

Kentucky's Early Childhood Service Array

This service array is intended to assist caregivers and service providers to identify and obtain the best early childhood services for children and their families from the prenatal stage to entry into kindergarten. This array of services is available in most communities across the state. However, this list is not exhaustive and many communities have additional unique services which are locally led.



	Child Care		Early Preschool		Preschool	Home Visiting	Early Intervention	Developmental Services		Physical Health/Nutrition		Behavioral Health	
	Child Care Aware	Child Care Assistance Program	Early Head Start	Head Start	Public Preschool	HANDS	Help Me Grow	Kentucky Early Intervention System	Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs	WIC	KY Moms - Maternal Assistance Towards Recovery	Early Childhood Mental Health Program	
Ages served	Birth to 12 years	Birth to 12 years (or 13 to 18 in limited circumstances)	Prenatal to 3 years	3 to 5 years	3 to 4 years	Prenatal to 2 years (or 3 in pilot counties)	Birth to 5 years	Birth to 3 years	Birth to 20 years	Prenatal to 5 years	Prenatal to one year	Birth to 5 years	
Program Description	Child Care Aware is the statewide regional network for Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) services supporting access to safe, affordable, quality child care for families and professional development for child care providers and trainers. Child Care Aware assists families with finding high quality child care including tips on what to look for in a child care provider, including providers for children with special needs.	The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides support to help families pay for child care based on meeting income or other eligibility requirements and utilizing a licensed or certified provider who participates in CCAP.	Early Head Start (EHS) programs serve infants and toddlers under the age of 3, and pregnant women. EHS programs provide intensive comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families, and to pregnant women and their families. EHS programs are designed to nurture healthy attachments between parent and child (or child and caregiver).	Head Start (HS) promotes school readiness of children up to age five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. HS programs provide a learning environment that supports growth in language, literacy, and social and emotional development. HS emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. HS builds relationships with families that support family well-being.	State funded preschool is available for all four year old children whose family income is below 160% of the federal poverty level, and all three and four year old children with identified disabilities regardless of income. The program focuses on the child's physical, intellectual, and social and emotional development, including interpersonal, intrapersonal, and socialization skills.	Kentucky Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS) program is a voluntary home visitation program for any new or expectant parents. HANDS supports families as they build healthy, safe environments for the optimal growth and development of children.	Help Me Grow Kentucky is a free, confidential call center for families, health providers and community service providers offering developmental screening and connections to local services and learning activities that support healthy growth for children from birth to age 5.	Kentucky's Early Intervention System (KEIS) serves children from birth to age 3 who have a developmental delay or a particular medical condition that is known to cause a developmental delay.	The Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs provides comprehensive care to children and youth with specific special health care needs including autism spectrum disorder, cardiology, cerebral palsy, cleft lip and palate, eye, neurology, orthopedic, otology, and scoliosis.	WIC is a supplemental food program that provides nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, education, nutritious foods and referrals to healthcare services. WIC improves the health of pregnant, breastfeeding, postpartum women, infants and children up to age 5.	KY-Moms MATR (Maternal Assistance Towards Recovery) helps expectant Kentucky mothers who are at risk for using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, to reduce harm to their children from their substance use, during and after pregnancy. This is a case management model in which specialists provide prevention education and service coordination of mental health, substance use disorder services, domestic violence services, and smoking cessation programs.	Community Mental Health Centers statewide have Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists and Early Childhood Consultants. Specialists work to meet the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of young children and their families, also providing consultation and technical assistance to child care providers regarding behavior management and social emotional development. Consultants work with families impacted by opioid and other substance use disorders, focusing on children exposed in utero.	
Location of services, service delivery	Services are provided to families online or by phone.	Applications can be submitted by phone, online, or in person at a local DCBS office. Services are delivered at the licensed or certified child care provider where the child is enrolled.	Various locations across the state, often in child development centers, community centers, or public schools	Various locations across the state, often in child development centers, community centers, or public schools	Local public schools in each district. Contact local school district for specific locations.	In-home service delivery	Online screening tools, support and referral services by phone	Services may be provided in-home, at child care centers, or in community settings.	Services may be provided through on-site clinics, satellite clinics or financial assistance.	Services are provided through local health departments	Specialists are available to meet with individuals in community settings	Community Mental Health Centers and child care centers	
