

ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Office of Head Start

Dear Head Start recipients,

The Office of Head Start will not approve the use of federal funding for any training and technical assistance (TTA) or other program expenditures that promote or take part in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. This includes expenditures for services provided by contractors or vendors. This guidance is consistent with the nondiscrimination provisions in Sec. 654 of the Head Start Act:

(a) The Secretary shall not provide financial assistance for any program, project, or activity under this subchapter unless the grant or contract with respect thereto specifically provides that no person with responsibilities in the operation thereof will discriminate with respect to any such program, project, or activity because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation, or beliefs.

With your next application submission, Head Start grant recipients should carefully review their annual funding application, including the budget and budget justification narrative, TTA plans, program goals, and any other supplemental materials to ensure they are in accordance with this guidance.

Please direct any questions regarding this guidance to your regional office.

/ Andrew Gradison /

Andrew Gradison
Acting Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families

Suggested Replacement Language for Eligibility Criteria Ranking Form

"Families with Limited Access to Community Resources due to Residency or Documentation Barriers" (Verified through a partnering agency or disclosed during the intake process)

- This phrasing highlights a family's access to resources, which is a key element in the community needs assessment, without labeling based on immigration status.
- Residency or documentation barriers" is broad enough to include undocumented immigrants, refugees, and recent arrivals without using specific terms like "immigrant" or "refugee."

"Families Experiencing Barriers to Enrollment or Public Services Due to Residency Status or Recent Arrival" (Verified through a community partner or reported during intake)

- This highlights the challenge (barriers to services) rather than the group, and "recent arrival" is a neutral term that includes refugees, immigrants, and others.

"Households with Limited Civic Integration or Unverified Housing or Employment History" (Supported by documentation from community-based organizations or through intake screening)

- Focuses on systemic challenges (lack of integration, documentation gaps) rather than immigration status, and it covers both formal and informal living/work situations, often common among unauthorized immigrants.

Orange County Head Start
Eligibility Priority Selection Criteria for 2025-2026

Eligibility Priority Selection Criteria Requirements	Current Points 2024-2025	Approved Points 2025-2026	Proposed Points and criteria Update 2025-2026	Source
Age Criteria				
4 years	95	95	95	HSPPS
3 years	55	55	55	HSPPS
Eligibility Criteria				
Homeless McKinney Vento Act	500	500	500	HSPPS/CA 2022 Page 51-53
Homeless with limited English proficiency/unsheltered McKinney	510	510	510	HSPPS/CA 2022 Page 53
Foster Child	400	400	400	HSPPS
Public Assistance: Currently on TANF/SSI/SNAP	100	100	100	HSPPS/CA 2022 Page 42 & 96 - 100
Income eligible: 0%-25% Poverty Level	125	125	125	HSPPS
Income Eligible: 26%-50% Poverty Level	100	100	100	HSPPS
Income eligible: 51%-75% Poverty Level	75	75	75	HSPPS
Income eligible: 76%-100% Poverty Level	50	50	50	HSPPS
Over Income: Over 100% Poverty Level	0	0	0	HSPPS
Disability Criteria				
Diagnosed (Public School IEP)	300	300	300	CA2022 Page 58-60
Diagnosed (documented by professional)	100	100	100	CA2022 Page 58-60
Suspected (documented by professional)	25	25	25	CA2022 Page 58-60
Parent concerns (with no documentation)	10	10	10	CA2022 Page 58-60; Program Data Report 3501
Family Risk Factors (choose all that apply)				
Child Abuse/Neglected (documented by an agency)	10	10	10	CA2022 Page 75
Family without Access to Medical Care	10	10	10	CA2022 Page 62
Currently, one or both parents/legal guardians are unemployed and looking for employment	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 38

Currently, income earned is not enough to cover rent and basic needs	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 37 & 108
Foster, Kinship, legal guardian, relative caregivers (documented by an agency) or due to incarcerations of parents, substance abuse by parents, illness, disability, death, etc.	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 75
Grandparents Caregivers or guardian	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 75
Immigrants/Refugees (documented by an agency)	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 26
Unauthorized immigrants unaffiliated with any agency	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 26
Barriers to Services "Documented with or without an agency recommendation"	0	0	10	CA 2022 Page 26 Recommendation regarding changing "Barriers to Services"
Single Parent	10	10	10	CA2022 Page 29
Limited access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation	10	10	10	CA2022 Page 36
Food insecurity (lack of food during the month/without food stamps)	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 70 & 108
Child without access to medical care	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 62
Child/family lack of English proficiency (recommended for no change)	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 26-31
A sibling currently enrolled in Early Head Start or Head Start	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 28, 40, 79, 96, 97, 108
Child risk factors				
Health chronic illness (documented by an agency)	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 65
Child nutritional needs (special diet/WIC- Documented by a professional)	10	10	10	CA 2022 Page 69
Transition and Continuation of Services				
Transitioning from Early Head Start/Head Start Program	200	200	200	HSPPS
2024-2025 Eligible Waitlisted Child	10	10	10	N/A