

ERSEA: Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, Attendance (ERSEA)



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Head Start Program Performance Standards

45 CFR Chapter XIII
September 2016



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Head Start



45 CFR 1302 Subpart A – Eligibility

§ 1302.12(c) Eligibility Requirements

Sponsor's Household Size 100% of HHS Poverty Guidelines



10%

- Family's income is equal to or below the poverty line; or,
- Family is eligible or, in the absence of child care, would be potentially eligible for public assistance incl. TANF child-only payments
- Homeless
- Foster care
- Family's income is above the poverty line, can make up to 10% percent of enrollment

Definition of Homeless



July 27, 2016

Rights of Homeless Children and Youth

Who is considered homeless? Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the term “homeless children and youths” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youths:

- who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- who are migratory children who live in one of the above circumstances.^{ix}

Source: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160315ehcyfactsheet072716.pdf>

Definition of Homeless



National Center for Homeless Education
Supporting the Education of Children and
Youth Experiencing Homelessness
<http://nche.ed.gov>



Source: https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/det_elig.pdf

Other Resources:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2000-title24-vol1/xml/CFR-2000-title24-vol1-sec5-425.xml>

https://www.huduser.gov/publications/pdf/measuring_overcrowding_in_hsg.pdf

§ 1302.12(d) Serving 100-130% Over Income



(d)(2)(i)
How eligible participant needs are met



(d)(2)(ii)
How eligible participants are served before over-income



(d)(2)(iii)
Efforts for full enrollment with eligible participants



(d)(2)(iv)
Policies, procedures, and selection criteria to serve eligible children



(d)(2)(v)
Current & previous year enrollment



(d)(2)(vi)
of pregnant women and children served



(d)(2)(vii)
Eligibility criteria category of all on waiting list

Required Report to HS Regional Office

§ 1302.12(e) Tribal Only



(e)(1)(i)

Served eligible pregnant women/children who wish to be enrolled from Indian and non-Indian families living within service area



(e)(1)(ii)

Uses resources (not HHS) to expand EHS/HS to enroll ineligible pregnant women/children; and,



(e)(1)(iii)

At least 51% participants meet an eligibility criterion

Indian Tribe added allowance to serve 10%+ if

§ 1302.12(e) Tribal Only



(e)(2)

Another program not serving area, must serve all eligible Indian/ non-Indian pregnant women/children who wish to enroll before serving over-income



(e)(3)

Meet the conditions of (e) must annually set criteria (approved by PC & TC) for selecting over-income



(e)(4)

Operates both EHS & HS may at any time during grant, reallocate funds between EHS & HS to address fluctuations in client populations with no reduction of base grant in succeeding years

Indian Tribe added allowances

§ 1302.12(f) & (g) Migrant & Small Communities

Migrant/Seasonal

A child is eligible if the family meets the eligibility criteria and income comes primarily from agriculture work.



Communities w/1,000 ↓ people

May establish own criteria if:

- A. No other preschool
- B. Medically underserved area & health professional shortage
- C. Remoteness does not permit access to (A) or (B)
- D. Specific eligibility criteria

§ 1302.12(j) Eligibility Duration

HS

remain eligible through the end of the succeeding program year

EHS

for as long as they participate in the program

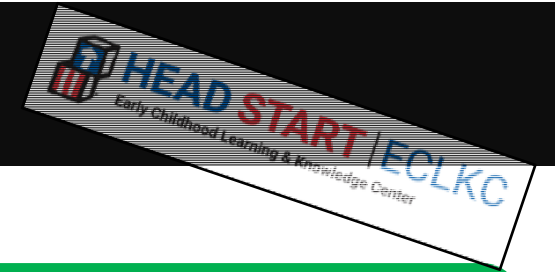
Moving from EHS to HS

re-verify eligibility

Operates both an EHS and HS

parents wish to enroll their child who has been enrolled in the program's EHS, the program must ensure, whenever possible, the child receives HS services until enrolled in school, provided the child is eligible.

Information Memorandum



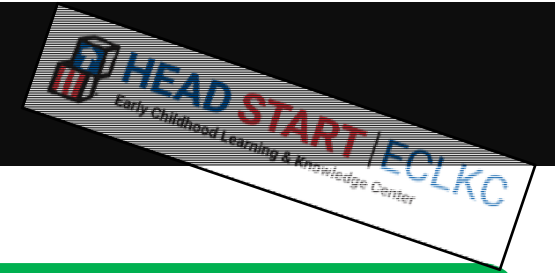
ACF-IM-HS-19-03

- Issued 09/30/2019
- Broadly refers to children who are living with relatives or caregivers other than their parents
- Grantees are encouraged to include children in kinship care in their enrollment and selection process



**Head Start and Early Head Start
Eligibility for Children in Kinship
Care** Log Number: ACF-IM-HS-19-03 |
Issuance Date: 09-30-2019

Information Memorandum



ACF-IM-HS-19-03

- **Public Assistance**
- If relative caregivers are eligible for public assistance, such as TANF or SSI a child in their care is eligible for Head Start
- If the child living with relatives receives a "child-only" TANF grant, then the child is eligible for Head Start

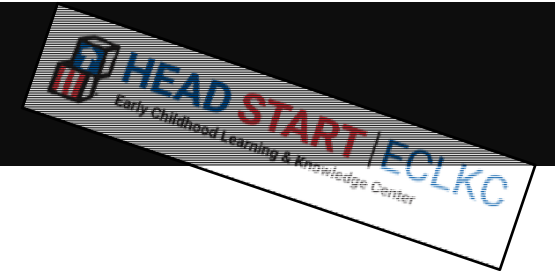
Information Memorandum



ACF-IM-HS-19-03

- **Foster Care**
- OHS considers a child in foster care if the child is placed in a setting away from parents or guardians by the child welfare system and the state agency has placement and care responsibility
- A child is in foster care regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed and payments are made

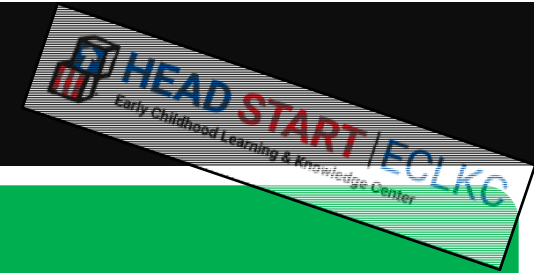
Information Memorandum



ACF-IM-HS-19-03

- If the child welfare agency has placed the child away from parents or guardians and in the care of relatives, the child is considered to be in foster care and is eligible for Head Start

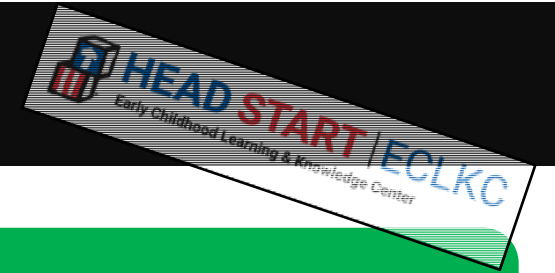
Information Memorandum



ACF-IM-HS-19-03

- **Homeless**
- Follow the definition of homeless child in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- If a child is living with non-parent relatives due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, the child may meet this definition of a homeless child and is eligible for Head Start

Information Memorandum



ACF-IM-HS-19-03

- Some examples of circumstances leading a child to kinship care include economic hardship, substance misuse, or incarceration. If the child is living with non-parent relatives for these or similar reasons, the child may be considered homeless and then would be eligible for Head Start



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Thank You!



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