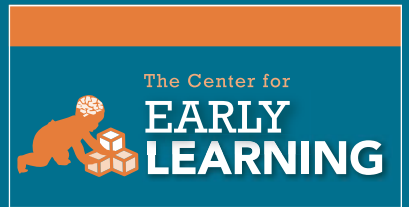


Early Head Start:

Investing in What Works for Families with Infants & Toddlers



Now, more than ever, Ohio's youngest children and their families need access to the programs and services that work.

Early Head Start is a federal program serving infants, toddlers, and pregnant women since 1995. In 2022, the federal government invested \$96 million in Ohio's Early Head Start services. This investment provides comprehensive services for child development and family support for families with incomes below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), as well as children experiencing homelessness, in foster care, or receiving public assistance (TANF, SSI, SNAP). Programs can also serve a small number of children and families with income between 100-130 percent of the FPL and other needs.*

Early Head Start Works



Children in Early Head Start perform better on a wide range of cognitive measures, have better social skills, and exhibit significantly fewer behavioral problems and aggression.



Families in Early Head Start have more positive parent-child relationships, more stable and healthy home environments, and less involvement with the child welfare system.



Mothers in Early Head Start have **lower rates of depression**^{viii}, and fathers are **less likely to use physical discipline**. Early Head Start fathers are also more involved in program-related child development activities.^{ix}



Early Head Start **reduces family conflict** by improving parents' emotional responsiveness.^x



Early Head Start families have significantly **lower rates of involvement with the child welfare system**, and Early Head Start children have significantly **fewer reports of physical and sexual abuse** than the general population.^{xi}



Children in Early Head Start are **less likely to be hospitalized** for accident or injury.ⁱⁱⁱ



Early Head Start children are **less aggressive** and display significantly **fewer behavioral problems**.^{iv}



Children in Early Head Start have **greater access to health care**ⁱ, are **more likely to receive timely immunization**.ⁱⁱ



Early Head Start children have **greater cognitive development** and receptive language skills on standardized assessments.^v



Early Head Start **parents are more emotionally supportive**, provide significantly **more support for language and learning**.^{vi}



Early Head Start children have **better-sustained attention** with objects and **more positive approaches to learning**.^{vii}

*NOTE: Up to 35 percent of children enrolled in an Early Head Start program may be from families with incomes between 100-130 percent of FPL and 10 percent of children may be served outside of all the other eligibility categories. Early Head Start encourages programs to identify and enroll children and families with the greatest need for Early Head Start Services.

Early Head Start Meets Families Where They Are

Options provided to meet the needs of families: ^{xii}

Center-based Programs serve children in classroom-based settings for at least six hours a day, including services through Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.

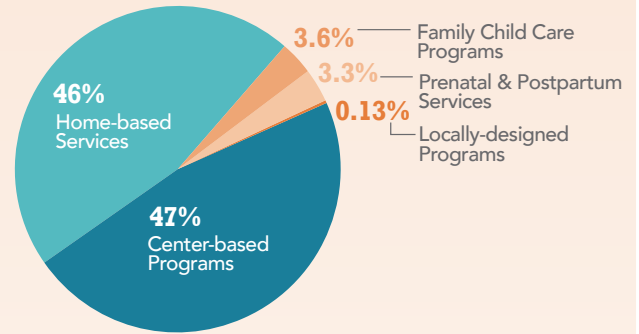
Home-based Services bring professionals to families through a 90-minute weekly home visit and bi-monthly group social events.

Prenatal & Postpartum Services provide support directly to women during and after pregnancy.

Family Child Care Programs provide the Early Head Start model in home-based child care through Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.

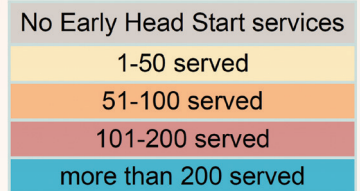
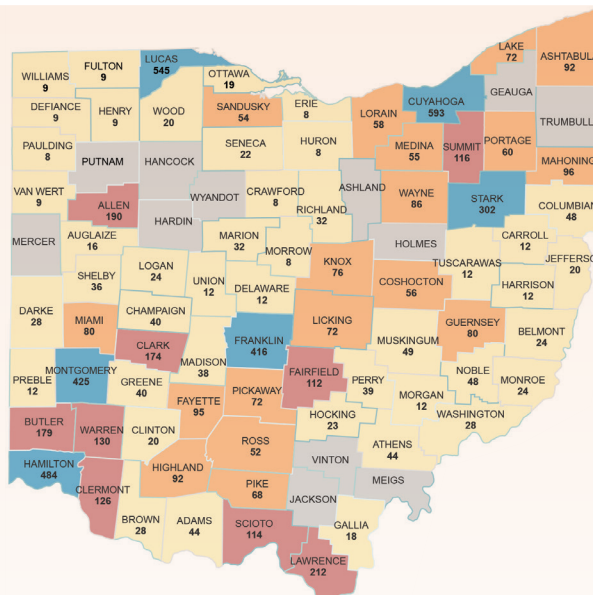
Locally-designed Programs tailor services to the local needs of the community and families.

Percentage of Funded Slots for Children & Families in Each Program Type (Ohio, 2022) ^{xiii}



Early Head Start is serving 76 of 88 Ohio counties.

Number of children and mothers served through Early Head Start in each of Ohio's counties (2022). ^{xiv}



Ohio Babies and Their Families Deserve More Access to What Works



Approximately **88 percent** of children enrolled in Early Head Start in Ohio are living at or below the federal poverty level. ^{xv}

➔ However, **ONLY 8 PERCENT** of children living at or below the federal poverty level are participating in Early Head Start. ^{xvi}

Early Head Start enrolled:

30 percent of Asian children in poverty, **11 percent** of White children in poverty, **6 percent** of Black children in poverty, and **8 percent** of children of other races in poverty. ^{xvii}

In 2022, more than **2,000 infants** and toddlers were placed in foster care. ^{xviii} However, it is estimated that less than **20 percent** of these eligible children participated in Early Head Start.

Ohio babies and their families need more quality options for the care and early education of our youngest citizens. Investing state funds to expand access to Early Head Start will set up more children and families for success.

Early Head Start: Investing in What Works for Families with Infants & Toddlers

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