



Early Connections supports the success of young children and their families through leadership, advocacy, and quality programs in early care and education.

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your interest in Early Connections' full-day Pre-K Counts Program, a state grant initiative offered to help our youngest almost-school age children prepare for kindergarten. The Pre-K Counts program is a free, high-quality preschool program designed for children between the ages of 3 and younger than Kindergarten entry age. Please see below for income and age eligibility requirements.

ELIGIBILITY

Income: Eligibility to receive Pre-K Counts funding is based on your family's size and household income. Annual household income must be less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (Ex: family of 4 can earn up to \$99,000.) See chart on application form.

Age: Children must be at least 3 years old by the Kindergarten age cut-off date for their home school district, and younger than the KD entry age for their school district.

KD cut-off dates for some local Erie County school districts:

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Erie City: Aug 31 st | Millcreek: Sept 1 st | Iroquois: Sept 1 st | Harborcreek: May 31 st | North East: May 31 st | Union City: Aug 24 th | Wattsburg: Aug 31 st | Ft LeBoeuf: May 31 st | Corry: Sept 1 st |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

- Complete the Pre-K Counts (PKC) application. Priority is based on age, income, and other prioritization factors. Please indicate all possible, listed factors which apply to your family or child.
- Income Verification: Proof of all earned and unearned income for adults. Please submit copies of the items listed below with your application. *Please send only copies*
 - Proof of Income: 3-4 consecutive paystubs, or W-2 for 2025, or 1st 2 pages of 2025 tax return, or letter/ statement of benefit amount of SSI, SSA, Foster Care, Child Support, TANF, unemployment compensation, or employer letter of anticipated wages. If self-employed, provide tax return or other documents establishing profit from self-employment.
 - A signed, written statement stating how a family's basic needs are being supported when there is no earned or unearned income in the household.
- Child's Birth Certificate or other proof of birth
- Photo ID (parent/guardian) or other proof of residency (recent gas, electric, water or cable bill, or lease agreement,)

Return the completed application to the location of your choice in person or by mail.

- City Center, 704 State Street, Erie PA 16501; phone 814-456-4576
- Harbor Homes, 1841 E 18th Street, Erie PA 16510; phone 814-899-3310
- North East, 50 E Division Street, Erie PA 16428; phone 814-315-2915
- Union City, 16380 Rt 8, Union City, PA 16438; phone 814-438-7016

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 Pre-K Counts program is now open. Please submit the completed Pre-K Counts application and required documents as soon as possible as the program fills up quickly.

Qualifying families are eligible for enrollment throughout the school year, based on availability and submission of a completed Pre-K Counts application. Families are invited to call anytime to check on the available openings.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Pre-K Counts program please contact your preferred location at the number listed above.

Thank you!

2026-27 PA Pre-K Counts Enrollment Form

(This information is confidential to the PA Pre-K Counts program)

Date Form Completed: / /
MM DD YY

Early Connections Location: City Center
 Harbor Homes Union City North East

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Legal Last Name (Child) | Legal First Name (Child) | Middle Initial |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------|----------|
| Street Address | | County | |
| City | | State PA | Zip Code |
| School District of Residence | | | |
| Home Phone | Work Phone | Email Address | |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Child's Date of Birth | Age at start of program year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
|-----------------------|--|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| Race (optional) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American | <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | |
| Ethnicity (optional) | Primary Language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ (please specify) |

| | |
|--|---|
| Name of Parent or Guardian completing this application | Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| Relationship to Child | (Select) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father | <input type="checkbox"/> Biological |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Adoptive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ (please specify) |

| | |
|---|--|
| Role | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ (please specify) |

List Household Members below for determination of family size (required):

| | <i>Relationship to Child</i> | <i>Age</i> |
|---|------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | ENROLLING CHILD | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | | |

Per PKC Statute, Regulations, and Guidance, the following members of the household are included in family size:

- Parent of the child (biological or adoptive mother or father, stepmother or stepfather, caretaker or spouse)
- A biological, adoptive, unrelated or foster child or stepchild of the parent or caretaker who is under 18 years of age and not emancipated.
- A child who is 18 years of age or older but under 22 years of age who is enrolled in high school, a general educational development program, or a post-secondary program leading to a degree, diploma or certificate and who is wholly or partially dependent on the income of the parent or caretaker or spouse of the parent or caretaker.
- Others supported by the income of the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the child enrolling or participating in the program. ***If counted toward family size, any applicable income of these persons must also be counted for eligibility purposes.***

Note: A family size value of one (1) with an income of \$0 is entered when a foster child is applying for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts.

