

Head Start Enrollment

Written by Gwendolyn Branch
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Project NOW, Inc., Community Action Agency announces open enrollment for the 2013-14 year of the Head Start program. Applications are being taken for families with children aged 3-5 years old. Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive preschool and family support program provided at no charge to low income families.

Project NOW Head Start serves families in Upper Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties. Eligible families are those that qualify by income at the poverty level or have children with disabilities. The program offers both a center-based and home-based option with extended day childcare available through a partnership in Rock Island County. Head Start helps the child's ability to think, reason, speak, get along with others and prepare for success in Kindergarten. At the same time, the Head Start program works with families to help themselves.

"Every year, Project NOW sees a very positive impact in this community, because of the Head Start program!" comments Leigh Egger, Head Start director of Project NOW. "Head Start's strength is that parents are fully engaged in the process of getting children ready for school, while the families succeed in goals that change their lives. This is the purpose of a community action agency."

Parents are asked to provide the following at the time of the application meeting: child's birth certificate, income verification, current medical card, social security cards for all members of the family, up-to-date immunization records for the child, as well as current physical and dental examination records or appointment dates for these exams.

Head Start classes begin in the end of August. Since classes must be full by orientation time in July, enrollment will be closed as soon as enough eligible families have applied. Therefore, it is very important that any family with a very low income contact Project NOW as soon as possible to make an application.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for an application, please call 309-792-4555 in Rock Island County; 309-852-4346 in Henry County; 309-582-3668 in Mercer County.

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Project NOW Community Action Agency provides a wide range of social services in Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties. Programs include Head Start, Outreach, Housing, Utility Assistance, Homeless Services, Apartment and Commercial Property Rentals, Senior Services, Weatherization, Good Things NOW Clothing Stores, Business Start-Up Assistance and Revolving Loan Funds. Services are designed to help families with low income and senior citizens meet basic needs and achieve self sufficiency. Project NOW was incorporated on May 15, 1968 and has been working to help low-income individuals improve their lives ever since.