



Head Start and Early Head Start



What is Head Start?

- Head Start is a federal program that promotes the school readiness of children ages birth to 5 from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development.
- Head Start is a child-centered, family focused, comprehensive and community-based program. Head Start provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, dental, mental health, social services and parent involvement opportunities to income eligible children and their families.



Head Start/Early Head Start Mission

Head Start (3yr -5yr)

- Promoting school readiness by enhancing the cognitive and social development of children through the provision of comprehensive educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.
- Supporting parents in their role as primary educators of their children and empowering families to meet their own educational and employment goals.
- Providing responsive services that are appropriate to the developmental, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage and experience of individual children and their families.

Early Head Start (Prenatal – 3)

- to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women,
- to enhance the development of very young children, and
- to promote healthy family functioning.

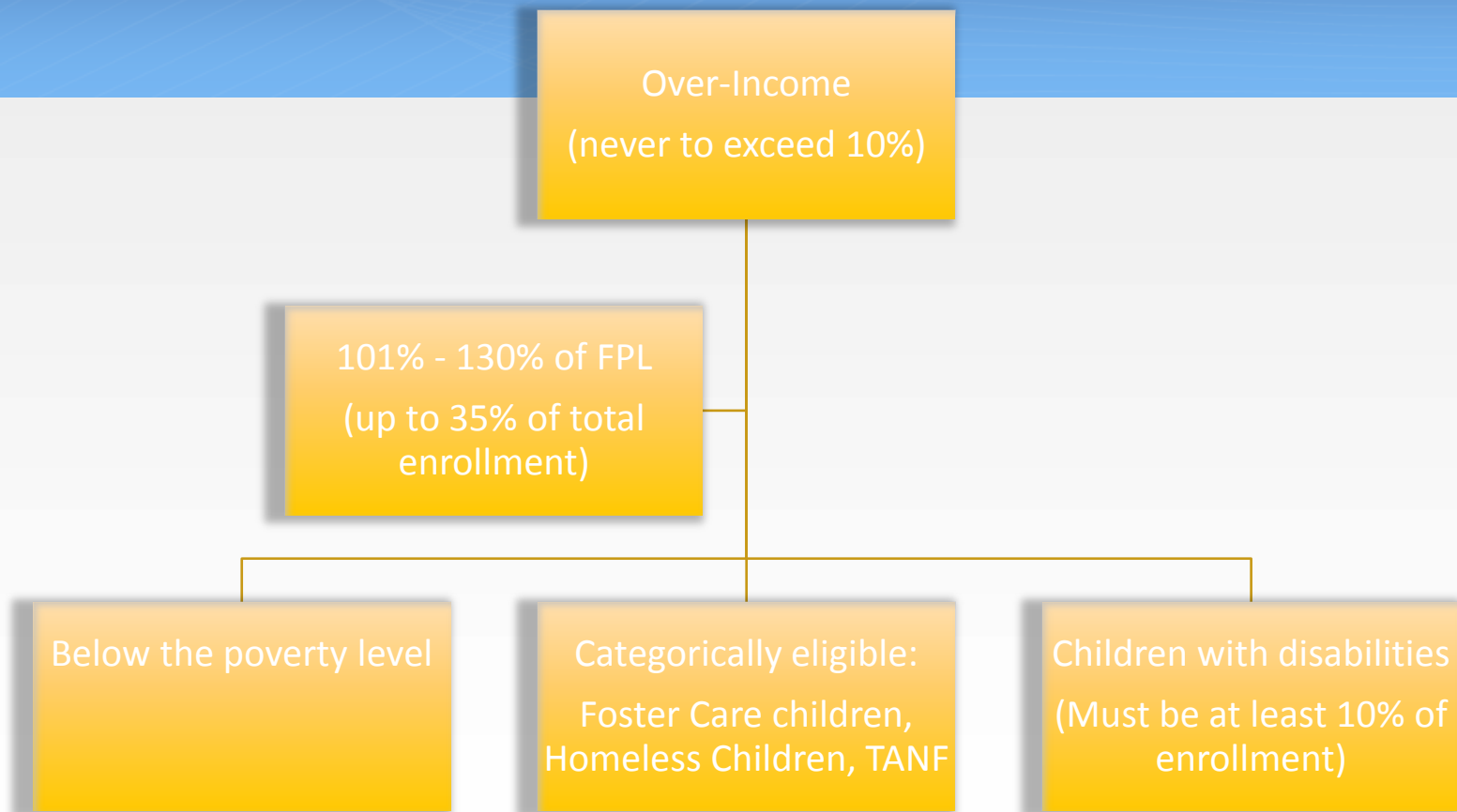


Service Models

- Head Start programs offer a variety of service models, depending on the needs of the local community. Programs may be based in:
- Child Care Centers or schools that children attend for part-day or full-day services. (In WV, 56% of UPK classrooms are collaborative with HS)
- Family child care homes
- Children's own homes, where a staff person visits once a week to provide services to the child and families
- Children and families who receive home-based services gather periodically with other enrolled families for a group learning experience facilitated by Head Start staff.



Who is Eligible?





WV Head Start Data (2011-2012 HS PIR)

- EHS served 1,252 infants, toddlers, and expectant mothers.
- Head Start served 7, 279 pre-school aged children.
- Sequestration has resulted in WV losing approximately 3 million dollars and 462 fewer families will receive Head Start/Early Head Start services.
- Of all the children served within that year...
- 285 were eligible as foster care children
- 317 were eligible as homeless children
- 446 fell into the 101-130% FPL category
- 500 were over-income

A Head Start Story....



"When Sarah first went to school, she hardly talked. Now she's talking, singing, and dancing." Maranda Shepherd, Head Start parent, Wheeling, WV I'd like to share how Early Head Start is helping me and my children, Sarah, age 2, and Nevaeh, 4 months. Sarah likes to play outside with the other children and gets along well with them. She learned "gentle hands" at Head Start and no longer hits. When she first went to school, she hardly talked. Now she's talking, singing, and dancing. Through the Early Head Start Program, Sarah is learning her ABC's, too. Nevaeh is learning to sit up. She is already trying to crawl and is holding her head up on her own! Early Head Start is amazing. They're teaching my children and helping them excel.

They're also giving me the opportunity to get things done for myself. I have signed up for my GED and am working on getting my own apartment. Our family has experienced some tough times, and I feel good knowing that my daughters are safe and secure at school. There are two great teachers in each room. I am confident that my children are getting the proper care and attention. Sarah can even see her little sister through her classroom window, which she loves! I'm also getting support from the YWCA Family Violence Prevention Program. Through the Y and Early Head Start, I have the chance to provide the kind of life my children and I deserve. I can never thank these programs enough for helping me through this time in my life.





10 yrs from now we dream..

- ◆ Early Head Start will be available statewide.
- ◆ That we capitalize on opportunities to ensure our most vulnerable children are served by high quality, appropriate services.
- ◆ That we have a data system that answers essential policy questions and is inclusive of HS/EHS.

