



Question and Answer

Updated August 27, 2020

The following questions were submitted to Home Grown. Responses come from Kathy Colfer and Carol Keintz of Early Education Achievement LLC.

1. **If you are a Head Start family child care program, do all of the families need to meet Head Start income eligibility or can you have mixed income?** No not all enrolled children need to meet Head Start eligibility criteria. Mixed income is preferred as research shows that children often benefit from learning in that type of setting. The standards require at least one Early Head Start: Child Care Partnership child be enrolled. However, it is best to always have two eligible children enrolled in case one leaves the program for an unexpected reason. This will ensure that the provider services continue without interruption.
2. **Is there a ratio of Head Start eligible and other income levels?** No, the standards require at least one Early Head Start: Child Care Partnership child be enrolled. However, it is best to always have two eligible children enrolled in case one leaves the program for an unexpected reason. This will ensure that the provider services continue without interruption.
3. **What are the ages of children that can be enrolled in the EHS:CCP Partnership?** In family child care, it is 6 weeks up to school age 4. In center based, it is 6 weeks up to age 3.
4. **Is 72 children the least amount or maximum amount to apply for in the grant?** if you want to set up a network of providers or if you would like your organization to apply for this grant, the minimum number of children you can apply for is 72. There is no maximum, only a maximum amount of funding per state.
5. **If I wanted to approach established family child care providers, what would be the advantages to them to join a Head Start network**

The main reasons are increased supports for:

- Professional Development and training
- Facility improvements -
- Equipment and Supplies for indoor and outdoor learning environments
- Coaching and mentoring supports
- Increased child care subsidy beyond CCDF
- Mental health consultation related to the social/emotional needs of EHS:CCP enrolled children

- Nutrition and health support for children, as well as supports for children with disabilities
- Social workers support families

6. **Please address the “e” in ERSEA.** “E” is the letter of the acronym the means Eligibility. Eligibility is addressed on the ECLKC website (<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/eligibility-ersea>).

The HHS Poverty Guidelines and Section 645 of the Head Start Act are used to determine income eligibility for participation in Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Program staff may refer to these resources when working with families. Children from birth to age five who are from families with incomes below the poverty guidelines are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services. Children from homeless families, and families receiving public assistance such as TANF or SSI are also eligible. Foster children are eligible regardless of their foster family's income. Program staff members may refer to this section of the Head Start Act to further understand eligibility for Head Start and Early Head Start: [Sec. 645 of the Head Start Act](#).

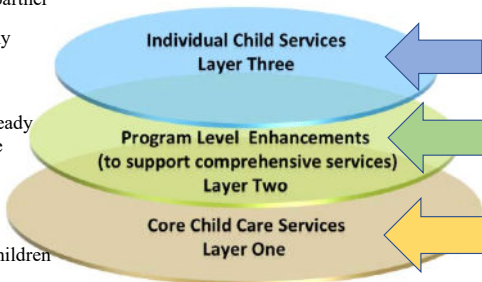
7. **How frequently are these funding applications offered? If your organization is not ready for this funding cycle, how frequently does this occur?** This is not easily predicted. The first opportunity was launched in 2014. The grant that is due in September of 2020 is the 4th round of grants - or a new funding opportunity launching every 1.5 - 2 years. It is impossible to predict if and when a 5th round will be announced.
8. **Will there be someone to help us fill out the application?** This is not really an application - it is a grant proposal with open ended questions. It is 150 pages including an appendix and other required documentation such as your non- or for profit status. I am referring you to HomeGrown's website to look for a list of grant writers you can access.
9. **What are the minimum Early Head start Credential requirements?** For family child care it is a Family Child Care CDA - if you don't have the FCC CDA -and just the CDA - you will need to take some infant/toddler or early education courses to meet the requirements. If you already have a degree - you need to look at your credits to determine if you meet the requirements. You could send you transcripts to your local Head Start Association and ask them for help in evaluating your credentials..
10. **How much should I ask for in regards to tuition?** This is a negotiated with the organization writing the grant and what costs they include in the budget for child care reimbursements. Unfortunately, there is no specific answer as that is determined by whoever is writing the grant and is based on their budget, However, if you are a FCC provider, you should look at what it would cost you to enroll a child with subsidy. First, determine how much funding you would anticipate receiving from the family's subsidy allowance. Then calculate your full cost for having that child in your program for a full day, full year program running for 48 weeks annually – offering the family no less than 1,380 hours.
11. **Would participating in Early Head Start prevent family child care providers from receiving any other grant opportunities?**

No, it would not prevent the providers from receiving other grants. The exception would be if the new grant required the applicant not to be a Head Start grantee.

- 12. We are a regional organization that supports childcare homes, would you advise running a single county or multi-county EHS - CC Partnership Family Home Program Option?** In general, focusing on one county is best, as there may be different rules for licensing and subsidy distribution between counties. But, consider the following in your decision: (1) What does your community needs assessment data tell you about the counties you are considering? You will want to target areas with the highest poverty and areas with indicators of vulnerable populations- ie: teen parents, high unemployment, low high school graduation rates, high rates of violence, etc. (2) Although there are no extra points given for this in the FOA- Look for Opportunity Zones to target (3) Then take a look at the geographic distances - Your staff will need to monitor the child care homes - so if they are too spread out geographically that could be a systems and management problem. However, if there are a couple of outliers grouped together - you could hire someone who lives in that location who could provide services to the small group of providers.
- 13. What guidance do you have for the 14 states that are included in the other expansion RFP, in terms of competitiveness, if we want to apply for EHS?** I am not clear as to what you are asking, but if you are asking about the DRS grants, you are able to apply for both EHS:CCP and a DRS grant from a grantee being re-competed in your community. For clarification, this EHS:CCP FOA allows for you to expand EHS in your program as well as seek partnerships. Write back to us, if we did not understand your question.
- 14. How do you layer your EHS with childcare subsidy?** Based on your budget, EHS funds only cover a portion of the full day, full year comprehensive services. Comprehensive means the family engagement, health, nutrition and disabilities, family services and other Early Head Start supports. It is reasonable to assume that childcare subsidy only pays for basic child care costs and EHS pays for all the comprehensive services relating to the child being socially, emotionally, cognitively and physically ready for school. We have attached the layered funding slide for you to review as well. (See below.)

