

## Free Programs

Early Head Start and Head Start programs are high-quality and free for families who qualify. Your child is eligible\* for free services if any of the following are true

- Your household income is within qualifying limits
- Your child has an eligible disability
- The child is in foster care
- The child's family is experiencing homelessness

Your local Early/Head Start program will determine your eligibility when you contact them to enroll.

\*Space in the programs is limited. Eligibility does not guarantee placement in the program.

## How to Find Your Local Program

### Online

1. Visit the Early Head Start/Head Start page on the DHS website at [www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/headstart](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/headstart)
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "How to Find Your Local Program" bar
3. Click on the "Early Head Start/Head Start Program Locator" link
4. Type your ZIP code into the window above the map and select the type of classroom you are interested in
5. Click the marker of locations near you

### By phone

Call 412-350-6611 and ask for the Head Start desk.

## How to Enroll

1. Gather required documents
  - a. Tax documents, pay stubs or TANF receipts for all household members
  - b. Child's immunization records
  - c. Child's birth certificate
  - d. If applicable
    - i. Custody or court documents
    - ii. Disability documentation
    - iii. Health insurance card
2. Contact your local program by calling the phone number provided by your search.

## DHS IS

responsible for providing and administering publicly funded services to Allegheny County residents.

## DHS PRINCIPLES

All services will be

- high quality, comprehensive, and accessible.
- individualized and designed to be respectful of the unique cultural characteristics of each individual and/or community
- integrated and offered through a team approach that recognizes the capacity of individuals and families to identify their own strengths, needs, and goals; create relationships with natural supports; and take steps necessary to accomplish these goals.



## Office of Community Services

**Rich Fitzgerald**

ALLEGHENY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Erin Dalton**

DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES

Phone: 412-350-6611

Fax: 412-350-2785

[www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/ocs](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/ocs)

Human Services Building  
One Smithfield Street, Suite 200  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2221

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of a protected class including: race; color; religion; national origin; ancestry or place of birth; sex; gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; disability; marital status; familial status; age (40 and older); use of guide or support animal because of blindness, deafness, or physical disability.

*DHS funding information is available at [www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx)  
Produced by the DHS Office of Community Relations 7/2021*

Allegheny County  
City of Pittsburgh

# Early Childhood Education Programs



## Kindergarten Readiness Starts Before Birth

Early Head Start and Head Start provide **FREE, HIGH QUALITY, comprehensive and flexible programs designed to promote school readiness, increase academic awareness and enhance social interactions for pregnant women, infants, toddlers and preschool children who qualify.**

**Office of Community Services**

ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## Early Head Start and Head Start take place...

in the home setting  
in a classroom setting

## By participating in Early Head Start and Head Start...

... each child will prepare for kindergarten by learning

- to get along with their classmates and teachers
- what to expect during a school day
- to solve problems

... each child will learn and show

- they can follow instructions
- they can take turns and share
- they are ready to begin reading
- they can understand basic math

... each family will be invited to

- take part in family engagement activities such as play groups and parent-child activities
- be part of parenting workshops on topics such as developmental milestones, stress management and child discipline
- request information and referrals for basic needs such as housing, transportation, furnishings and food

## High Quality Programs

Early Head Start and Head Start partner with families to teach children the skills they need to be successful in kindergarten and in life.

High-quality features include

- Trained professional staff
- State-approved curricula and materials
- Developmental milestone assessments
- State-approved health and safety standards



**Early Head Start** is for pregnant moms, and infants and toddlers and their parent(s).

Through Early Head Start, every baby and toddler will be encouraged

- to communicate with language
- to crawl, walk, run and play-to-learn
- to explore and interact in their world

Through Early Head Start, families will be shown ways

- to keep their baby or toddler well and safe
- to encourage their baby's or toddler's healthy development
- to interact with their baby or toddler in nurturing way

## Organizations that oversee Early Head Start programs

**Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU)**

[www.aiu3.net](http://www.aiu3.net)  
412-394-5880

**Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (COTRAIC)**

[www.cotraic.org](http://www.cotraic.org)  
412-431-3339

**Family Foundations University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development (OCD)**

[www.o.cd.pitt.edu](http://www.o.cd.pitt.edu)  
412-383-3367 or 412-383-5011

**Pittsburgh Board of Education**

[www.pps.k12.pa.us/earlychildhood](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/earlychildhood)  
412-529-4291



**Head Start** is for children, three to five years of age, (before they are eligible for kindergarten) and their parent(s).

Through Head Start, each child will learn the basics of STEAM subjects

- science
- technology
- engineering
- art
- math

## Organizations that oversee Head Start programs

**Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) and Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU)**

[www.aiu3.net](http://www.aiu3.net)  
412-394-4594

**Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (COTRAIC)**

[www.cotraic.org](http://www.cotraic.org)  
412-531-3290

**Pittsburgh Board of Education**

[www.pps.k12.pa.us/earlychildhood](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/earlychildhood)  
412-529-3500