Additional Supports Provided	Child Care Aware also provides coaching and technical assistance to child care providers to ensure the highest quality of care.	Families may apply for CCAP in conjunction with other public benefit programs.					Referrals to other services when needed	Referrals to other services when needed		WIC recipients may also receive \$30 to use at local Farmers Markets	Case management specialists may also help clients access housing, child care, financial assistance, employment, transportation to medical services or GED services.	Free observations, consultations and training, as well as therapy services to children and families	
Eligibility Criteria	This service is available to all families in Kentucky.	Child must be a resident of Kentucky and U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant, under 13 (or under 19 with a special need), residing with an applicant employed at least 20 hours/week (40 hours for a couple) who meets low income eligibility requirements (<85% state median income), a teen parent in high school, a child in foster care or placed with a relative or fictive kin provider by the child welfare agency, or a child experiencing homelessness. Child must be enrolled with a participating provider.	Children from birth up to age 3 from low income families according to federal poverty guidelines are eligible. 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. Pregnant women may also be eligible for Early Head Start services.	Children from age three to five from low income families according to federal poverty guidelines are eligible. Children in foster care, those experiencing homelessness, 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.	Four year olds whose family income is below 160% of the federal poverty level or three and four year olds with a documented disability regardless of income.	Any parent expecting a new baby and residing in Kentucky is eligible, as well as the child's guardian (relative/fictive kin). Families must be enrolled during pregnancy or before a child is 90 days old.	This service is available to all families in Kentucky.	A child may be eligible for services if an evaluation shows that a child is not developing typically in at least one of the following skill areas: communication, cognition, physical, social and emotional or self-help. A child may be eligible if he or she receives a diagnosis of physical or mental condition with high probability of resulting developmental delay such as Down Syndrome.	Must be a Kentucky resident younger than 21 years of age with a medical condition that usually responds to medical treatment provided by the program and who meet financial or income guidelines	Must be a Kentucky resident who meets income guidelines of less than 185% of federal poverty level; or currently receiving SNAP, KTAP, or Medicaid benefits; or a pregnant woman or infant in household receives Medicaid.	Any expectant Kentucky mother who is at risk for using alcohol, tobacco or other substances. Referrals may occur up to two months post-partum.	Available to families with children birth to 5. Technical assistance and consultation also available to programs serving children ages birth to 5. Early Childhood Consultant services are limited to families impacted by substance use disorders and young children exposed in utero.	
Documentation Needed for Enrollment	None	Identification for head of household, proof of child's citizenship or immigrant status (birth certificate or INS documents), proof of residence, income information	Documentation may vary but includes proof of income and/or eligibility for public assistance, or foster care status	Documentation may vary but includes proof of income and/or eligibility for public assistance, or foster care status	Legal birth certificate, immunization certificate, proof of health care, eye and dental screening	None for parents. Relative/fictive kin need documentation of guardianship or custody.	None	Birth certificate, verification of parent, guardianship or custody	OCSHCN staff person will advise of documentation needed based on clinical program to which child is referred.	Legal identification and proof of residency, proof of household income or eligibility for other income based programs	None	None	
Website(s)	https://www.childcareawareky.org/#	kynect.ky.gov	Kentucky Head Start, Early Head Start Schools (headstartprogram.us)	Kentucky Head Start, Early Head Start Schools (headstartprogram.us)	Early Learning - Kentucky Department of Education	HANDS - Health Access Nurturing Development Services - Cabinet for Health and Family Services (kv.gov)	http://www.helpmewgrowky.com/about-us/	First Steps - PT (24) - Cabinet for Health and Family Services (ky.gov)	Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs - Cabinet for Health and Family Services (kv.gov)	WIC - Cabinet for Health and Family Services (ky.gov)	Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services	Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services	
Phone number(s)	(877) 316-3552	(855) 306-8959	(866) 763-6481	(866) 763-6481	(502) 564-7056	(502) 564-4339	(877) 616-7388	(877) 417-8377	(800) 232-1160	(877) 597-0367	(800) 374-9010	502-782-7999	
Notes	https://kynect.ky.gov can also be utilized to identify child care resources	Child care subsidy payments are made directly to the child care provider.	Early Head Start and Head Start are federal programs.	The Head Start Collaboration Office is included in the Governor's Office of Early Childhood and works closely with the Kentucky Head Start Association and local Head Start programs.	Lee and Wolfe Counties do not have public preschool, but contract with Head Start for services for eligible children	10 counties are piloting continuation of services to age 3	The Call Center is staffed 9am to 5pm Eastern time Monday through Friday.			Local Health Departments: https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dafm/Pages/lead.aspx		Child Care Health Consultants also provide consultation to child care centers and have resources for families	