Grantee / Delegate Readiness – Layering Funding Process

- Step 1: Determine the services provided by the child care partner
- Step 2: Layer One – Estimate potential subsidy loss and any other reduction of Subsidy that needs to be covered with Partnership funds
- Step 3: Layer Two – Reflect on the services the partner already provides & add costs for additional services that need to be covered by Partnership funds
- Step 4: Layer Three – Estimate costs for delivering individualized services to EHS/HS children. Identify other funding sources to cover costs for non-EHS/HS enrolled children who may receive the same service
- Step 5: Identify the methods of payment to the partner for these costs, considering provider-friendly payment practices and fiscal accountability requirements



<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/search/eclkc?q=EHS%3ACCP+layering+funding>



15. Are FCC providers required to keep at least some children on child care subsidies or can they serve all EHS? Yes. This FOA provides for seeking to increase the number of EHS children served.

16. What is the incentive for the family child care provider to participate?

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/benefits-early-head-start-child-care-partnerships-quality-early-learning-infants-toddlers>

The link above provides a helpful summary of both the benefits and the process of engaging in an EHS:CCP program. The benefits will vary with the grant proposal – but in general listed below are some of the benefits:

- Reimbursements for enrolling EHS eligible children with subsidy.
- Training and technical assistance to become qualified or to support skills such as working with special needs children, nutrition, SIDS and other trainings.
- Equipment and materials to ensure a quality learning environment.
- Coaching support, to partner to set goals to improve teaching practices and develop professional development plans.
- During the start-up phase of the grant, major changes in the outdoor and indoor environments may be paid for out of funds. These might include playground improvements, ensuring there are sinks for food preparation, diapering, and handwashing, painting, improving security and other conditions to ensure the highest quality .
- During the grant period, materials and equipment will be updated as well as providing for consumables.

- 17. If a provider currently serves multi age children, will they be able to continue to do that with the partnership if they meet the ratio for EHS and state regulations?** Yes
- 18. What is the cost per child for FCC?** This will vary depending on the state's cost of living index, what services the EHS:CCP Grantee will be providing, and what state subsidy rate is used for families enrolled in FCC.
- 19. How do we avoid creating inequities with the EHS-CCP model? I know there is a tiered system that allows some benefits to spill over to child care funded only children but I am concerned about parity. For example, if we are providing things like diapers and formulas for free to the EHS family, are the other families required to provide their own or pay the provider?** Good question. It is a tricky situation to navigate. But in general, most benefits can be shared across all children in your program or with all children sharing the classroom with the EHS eligible child. When purchasing diapers and formula for EHS children, they are often stored together with other children's, to allow for purchasing to be done without drawing attention to the discrepancy. However, consider that the non-EHS children will receive benefits from teacher training, additional equipment and materials that is used by all children, improvements in both outdoor and indoor play spaces. It does seem to balance out.
- 20. What curriculum do others use? Is the dual language learner support home grown or is there a reference to DLL curriculum?** You can search online, but remember the curriculum needs to be research based. Creative Curriculum is available in Spanish for infants and toddlers. You will also need to consider an assessment tool as there are several questions in FOA relating to how you measure child outcomes. Thinking about a curriculum that has an assessment component may be easier to implement in FCC homes. High Scope and Frog Street are also available in Spanish and are research based.
- 21. Our state currently funds our EHS program; however, they ONLY reimburse expenses. (This was not the case when we first entered into the contract.) This a GREAT burden on our agency to carry our actual expenditures from month to month. (At times this is over \$200,000!) We have appealed to the state to no avail and our board and PC is urging us to drop the state contract. How can we make a smooth transition of services for the 140 children and families we serve without "dropping" all of them to end one contract and not seem to be "supplanting funds" as we apply for the expansion grant? (We have federal funding for 25 EHS children currently. You are allowed to be reimbursed based on the number of children you are expecting to serve each month. For example, in Oct you would ask for reimbursement for 140 children. During Oct your enrollment was 135. Then in November you would ask for reimbursement for 135 – that is an acceptable practice. If you are wanting to apply for the expansion grant, you can do that by explaining that you are no longer able to support the enrollment of 140 children under the State's reimbursement system, and are asking to expand your EHS enrollment by 140 to ensure all of your families receive the high quality, comprehensive services they deserve (or something similar). Be sure to discuss how the transition will happen so that there is no loss of services to families or children.**
- 22. How do I get started becoming an early head start child care provider?** You will want to be inquisitive. Talk with everyone you know, including Head Start programs, CCR&Rs, and FCC support groups in your areas to discover if there are local EHS:CCP grants. Your state Dept. of

Children and Families (each state has a unique name for the departments) and your state's Head Start Association will know who has received EHS grants. You are also able to become an EHS provider as part of a Head Start program that is not an EHS:CCP grantee. Here is an information link that may be helpful. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/local-early-childhood-partnerships/article/early-head-start-family-child-care-demonstration-project> Click on the link then go to "provider tip sheet."