head Start home-based services are also offered to residents of Andrew Buchanan, Clinton, and Dekalb Counties. Home Visitors utilize the Parent's as Teachers home visitation curriculum to support and educate parents on how to become their child's first teacher. Pregnant mothers are eligible to participate via the home-based program option.

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Eligibility

Eligibility for Head Start/Early Head Start programs is determined by the child's age and the family's income/situation.

Age:

- Head Start: Children must be three years old on or by July 31st of the school year applying for.
- Early Head Start: Pregnant mothers are eligible for EHS home-based services; children may be eligible for center-based services via childcare partnerships and home-visitation services at birth.

Family Income/Situation:

The goal of our Head Start program is to identify and enroll children most in need of services. Children are selected for enrollment based on priority points. Priority points are assigned to all applicants based on the following eligibility criteria:

- Family income is at or below Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Family is receiving government assistance (TANF, SSI, food stamps)
- Family is homeless according to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Child has a diagnosed disability (IEP or IFSP)
- The child is in foster care or victim of abuse or neglect

Being over-income does not automatically exclude a child/family from participation; however, only a limited percentage of over-income children may be served per year. The program must reserve 10% of enrollment opportunities for children with diagnosed disabilities.

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How to apply

- Getting your child into Head Start/Early Head Start is a process that starts with an application. Applications are accepted all year long.
- All applications are subject to verification of the information provided. All enrollment requirements must be completed before selection and placement occur.
- Please be advised that we typically receive more applications than there are spaces available and children are selected based on priority points. As a result and due to many variable factors, not all applicants will result in placement in a classroom or on a home-based caseload.
- Call to schedule an appointment (816)-233-8281. Documents **required** at time of application include: immunization records, child birth certificate, verification of income, insurance information and social security cards for all household members.