

D. Early Start Services

Early Start is a program administered by the Ohio Department of Health through which services to children who are at risk for developmental delays are provided to families with children younger than three years of age. Many OWF children in Logan County may be eligible for services through Early Start, the cost of which is reimbursable through the TANF program.

Families with children under the age of three who are participating in the Logan County Early Start program and who are receiving OWF cash assistance at the time of enrollment may continue to receive Early Start services until the youngest child reaches age three (3). Families with children under the age of three who are **not** receiving OWF cash assistance and who are at or below **300%** of the Federal Poverty Guideline may receive Early Start services under the PRC program. Benefit limitations shall not apply for these services. While the completion of a PRC application at the Department of Human Services is not required, the agency providing Early Start services must complete a separate application form on the client's behalf. Continued receipt of Early Start services does not prohibit the family from making a separate application for other services or assistance which may be available through PRC. The receipt of Early Start services will not count toward the family's eligibility limit for PRC assistance.

For the purpose of determining eligibility for Early Start services, a PRC household is a group of individuals living at the same address in Logan County and containing at least one child under the age of three. When assistance is sought, only the income of the Assistance Group (as defined in Section 4150 of the Public Assistance Manual) will be utilized in determining eligibility, not the income of the entire Household.

Families with children under the age of three who are enrolled in the Logan County Early Start program are eligible for all services provided through the program, including, but not limited to the following: home visits, transportation (non-cash payments), case management/services coordination, information and referral, parenting classes, group activities to enhance parenting skills and build support systems, child development screening, and respite care.