



Department of Human Service Programs

Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager

City of Cambridge
51 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-1102
askdhsp@cambridgema.gov

voice: 617-349-6200
tty: 617-492-0235
fax: 617-349-6248

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. Print applications and in-person assistance are available upon request. If needed, please contact dhspreschools@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 the next page). 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 (\$108,750) or below will qualify for some 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 dhspreschools@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



City of Cambridge DHSP Preschool Lottery Application Process

1. Apply online October 1, 2021 – October 31, 2021

Where to apply

Apply online at www.cambridgema.gov/preschoollottery

Print applications and in-person assistance are available upon request.

If needed, please contact dhsppreschools@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-6254.

2. The following documentation must be provided to enter the DHSP Preschool Lottery:

Document type	Document examples
Online lottery application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHSP Lottery application
Proof of Income and Family Size (Families with a Gross Family Income over \$217,501 do not need to prove income because they will be paying the top tuition rate.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax return AND 4 consecutive pay stubs (or last 30 days) OR Current award letters for any benefits you are receiving (TANF, SSI, SNAP, WIC, etc.)
Proof of Child's Age (Date of birth between 4/1/18 – 12/1/19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child's birth certificate OR Child's passport
Proof of Address*	ONE of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lease Mortgage Letter from housing provider Utility bill dated within the last 2 months OR Doubling Up Form

* City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Schools employees who are not Cambridge residents need to provide proof of employment annually. The ability for City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Schools employees who are not Cambridge residents to enter the lottery will be reevaluated each year.

3. Families will be notified of lottery results by early December 2021.

4. If offered a seat, you must accept or decline the seat by January 31, 2022.

5. Any families that are not offered a seat in one of our preschools will be placed in a waiting pool that will remain in place through October 2022. If still interested in the DHSP Preschools for the following academic year, families would need to complete the application process again for the October 2022 Preschool Lottery.



City of Cambridge
DHSP Childcare and Family Support
Preschool Tuition Rates
Effective: September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023

In the Department of Human Service Programs, we strive to make our programs accessible to all Cambridge families. It is our belief that families' resources should not prevent Cambridge children from receiving a quality preschool and afterschool education. All families are required to prove income to qualify for any rate below our highest rate.

Cambridge has 7 Full-Time Preschools (Haggerty, Kennedy Longfellow, King Open, M.L. King, Morse, Peabody, and Windsor) throughout the city that run up to 10 hours per day.

Gross Family Income	Approximate Tuition Rate Per Day*	Tuition Rate Per Month
\$217,501 – above	\$83.65*	\$1,812.50
\$163,126- \$217,500	\$66.92*	\$1,450.00
\$130,501 - \$163,125	\$50.19*	\$1,087.50
\$108,751 – \$130,500	\$40.15*	\$870.00
\$0 - \$108,750	The base daily rate for tuition is \$40.15. All families with a Gross Family Income between \$0 - \$108,750 will qualify for some tuition assistance. The amount of the tuition assistance will be based on gross family income, household size, and personal hardship. Please contact us for more information on individual scholarship rates.	

*Tuition is charged based on the monthly rate. The daily rate is calculated based on having an average of 22 billable days in a month.