



# SCHOHARIE COUNTY CHILD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

## HEAD START and EARLY HEAD START

### QUICK FACTS

### FOR OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

#### What Is Early Head Start and Head Start?

Comprehensive early childhood and family development programs for low-income families.

2023 Federal Poverty Level	
Family Size	100%
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280
7	\$45,420
8	\$50,560

#### Who Is Eligible?

Expectant women and children birth to 5 with gross annual incomes at or under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. Also eligible are: families receiving TANF (including Child Only); SSI (Supplemental Security Income), SNAP; children in Foster Care; and children meeting the McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless (the questionnaire is included on the back).

After families meeting previous criteria are served, we can take families with gross annual incomes between 100 -130% of the FPL. This can only account for up to 35% of our funded enrollment.

On occasion we can take children that do not meet any of the previous criteria. This can only account for up to 10% of our funded enrollment. This is why we encourage all families to apply regardless of income.

**\*\*Our staff will work with families that are raising children that have been placed with them through family court to determine their eligibility. Many times these children are eligible for Early Head Start/Head Start Services.\*\***

#### What Is Our Funded Enrollment?

Early Head Start: 85 - Head Start: 115

#### What Are Our Enrollment Options?

Early Head Start (EHS) Program serves expectant mothers and children birth through 36 months with Home Base and Center Based Options.

*EHS Home-Based Option:* 29 spots for Expectant Mothers, and children birth through 36 months. Family Educators are located in Cobleskill, Schoharie, and Sharon Springs. Family Educators will have a 90-minute weekly home visit and offers a group socialization opportunity twice a month. The Home-Base Program uses the *Partners for a Healthy Baby* curriculum.

*EHS Center Based Option:* 56 spots for children 6 weeks through 36 months Cobleskill Center serves 40 infants and toddlers. Schoharie Center serves 16 toddlers (18 months and up). The program is 6.5 hours 5 days a week and operates all year. Center-Based EHS programs use *The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos*.

*Head Start* serves children ages 3 – 5. Children that will turn 3 by 12/1 can enroll in Head Start in the fall. Children turning 3 after 12/1 may enroll when they are 3. All must be younger than the age for Kindergarten. The program follows the local school calendar. Classrooms are located in Cobleskill, Schoharie, Middleburgh and Sharon Springs. SCCDC collaborates with CRCS, MCS, SCS, and SSCS to offer Pre-Kindergarten classrooms where some children are enrolled in both Head Start and Pre-K. Preschool Programs use the *Creative Curriculum for Preschool*.

#### Are there Attendance Requirements for Early Head Start and Head Start?

Yes. Children should be in attendance every class day for the duration of the class day (provided they are healthy).

#### What Other Supports Are Early Head Start and Head Start families offered?

Every family enrolled in a center-based option will have a Family Advocate, who provide education for families on health, child development, parenting, and can help with referrals to health and community services. Family Advocates work with families to complete assessments and set goals for the family. In the Home-Based program, families have a Family Educator who will partner with the family to develop individualized plans to support the child’s learning and development. They also offer the same supports as Family Advocates. SCCDC, Inc. uses the parent and child resilience building curriculum “Your Journey Together” from the Deveraux Center for Resilient Children. Parents have the opportunity to participate in Parent Committee, Policy Council, and the Health Services Advisory Committee.

**Can SCCDC Accommodate Children with Disabilities?**

Yes. SCCDC works with Early Intervention and school district Committees for Preschool Special Education to provide children of all abilities an inclusive learning environment. Many therapists will provide services to children in our classroom settings.

**What Types of Screenings are Completed at EHS and Head Start?**

A number of screening are completed during a child’s enrollment including: DECA (Devereux Early Childhood Assessment); ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaire); Vision Screening (SPOT); Hearing Screening (OAE); height and weight; and dental screening (completed by local dentists). For families: Post-partum screenings are completed with mothers, and all families can participate in the Parent Gauge Assessment. Any family wishing to complete and ACEs questionnaire for themselves or their child may do so.

**How Can I Refer a Family?**

Simply complete our Agency Referral form.

**What Does a Family Need to Complete an Application?**

A family needs to contact a Family Advocate to complete an application, when conditions permit, we prefer to do this in-person. To process an application a family will need to provide proof of the child’s date of birth, and documentation of their income for the previous tax year, proof receipt of TANF or SSI, foster care documentation, or complete a McKinney-Vento Questionnaire. We can work with families unable to provide documentation.

**How Does the Waiting List Work?**

The Office of Head Start requires us to base our waiting list on the needs of the child and family. This ensures that the children and families most in need always rise to the top of the waiting list.

**Does a Child or Family Need to be a US Citizen or Have Legal Status?**

No. Families only need to reside in Schoharie County.

**Contact a Family Advocate at the Cobleskill Center 518-234-7521 or the Schoharie Center 518-295-8155 with questions.**

<b>McKinney-Vento Questionnaire</b>	
<p><i>Families that are currently experiencing homelessness are categorically eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start Services and are not required to provide proof of income. You must be homeless at the time of the application and meet the federal definition of homelessness from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. To determine if you are homeless for the purpose of an Early Head Start/Head Start application, please check the box that reflects your current living situation. ACF-IM-19-03 allows for children living with a non-parent relative due to loss of housing, economic hardship, substance misuse, or incarceration to be classified as homeless.</i></p> <p>If you cannot check any of the boxes below, you probably do not meet the definition of homeless.</p> <p>You may still apply for Early Head Start/Head Start services, with proof of your income or proof of foster care, or receipt of SSI or TANF.</p>	
	<p>We are staying with friends, family or someone else and do not pay them for living expenses because we lost our home, or cannot afford a home. (Please answer the questions below)</p> <p>How long have you been staying at this location?</p> <p>Why are you living there?</p> <p>How long can you stay there?</p> <p>Are you experiencing over-crowding because you are staying there? Yes/No</p>
	<p>We move around frequently, staying with various friends or relatives because we lost our home, or cannot afford a home.</p>
	<p>We are staying in a homeless shelter or a domestic violence shelter.</p> <p>What agency operates the shelter?</p> <p>Can we contact this agency to confirm or can you provide proof? Yes/No</p>
	<p>We are staying in a motel/hotel because we lost our home, or cannot afford a home.</p>
	<p>We are staying in a tent, camping trailer, van, car or other vehicle.</p>
	<p>We do not have a place to sleep at night.</p>
	<p>We are living in transitional housing and must move out within two years.</p> <p>What agency/organization placed you in this housing?</p>
	<p>We are sleeping in a building or home that is not meant for people to sleep in.</p> <p>This includes garages, barns, parks, public places, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or condemned houses. (Please describe)</p>
	<p>ACF-IM-19-03: This child is living with a non-parent relative due to loss of housing, economic hardship, substance misuse, or incarceration. (Please attach documentation.)</p>
<p><b>Third Party Verification:</b></p> <p><i>(This section needs to be completed for any applicant that has checked any of the above.</i></p> <p><i>We are required to collect this information from any families that are eligible through the McKinney-Vento Act.)</i></p> <p>Who can we verify this information with? (Name of relative, friend, caseworker, etc.):</p> <p>Do you give SCCDC, Inc. permission to contact this individual to confirm this information? Yes/ No</p>	