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CHEROKEE NATION©
Early Childhood Unit

ELIGIBILITY ENROLLMENT CRITERIA LIST 2024 - 2025
Priority List as approved by the Policy Council – 4/17/24
Based on age as of September First (1ˢᵗ)

HHS POVERTY GUIDELINES

2024 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia. Effective 1/23/24.

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Person in Family unit	Poverty Guideline
1.................	$15,060
2.................	$20,440
3.................	$25,820
4.................	$31,200
5.................	$36,580
6.................	$41,960
7.................	$47,340
8.................	$52,720

FOR MORE THAN 8 PERSONS ADD $5,380 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA   CP Points

1. Homeless*   + 20pts
2. Foster*   + 20pts
3. Public Assistance –TANF, SNAP, or SSI*   + 20pts
4. Returning Head Start/Early Head Start Students + 20pts
5. Income Eligible Transition EHS Students   + 20pts
6. Income Eligible w/ Disabilities   + 15pts
7. Cherokee Nation Employee, Tribal Citizen   + 20pts
8. Tribal Citizen   + 15pts
9. Over Income w/ Disabilities   + 10pts
10. Over Income Transition EHS Students   + 12pts
11. Teen Parent (high school student)   + 20 pts
12. Teen Parent   + 10pts
13. Single Parent   + 5pts

Categorically eligible with documentation. Points are automatically applied by ChildPlus.

AGE OF CHILD

A – 4 years old	+ 10pts
B – 3 year old	+ 8pts
C – 2 year old	+ 6pts
D – 1 year old	+ 4pts
I – Infant	+ 2pts

OVER INCOME SCALE   CP Points

PRIORITY 1 - $1.00 - $500.00	- 1pt
PRIORITY 2 - $501 - $1,000.00	- 2pts
PRIORITY 3 - $1,001.00 - $2,000.00	- 3pts
PRIORITY 4 - $2,001 - $3,500.00	- 4pts
PRIORITY 5 - $3,501.00 - $5,500.00	- 5pts
PRIORITY 6 - $5,501.00 - $8,000.00	- 6pts
PRIORITY 7 - $8,001.00 - $11,000.00	- 7pts
PRIORITY 8 - $11,001.00 - $15,000.00	- 8pts
PRIORITY 9 - $15,001.00 - $20,000.00	- 9pts
PRIORITY 10 - $20,001.00 - $26,000.00	- 10pts
PRIORITY 11 - $26,001.00 - $35,000.00	- 11pts
PRIORITY 12 – $35,000 +	- 12 pts

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

All applications (including Public Schools) will be screened and entered into ChildPlus upon receipt by the Main Office. Eligibility will be determined using the eligibility points which have been pre-entered into ChildPlus. Categorically eligible (*) families will have points automatically applied based on guidelines & information from the application. Any other applicable guidelines listed under Eligibility Criteria and the Over Income Scale will be applied manually. The Over Income Scale will be used to deduct points based only if a family exceeds the Poverty Guidelines. Points for Tribal Citizenship will be applied to those applicants presenting a Tribal Citizenship Card for the child or parent from the Cherokee Nation or any Federally Recognized Tribe. Final income approval will be made by the designated Enrollment Specialist or their back up. ChildPlus will prioritize applications for enrollment based on the number of points & date received.

Early Head Start students are in the program for 3 years, however Transition FROM Early Head Start to Head Start requires a new application