DETERMINED FAMILY SIZE =

| Employment Status of parent/guardian | Employment Status of 2nd parent/guardian (if applicable) |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed Full-Time | <input type="checkbox"/> Employed Full-Time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed Part-Time | <input type="checkbox"/> Employed Part-Time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Household Income Sources (Must check all that apply):

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment Compensation | <input type="checkbox"/> Worker's Compensation | <input type="checkbox"/> TANF Cash payments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security | <input type="checkbox"/> SSI | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Alimony | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Other Child Eligibility Risk Factor Criterion (Must check all that apply):

| | Risk Factor | Definition |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Preschooler with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) | Defined as a child who is currently enrolled in the Early Intervention program with an active IEP. <u>Verification includes a copy of the IEP or other source of documentation from the parent or the Early Intervention agency.</u> Date IEP put into place: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Migratory (Non-Immigrant) Seasonal Student | Defined as a child who has moved from one school district to another to accompany or join a parent or guardian who is a migratory agriculture worker or fisher within the preceding 36 months, in order to obtain temporary or seasonal employment in qualifying agricultural or fishing work, including agri-related businesses such as meat or vegetable processing, or work in nurseries such as Christmas and evergreen tree farming. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | English Language Learner | Defined as a child whose first language is not English and who is in the process of learning English. Ask these two questions , as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, to determine if a child qualifies as an English language learner: 1) What is/was the child's first language? 2) Does the child speak a language other than English? (Do not include languages learned in school). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Homeless | If any of the situations below apply a family is eligible under McKinney-Vento. Additional guidance is available from the National Center for Homeless Education . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the family is staying with others, was this a result of a loss of housing, economic hardship, or other similar reason? - Is the family living in a shelter? (Includes youth, emergency, transitional living, domestic violence, etc.) - Is the family living in a motel, hotel, or campground? - Is the family staying in a public or private place not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings? - Is the family living in cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings, transportation stations, or similar settings? - Is the family living in substandard (limited or no utilities, unsafe conditions, etc.) housing? - Has the child been abandoned, in a hospital, or awaiting foster care placement? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Child in or Part of Family in Child Welfare System | Defined as a child who is a foster child, a kinship care child, or receiving Children and Youth Services. <u>Approximate start date of services:</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Child's Family or Living Structure | Defined as a child with a single parent, divorced parents, or with relatives as guardians. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Child Receiving Behavioral Supports | Defined as a child who is referred to Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts from an appropriately credentialed health or mental health provider (not employed by the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts program) or a child who is receiving mental health treatment. Additional verification beyond the interview is required. <u>Approximate start date of services:</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Teen Parent | Defined as a mother or father who was under the age of 18 when the child was born. |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Incarcerated Parent | Defined as a child for whom one or both of the child's parents are currently incarcerated. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Education Level of Guardian | Defined as when the parent or legal guardian of the child does not have a high school diploma, high school equivalency, or postsecondary degree. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eligible for or Receives the Following Public Assistance: TANF, SSI, SNAP | This risk factor was added in 2024. Defined as a family who can produce documentation of eligibility for or receipt of TANF, SSI, or SNAP. (Categorically eligible for Head Start, please refer to HS program if available.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Child Enrolled in Infant Toddler Contracted Slots Program (ITCSP) | Defined as a child enrolled in ITCSP and eligible to transition into PA PKC. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Child Lives in Geographic Area of High Poverty | Providers wishing to prioritize specific geographic regions with higher rates of poverty may do so. This might include specific zip codes, school districts, or other factors. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Concerns Regarding Child's Physical Development or Existing Medical Condition (Currently Not Receiving EI Services) | If a family concern is shared that is not covered by any of the other risk factors and the child has not yet been referred to EI for evaluation, the program should share information on EI. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Concerns Regarding Child's Speech or Language Development (Currently Not Receiving EI Services) | If a family concern is shared that is not covered by any other risk factors and the child has not yet been referred to EI for evaluation, the program should share information on EI. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Concerns Regarding Child's Social, Emotional, or Behavioral Development (Currently Not Receiving EI Services) | If a family concern is shared that is not covered by any other risk factors and the child has not yet been referred to EI for evaluation, the program should share information on EI. |

