

## Early Childhood Services Eligibility Self-Assessment – Frequently Asked Questions

This tool can help you identify early childhood services that may be available to you and your family. After answering the questions, you will receive a list of services that you and your family may be eligible for. Then you can refer to this [checklist](#) to select the services that might be best for your family.

If you need help completing this assessment, refer to this [user guide](#).

### Frequently Asked Questions About Using The Early Childhood Services Eligibility Self-Assessment Tool

#### 1 General Questions

**Q.** What services does this tool screen for?

**A.** The Early Childhood Services Eligibility Self-Assessment will let you know if your family may be eligible for any of the following services:

- The Early Childhood Education Grant
- Early Head Start
- Head Start
- Help Me Grow Early Intervention
- Help Me Grow Home Visiting
- Preschool Special Education
- Publicly Funded Child Care

To read a brief description of each service, click on the program name on the **Welcome** page.

**Q.** Who can see the information I enter?

**A.** Only you will be able to see what you enter, and your information will not be saved. The assessment is for your use only, to help you make informed decisions.

**Q.** Can I use my cell phone to access the website?

**A.** Yes. You can use a cell phone, tablet or computer to access the website.

#### 2 Household Questions

**Q.** I am under age 18, I have a child, and I am living with a parent(s). How many parents/guardians should I list for my home?

**A.** If you are participating in the Learning, Earning and Parenting Program (LEAP) count only yourself. If you are not in LEAP, include you and your parent(s).

**Q.** My child is 3 now, but I don't need preschool until the fall when he/she is 4. Should I enter age 3 or age 4?

**A.** Enter the age the child will be at the time of service — in this case, age 4.

- Q.** Why do you need to know if anyone in my home is pregnant?  
**A.** Some services, such as home visiting, are for expectant parents.
- Q.** A family member and his/her child is living with me in my home. Should I count them as household members?  
**A.** No. If they need their own services, they can complete the tool for their family.
- Q.** Why do you want to know if I have concerns about my child?  
**A.** Some services offer free developmental screenings and other resources for children who qualify. Your family may be eligible if you have concerns about your child's growth and/or development – for example, if you are concerned about your child's walking, talking, learning and/or behaving like other children your child's age.

### **3 Family Questions**

- Q.** What if I don't know what county I live in?  
**A.** Click [here](#) to look up your county. This link is also in the assessment tool.
- Q.** I am staying with my mom right now but don't plan to stay forever. Does that mean I am homeless?  
**A.** It depends. How long do you plan to stay there? Are the sleeping arrangements satisfactory? Did an emergency cause you to live there? If your home was damaged by fire, then yes, you would be considered homeless because you were forced from your home.
- Q.** Why do you need to know my income?  
**A.** Some services have income limits. Entering your income will allow the system to check your eligibility for those services.
- Q.** Whose income should I include?  
**A.** You should include the income for all adults and minor parents who live in the home and are responsible for the children needing services.
- Q.** I get paid once a month. Some months I make more than other months. Should I report my monthly or annual income?  
**A.** Report your annual income (for example, \$20,000 a year). This will provide a more accurate amount.
- Q.** Can I qualify if I am self-employed?  
**A.** Yes. Self-employment income is considered the same as any other income.

## 4 Eligibility Questions

- Q.** What should I do with the results?
- A.** This assessment is a screening tool, not an application, so you should contact all the services you're interested in applying for. Apply even if the results say you may not be eligible. The instructions for applying are on the eligibility screen and in the printed results.
- Q.** I think I should have qualified for more services. Can I change my answers?
- A.** Yes, you can use the **Back** button to change your answers. When you return to the **Eligibility** page, your results will update based on the changes. You also can create a new entry by clicking **Home** and entering all new answers.
- Q.** It looks like I am not eligible for any services. Where can I go for more information?
- A.** You should contact any services you are interested in. Some of them – such as Publicly Funded Child Care and local public preschools – have private pay options if you exceed the income limits for financial assistance.
- A.** Contact your local [Child Care Resource and Referral Agency](#) for other services that may be available in your area.
- Q.** Do I need to print or save my results?
- A.** No, but it may be helpful for you to keep a copy of your results for the program information provided. To print or save your results to your computer or phone, select the “Print/Save Results” button on the eligibility screen, under the opening paragraph. If you do not print your results, you must re-enter all your information to view your eligibility.

## Appendix A: Version History

Version	Details	Date
V1	Original	08/26/2019