



[2017 Application Information for the Children First Early Head Start Program](#)

Dear Community Parent:

The Venice Family Clinic Children First Early Head Start Program is a comprehensive child and family development program designed to optimize the parenting ability of families who are expecting a child or have a child between 0 – 3 years of age. The program is federally funded and serves 120 low-income children and their families living on the Westside of Los Angeles and parts of Inglewood. As part of the program, Home Visitors go to families' homes once a week for an hour and a half. During the visit, parents learn about their child's development through observation, developmental assessments and fun activities. Families are also invited to participate in special playgroups twice a month. These groups help parents meet other families in their community and offer a chance to see their child in a group setting. All services are of no cost to eligible families.

The Children First Program believes:

- Parents are their child's first and most important teacher.
- Positive parent involvement in the development of young children is the most crucial factor in their growth, learning and development.
- All families have strengths and desire the best for their children.
- With support and knowledge, families can realize solutions to their unique challenges.

Program Services:

- » Early Childhood Education
- » Parent Education and Advocacy
- » Child Health, Safety and Wellness
- » Children's Dental Services
- » Mental Health Services for children and families
- » Nutrition Services
- » Referrals to Community Resources (housing assistance, food banks, child care, adult education and employment services)
- » Adaptive Services for Children with Special Needs
- » Limited transportation to most program activities

Program Options:

Home-Based Option

The home-based option includes weekly visits from one of our Home Visitors. The visit will focus on child development and parent-child interactions. Play groups are offered twice per month at our center. Play groups offer a time for parents and their children to come together, discuss child development issues and share a family style snack or meal together.

Family Child Care Option

The family child care option provides full-day childcare services for families in which the adults are working or going to school. Home visits are scheduled twice during the year and information meetings are held once every three months. In addition, our Child Care Education Manager conducts regular observations of Children First children at the provider's home and provides technical assistance as needed to assure quality care.

Pre-natal Option

The Pre-natal option provides as-needed weekly home visits and monthly group sessions at our center. Families may transition into one of the above options as vacancies occur.

Who's Eligible?

- » Families with children from birth to 3 years old and/or pregnant women
- » Families with incomes at or below the 2017 U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines as follows:

• 1 person	\$12,060
• 2 people	\$16,240
• 3 people	\$20,420
• 4 people	\$24,600
• 5 people	\$28,780
• 6 people	\$32,960
• 7 people	\$37,140
• 8 people	\$41,320

*** For families with more than 8 people, add \$4,180 for each additional person.**

- » 10% of enrolled children can come from families that are over-income if there are demonstrated needs.
- » 10% of enrolled children must have a diagnosed disability or developmental delay.
- » **Applications are scored on an established point system. Those with the highest points reflect the most need for service and will be enrolled in the program first when a vacancy occurs.**

Parent/Family Involvement:

In order to maximize the benefits of program services, Children First encourages families to:

- » Participate regularly in program activities (Parent Training, Annual Picnic/Resource Fair, Play Group, Men's Group for fathers or father-figures).
- » Gain advocacy skills and help make important program decisions by participating on the Program's Policy Council and Parent Committees, including the Health Services Advisory Council.
- » Be available for your scheduled weekly home visit or assure regular attendance for your child in the Family Child Care Option.

Application Process

Applications are continually accepted. If you are interested in the Children First Early Head Start program, please complete the attached application. You may mail the application or bring it to our office at 2509 Pico Blvd. in Santa Monica. You must include copies of the required documents (listed below) with your completed application. ***If you would like assistance to fill out the application, feel free to call our office at (310) 664-7536. A staff member will be able to guide you through the application process and make copies of your original documents.***

Required Documents:

- Your child's proof of birth: birth certificate, visa, immunization card
- Proof of family's annual income for the past 12 months:
 - ~Previous year's Income Tax Return
 - ~W-2 Forms from the previous year
 - ~Current paycheck stubs (12 months of documentation)
 - ~A letter from your employer
 - ~Social Security stub/check
 - ~Unemployment or Disability compensation
 - ~TANF
 - ~SSI records
 - ~Child Support records
 - ~Student Financial Aid records

Feel free to call us with any questions about the program or if you would like help with the application.

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Venice Family Clinic – Children First Early Head Start Program
2509 Pico Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90405 (310) 664-7536**