Family Assurances

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to the following:

- I understand that my child’s eligibility for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts (PA PKC) is subject to the program’s two-year participation limit. My child must be at least three years old by the kindergarten cutoff date set by the school district where we live to assure compliance with receiving only two-years of PKC programming.
- Once my child reaches the age required to enroll in kindergarten in the public school district where we live, I understand they will no longer be eligible for PA PKC funding.
- I understand that my child’s enrollment is contingent upon meeting the eligibility criteria, including income verification and prioritization based on risk factors.
- I understand that the PA Pre-K Counts (PKC) program is an educational program with attendance requirements. I agree to ensure my child’s regular attendance and to notify the program in case of absences. My program’s PA Pre-K Counts hours of operation are:

- I understand that the PKC portion of the day will be secular (non-religious) in nature and will not include religious instruction during the PKC portion of the day. My program’s PA Pre-K Counts hours of operation are:

Parent/Guardian Certification

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this application and the associated income documentation is accurate. I understand that I may be asked to verify or give proof of information provided.

I certify that all information provided is accurate. I understand that eligibility is subject to verification and providing false information may result in disqualification.

Parent/Legal Guardian (Signature)

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Print Name)

Family and Program Administrator to Complete This Portion Together

For Head Start Eligible families (100% of FPL or below)

Check if not applicable

I have been informed of my child’s eligibility for Head Start and given the following:

- Contact information for the following Head Start location

- Application and/or assistance with referral
- Brochure or website with information about Head Start

- I understand that my signature below indicates that I have been informed about my options for Head Start, and that I may choose to enroll in either the Pre-K Counts program or Head Start if eligible for both.

Parent/Legal Guardian (Signature)

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Income Verification

2026 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines Based On Annual Income

| Family Size | 100% (Head Start Eligible) | 300% (Pre-K Counts Eligible) |
|------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | \$15,960 | \$47,880 |
| 2 | \$21,640 | \$64,920 |
| 3 | \$27,320 | \$81,960 |
| 4 | \$33,000 | \$99,000 |
| 5 | \$38,680 | \$116,040 |
| 6 | \$44,360 | \$133,080 |
| 7 | \$50,040 | \$150,120 |
| 8 | \$55,720 | \$167,160 |
| Each Additional | +\$5,680 for each additional family member | +\$17,040 for each additional family member |

Pay Frequency Calculation Guide:

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Weekly | Multiply gross weekly income by 52 |
| Bi-Weekly | Multiply gross income by 26 |
| Semi-Monthly | Multiply gross income by 24 |
| Monthly | Multiply gross income by 12 |

INCOME CALCULATION GRID

| Name | Income Source | Pay Frequency | Gross Amount | Annualized Amount |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | | | | |
| 2. | | | | |
| 3. | | | | |
| 4. | | | | |
| Total Annual Income: | | | \$ | _____ |

Actual Annual Verified Gross Household (Family) Income: \$ _____

*Attach copies of documents used to verify income prior to enrollment

Family Size (per PKC guidelines): _____

Family income is at or below 300% of federal poverty level relative to family size (required risk factor). Consider all sources of income. Must be verified prior to enrollment.

Staff Verifying Income and Risk Factors Signature

Date

EC PKC location Child will attend (please circle): **CC** **HH** **UC** **NE**

Dual Enrollment Verification (Complete once eligibility and enrollment is confirmed)

This section helps process the PA PKC Verification Form, which documents a child’s enrollment in the PA PKC Program and is submitted to the ELRC. Additionally, it ensures families seeking wraparound services receive referrals to the local ELRC and accurate notification of the PKC enrollment start date.

| | |
|--|--|
| Is this child currently receiving CCW subsidy (at any program)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the family interested in receiving ELRC contact information to determine eligibility for CCW wrap around care (at any program)? Referral for ELRC #__1__ Contact email or Phone number shared with family __814-836-5898_____ Or email: info@nwirelrc.org | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Has the CCW enrollment been cross-checked with PA PKC? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PA PKC Verification Form submitted to the appropriate ELRC to verify enrollment with Child Care Works (CCW). | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |