

THE EARLY HEAD START/HEAD START APPLICATION PROCESS

Children's Friend provides both Early Head Start and Head Start services. These federally funded programs offer high-quality early education and family programming at no cost to eligible families. Your child may be eligible if your family resides in Providence, Pawtucket, or Central Falls and fits into one or more of the following eligibility categories:

1. Low income
2. Public assistance
3. Temporary or chronic homelessness
4. Foster or kinship care
5. DCYF involved

Head Start programs can enroll a limited number of children whose families are above the income guidelines. If you do not meet one of the above categories, you may still be eligible.

How to apply

Visit childrensfriendri.org to learn more about eligibility and complete the online inquiry form or contact one of our centers to speak with a staff member. Please note: You DO NOT need to apply more than once. Applications are reviewed in the order they are received. Whether you call one of our centers or filled out the online form, you are on the list.

Preparing for your enrollment appointment

Once your application has been received and reviewed, a member of our enrollment team will contact you and schedule an application appointment to review the necessary documentation. Please begin to prepare the following documents ahead of your enrollment appointment:

- Proof of income (ex. Last 4 paystubs, SSI Award letter, RI Works, SNAP)
- Proof of child's age (ex. Birth certificate, court documents, etc)
- Proof of address (ex. Utility bill, lease agreement)
- Child's most recent physical
- Child's immunization record, including lead screen/hemoglobin
- Child's dental record/most recent screening (if applicable)
- Child's social security card
- Most recent IEP/IFSP (if applicable for child)
- Medical insurance cards/information
- Parent/family member identification (ID)

Please reach out to us if you have any trouble gathering documents. All Children's Friend staff are trained to handle documents with confidentiality and care in mind.

Questions?

Email HeadStart@cfsri.org or call 401.276.4300