

Worried about the cost of Preschool?

Here in the islands, the cost of preschool and child care is seemingly out of reach for many families, particularly for families who are on a tight budget.

Luckily, the Preschool Open Doors subsidy program can help eligible families pay for preschool and help keiki build a solid foundation and love for learning.

Here are some tips for planning ahead.

1. Need help finding a preschool? Call 808-839-1988 or go to patchhawaii.org for preschools in your area.
2. Many preschools have wait lists. Call at least a year (or more) in advance to learn about the preschool's application process.
3. Talk to the preschool to see if they accept children who are in the Preschool Open Doors program.
4. Applications for Preschool Open Doors are typically accepted in the Spring each year. See details on the other side.



Got more questions? Call Preschool Open Doors at 808-791-2130 or toll free at 1-800-746-5620



**Preschool Open Door (POD) Program
Applications accepted in the Spring of each year**

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division (BESSD) operates the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program, which helps eligible Hawai'i families pay for preschool for up to one year in the year before the child enters kindergarten. The application period for the program is during the spring of each year.

Children must turn 4 years old between August 1 of the prior year and July 31 of the current year in which they are applying for POD services to be eligible. Priority enrollment goes to underserved or at-risk children. Income eligibility limits also apply to receive POD services (see below):

Monthly Gross Income Limits

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Gross Income Limits</u>
1	2,755
2	3,718
3	4,680
4	5,643
5	6,605
6	7,568
7	8,530
8	9,493

Families may choose any of the 400-plus preschools that DHS licenses that best fits their needs and the needs of their children.

The POD program has a set amount of funds available. A wait-list of eligible families will be maintained if there are not sufficient funds to assist all eligible families. POD aims to provide children whose families might otherwise not be able to afford preschool the opportunity to gain essential skills to be successful in school and in life.

For more information, interested families may contact the Department's POD contractor PATCH by visiting www.patchhawaii.org or calling (808) 791-2130 or toll free 1-800-746-5620.

Eligibility and priorities for POD program selection are detailed online in HAR §17-799, which is available online at humanservices.hawaii.gov/admin-rules-2/admin-rules-for-programs. For more information about other DHS programs and services, visit humanservices.hawaii.gov.

Aloha,

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