

Comparison of Eligibility Requirements for Early Childhood Programs

	Head Start (federal)	Public Preschool (ODE)	ELI (ODJFS)	Subsidized Child Care (ODJFS)	Help Me Grow (ODH) (Ages Birth to 3)
Income guidelines	100% of fed. Poverty Level – 10% served can be over income Children remain eligible for participation through the enrollment year of their eligibility determination, and for the immediately succeeding enrollment year.	Families must earn no more than 200% of the federal poverty level.	At or under 185% FPL.	At or under 185% FPL.	None. One risk factor for at-risk eligibility may be up to 185% of federal poverty level (TANF), but does not have to be.
Sources of countable income	Individual Income Tax Forms 1040, W-2 forms, pay stubs, pay envelopes, written statements from employers, or documentation showing current status as recipients of public assistance.	Verification must include examination of any of the following: Individual Income Tax Form 1040, W-2 forms, pay stubs, pay envelopes, written statements from employers, or documentation showing current status as recipients of public assistance. Child care vouchers alone are not appropriate documentation.	All earnings and most unearned income; use of pay receipts, tax returns, letter from employer. Child in receipt of OWF cash assistance has no income counted.	All earnings and most unearned income; use of pay receipts, tax returns, letter from employer.	Determined locally for at-risk category above by CDJFS.
Child eligibility criteria	Age 3 by district's cutoff for school enrollment to compulsory school age Priority to 4 year olds, 10% must include children with special needs.	Age 3 until eligible for kindergarten, proof of birth required.	Age 3 until compulsory school age.	Birth to age 13.	Birth through age three, (newborn home-visit or ongoing Help Me Grow (at-risk or Part C).
Co-payment requirement	None	Sliding fee scales/prorated tuition fees are set locally. No co-payment for families at or below the 100% poverty level.	None if income less than 165% FPL; assessed every six months; no greater than 10% of monthly income; waived for child who receives OWF cash assistance.	Assessed every six months; no greater than 10% of monthly income.	None
Other			For low-income families; early education program.	For low-income parents who are employed, in training or attending school.	TANF eligibility is determined annually.