MVCAA Children and Youth, 2016 HHS Poverty Guidelines for Head Start Eligibility **January 2016**

# in Family	Guideline	At/Below	25% Below	50% Below	75% Below	Over 30%	Over 50%	Over 75%
1	11,880	11,880	8,910	5,940	2,970	15,444	17,820	20,790
2	16,020	16,020	12,015	8,010	4,005	20,826	24,030	28,035
3	20,160	20,160	15,120	10,080	5,040	26,208	30,240	35,280
4	24,300	24,300	18,225	12,150	6,075	31,590	36,450	42,525
5	28,440	28,440	21,330	14,220	7,110	36,972	42,660	49,770
6	32,580	32,580	24,435	16,290	8,145	42,354	48,870	57,015
7	36,730	36,730	27,548	18,365	9,183	47,749	55,095	64,278
8	40,890	40,890	30,668	20,445	10,223	53,157	61,335	71,558
9	45,050	45,050	33,788	22,525	11,263	58,565	67,575	78,838
10	49,210	49,210	36,908	24,605	12,303	63,973	73,815	86,118

For families/households with more than ten persons, add $4,160 for each additional person.

Countable income includes the following:

- Gross income (before deductions) including money wages or salary; net income from non-farm self employment; net income from farm self-employment as on tax return
- Strike benefits from union funds
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), income for care of foster child
- Unemployment, Worker's Compensation, Social Security Disability (SSD), Railroad Retirement, VA cash benefits, and military family allotments
- Regular insurance or annuity payments, dividends, net interest, royalties, and estate/trust incomes
- Any volunteer stipend, college/university grants, scholarships, assistantships, fellowships, and training stipends
- Net gambling and lottery winnings, alimony, child support, and other family support

Non-Countable income includes the following:

- Capital gains, bank withdrawals, assets from the sale of property or vehicle
- One-time inheritances, insurance payments or injury compensation awards, tax refunds, loans, or gifts
- Rental value of owner-occupied housing
- Non-cash value of employer fringe benefits such as health insurance, food or housing in lieu of wages
- Non-cash value of food stamps, school lunches, Medicaid/Medicare, housing assistance, or TANF services
- Family Sustenance funds (FSSA) for military families, and certain disability payments made to disabled children of Vietnam veterans

Period of time to compute gross family income:

- Previous calendar year, not counting year application is submitted – such as income tax return
- Previous 12 months, not counting the month the application is submitted

Head Start Program Definition of Income

Income means total cash receipts before taxes from all sources, with the exceptions noted below. Income includes money wages or salary before deductions; net income from non-farm self employment; net income from farm self-employment; regular payments from Social Security or railroad retirement; payments from unemployment compensation, strike benefits from union funds, workers' compensation, veterans benefits (with the exception noted below), public assistance (including temporary Assistance for Needy Families, supplemental Security Income, emergency Assistance money payments, and non-federally funded General Assistance or General Relief money payments); training stipends; alimony, child support, and military family allotments or other regular support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household; private pensions, government employee pensions (including military retirement pay), and regular insurance or annuity payments; college or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, and assistantships; and dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, and periodic receipts from estates or trusts; and net gambling or lottery winnings.

As defined here, income does not include capital gains; any assets drawn down as withdrawals from a bank, the sale of property, a house or a car; or tax refunds, gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances, one-time insurance payments, or compensation for injury. Also excluded are noncash benefits, such as the employer-paid or union-paid portion of health insurance other employee fringe benefits; food or housing received in lieu of wages; the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms; the imputed value or rent from owner-occupied non-farm or farm housing; and such Federal non-cash benefit programs as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, school lunches, and housing assistance, and certain disability payments made to disabled children of Vietnam veterans as prescribed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
The period of time to be considered for eligibility is twelve month immediately preceding the month in which application or reapplication for enrollment of a child in a head Start program is made, or for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year in which the application or reapplication is made, whichever more accurately reflects the family's current needs.