

Overview of Family Assessment and Goal Setting Process





2024-2025 Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Family Assessment & Goal Outcomes



Requirements

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) define the specific regulations for all Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) programs serving infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Head Start programs prepare America's most vulnerable children to succeed in school and beyond. Head Start programs deliver services to children and families in core areas of early learning, health and family and community support services by engaging parents as partners every step of the way. The City of San Antonio Department of Human Services Head Start Division (DHS Head Start) encompasses Head Start preschool programs, which primarily serves 3- and 4-year-old children and EHS, which provides services to children 6 weeks to 3 years old.

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), section 1302.52 (b) states a program must implement a family partnership process that includes identification of family strengths and needs related to the family engagement outcomes as described in the Head Start Parent Family and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework, including family well-being, parent-child relationships, families as lifelong educators, families as learners, family engagement in transitions, family connections to peer and the local community, and families as advocates and leaders.

Family Assessment

The City of San Antonio Department of Human Services Head Start Program utilizes the family assessment tool built into the program's ChildPlus data entry system. All families receive a family assessment at the Beginning of Year (BOY) and again at the End of Year (EOY).

The family assessment tool consists of various sections which include emergency crisis intervention, housing, safety, child education and development, parenting, education, health education, family support, transportation, advocacy and leadership development, and transitions which aligns to the PFCE Framework. Based on a series of questions, observations, and interactions with each family, each section is assigned a score based off a five-point rating system.

The Head Start philosophy is deeply rooted in building strong effective partnerships with families based on mutual respect and trust. Family assessment data is used to assist families with setting goals and to help with identifying which community resources and services to bring into the centers during parent engagement events and activities to meet the needs of the parents.

Goal Setting

As part of an ongoing partnership, DHS Head Start offers families opportunities to develop and implement individualized goals that state the identified goal, responsibilities, timetables, and strategies for achieving these goals. In addition, Family & Community Support staff work with families to follow up on their progress throughout the program year.