

Program Name: Head Start

Also includes information on Early Head Start

Agency: Office of Head Start, Administration for Children & Families, US Dept. of Health & Human Services

Description: A federally funded and locally operated program which promotes school readiness by providing comprehensive education and child care for low-income children ages 5 and under, emphasizing family involvement and connection to appropriate services.

Website: [www.bostonheadstart.org](http://www.bostonheadstart.org)

Eligibility:

Open to families with incomes at or below 100% FPL (family of 2=\$16,240; family of 4=\$24,600), although individual sites can serve some higher income families if space is available. Children from families receiving TAFDC or SSI are automatically eligible, regardless of income.

Availability/Limitations:

To enroll, child must be at least three years old as of September 1st and no older than 5 years. Early Head Start provides services for pregnant women, babies and toddlers up to three years old. Even if it is late in the "school year," Head Start often has slots open, although Early Head Start is often full.

This is an excellent program because it works with the entire family in a positive, holistic way, and not just the individual child. Includes physical & mental health services (often dental checkups also) as well as nutrition education & meals support services for child.

Immigrants: Immigration status not a barrier.

Amount:

No direct cash equivalent.

How to Apply:

Call ABCD: 1-617-348-6272 to find out if eligible and apply.

Linked Services? Head Start will help families apply for other benefits for which they qualify.

Right to appeal? No formal process of appeal.

Retroactive? No, child starts as soon as "school year" begins or slot becomes open.

---

### **Housing and Homelessness:**

Emergency Assistance, HomeBASE, RAFT, MRVP

For homeless individuals in the Boston area:

Homeless men: contact Pine Street Inn: [www.pinestreetinn.org](http://www.pinestreetinn.org) and click on "Find help" or call 1-617-892-9100. It is located at 444 Harrison Avenue in Boston.

Homeless women: contact Rosie's Place: [www.RosiesPlace.org](http://www.RosiesPlace.org) and click on "Programs" or call 1-617-442-9322. It is located 889 Harrison Avenue in Boston.