



Department of Human Service Programs

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Thank you for your interest in the City of Cambridge DHSP Preschool Programs! By enrolling your child in a quality preschool program, you are helping to prepare your child for kindergarten and so much more. Research shows that children who participate in high quality preschool programs have better math, language, and social skills when they enter elementary school.

Please complete our online lottery application at www.cambridgema.gov/preschoollottery during the month of October to enter your child in the Preschool Lottery. In-person assistance is available upon request. If needed, please contact dhsppreschools@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-6254. It is important that you complete all the information in the application so that we have up to date, accurate information and so we can contact you with the lottery results in December.

In addition to completing the online application, you will need to provide other documentation for your application to be considered complete (required documents are listed on DHSP Preschool Lottery Process sheet). The DHSP Preschool tuition rates are determined on a sliding scale based on income. We will use the documents to calculate your tuition rate and to determine if a family qualifies for a priority seat in one of our classrooms.

In the Department of Human Service Programs, we strive to make our programs accessible to all Cambridge families. We accept vouchers and we offer scholarships for families that qualify for tuition assistance. In this packet, you will find our current tuition rates. Any family whose income is at 100% of HUD area median income (\$126,200) or below will qualify for tuition assistance. The amount of tuition assistance will be based on gross family income, household size, and personal hardship. It is our belief that families' resources should not prevent Cambridge children from receiving a quality preschool education.

In the online application, you will be asked to select as many preschools for your child as you like. You will rank your choices in order of preference. Please only select programs that you would enroll your child in if you are notified of a Preschool seat. We have 7 preschool programs across the city and all of them are high quality. Our programs have received the highest quality rating through the state and are accredited through NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children).

If you have any questions about the lottery or our preschools, please contact us at dhsppreschools@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-6200. If you need assistance in your language with the lottery application process, please contact the Center for Families at 617-349-6385. Again, thank you for your interest in our preschool programs. We look forward to working with you and your family.

Sincerely,

Meghan M. White, Division Head
Childcare and Family Support