Catholic Charities has been providing New Orleans area children and families with a “Head Start” in life for more than 40 years. Our Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide FREE education, health services and meals for qualifying children from birth to 5 years of age.

What is Head Start?
To enroll in our Head Start programs, you must be a resident of Orleans Parish. Families with children ages birth to 5 years old (including children with disabilities) that fall within 0 – 100% of the Poverty Guidelines published by the Federal government are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services. In order to qualify, you must have an annual household income (before taxes) that is below the following amounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$11,770</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$15,930</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$20,090</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$24,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$28,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$32,570</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$36,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$40,890</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Families with children that have disabilities who fall within 101 – 130% of the Poverty Guidelines may also be considered for the program. Children in foster care, homeless children, and children from families receiving public assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income) are also eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services, regardless of income.

What Services Are Included in Head Start?
Children enrolled in Head Start get free access to preschool, where they are taught language, math and science concepts, and social and emotional development. Children also receive health and developmental screenings, nutritious meals, oral health and mental health support.

Parents and families also receive support in achieving their own goals. Our programs connect families with medical, dental, and mental health services. Parents get access to continued education and family well-being programs that help families achieve housing stability and financial security.

How Can I Enroll My Child?
Enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year will begin in December 2016. Our enrollment process is now done entirely online through the OneApp Enrollment Process. If you know a parent who qualifies but does not have access to the internet, you may refer them to any of our Head Start sites in New Orleans to get assistance from our Family Resource Workers. Additionally, EnrollNOLA provides assistance with the OneApp process.
Experts tell us that 90% of all brain development occurs by the age of five. If we don’t begin thinking about education in the early years, our children are at risk of falling behind by the time they start Kindergarten. – Robert. L. Ehrlich

The Benefits of Head Start

- ENHANCE children’s growth and development
- STRENGTHEN families as the primary nurturers of their children
- PROVIDE children with educational, health and nutritional services
- LINK children and families to needed community services
- ENSURE well-managed programs that involve parents in decision making
Head Start Creates Homeowners
Shnika Raymond, mom of Brooklynn, received information and guidance in managing her finances. From the assistance and help she received at Head Start, she was able to purchase her first home in December 2013.

Head Start Offers a Path to Citizenship
While her son Melvin received care, nutrition and education at Head Start, mom Donnalee Clarence was assisted with obtaining housing and employment after living in a homeless shelter for several months. Ms. Clarence is working on getting her citizenship in the United States and learning English as a second language.

Head Start Helps Children with Learning Disabilities
Ms. Lakeisha Brown’s goal was to transition her daughters G’La and Gia from Head Start to Kindergarten. G’La has Autism and Gia was diagnosed with educational delay. Head Start staff helped guide Ms. Brown through the process of finding the right place for her children while also preparing her daughters with the knowledge and skills they would need for kindergarten. The girls are now registered and accepted at a school close to their home.

Head Start Helps Parents Achieve Educational Goals
Paulette Vallery’s goal was to get back on track with earning her degree while also providing quality care for her child while she worked toward this goal. St. Mary of the Angels Head Start social workers first assisted Ms. Vallery in career guidance and applications for technical school. She is currently enrolled in the program and is still managing to be a great support system for her child and St. Mary of the Angels Head Start.

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Create Hope, Donate Today.
www.ccano.org

43.8% of children under 18 in New Orleans are living in poverty

Tanique Boatman, mom of Anthony, is able to focus on furthering her education too. Thanks to the help of Head Start, she has been able to attend classes to get her GED. Soon she will start taking college courses through an online program.