

ACS Subsidized Care: Primer for Workgroup on Students in Temporary Housing (STH)

The ACS Division of Early Care and Education (ECE) has the capacity to provide subsidized and/or free child care to approximately **110,000 children** through its contracted care and voucher system. The capacity is as follows:

- **70,000 children** from ages 6 weeks to 13 years of age may receive subsidized care via the **voucher system** – this system is funded by the Child Care Block Grant
- **38,000 children** from ages 6 weeks to 5 years old may receive subsidized care via the **contracted system**. ECE's contracted system is named **EarlyLearn NYC**.

EarlyLearn NYC and STH – Program Models & Eligibility

There are 378 EarlyLearn NYC programs across the 5 boroughs.

- Child Care (CC) model: 188 programs
- Head Start (HS) and Dual Eligible (DE - accepts both HS and CC) models: 190 programs

Child Care: In order to be eligible for EarlyLearn NYC Child Care services, a child must be between the ages of 6 weeks and 5 years of age. The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) has an income limit of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). A family on cash assistance (CA) and engaged in a work activity (i.e. a family that is not sanctioned) is categorically eligible for child care services.

There are several reasons for care, which a family must meet, in addition to falling within the income requirement. *Please note: income requirements are not applicable only if on cash assistance.* The reasons for care **include:**

- Currently homeless; or,
- Recipient of domestic violence services

Head Start: In order to be eligible for EarlyLearn NYC Head Start services, a child must be 3 to 5 years of age. For Fall 2017, children in Head Start will be born between 2013 and 2014.

Early Head Start: As of July 1, 2017, a limited number of Early Head Start seats are available in EarlyLearn. Children may be up to 36 months of age and must meet all other Head Start eligibility criteria to enroll.

One eligibility category for Head Start services, among others, is that a child is homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Children who are homeless are categorically eligible for Head Start services without regard to income or work status.

A **homeless child**, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, is one who lacks a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” Examples are children who:

- Share housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons; are living in motels, hotels due to lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.

Each Head Start program is to follow the Head Start performance standards in determining eligibility of children wishing to attend their center. If the child meets one of the criteria in the definition of a homeless child, information may be elicited through conversation during the intake process or collected subsequently from a third party with firsthand knowledge of the applicant's eligibility, with the explicit written consent of the applicant.