
	<b>DHS Early Head Start Program Policy</b>		
<b>PDM 4</b>			
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Training and Professional Development		
<b>REFERENCE</b>	Program Design and Management		
<b>EFFECTIVE</b>	8/1/2016		
<b>Policy Council Approval: 7/26/16</b>	<b>Policy Council Revision: 7/28/20</b>	<b>Governing Body Approval: 9/19/16</b>	<b>Governing Body Revision: 8/13/20</b>
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**Policy:**

The Head Start Program, including Early Head Start (EHS), will ensure all new staff, consultants and volunteers receive, at a minimum, an orientation that includes the goals and underlying philosophy of Head Start including the Head Start Program Performance Standards, regulations, policies and procedures.

~~The Head Start Program must provide appropriate training and technical assistance to include orientation to the governing body, advisory committee, and policy council. The training must include review of program governance and eligibility verification indicated in 1302.12(m). This is to ensure the staff and governing body members understand the information and can effectively oversee the direction of the Head Start Program.~~

Additionally, the Head Start Program, including the Head Start Grant Recipient and Service Providers will develop and implement a procedure for staff training and professional development designed to assist staff in acquiring or increasing the knowledge and skills needed to provide high-quality, comprehensive services. At a minimum, the procedures must include:

- a. Staff completing a minimum of 15 clock hours of professional development per year. For teaching staff, such professional development must meet the requirements described in section 648A(a)(5) of the Act; and includes creating individual professional development plans for all full-time Head Start employees who provide direct services to children and families.
- b. Annual ~~Training~~ on mandatory reporting of ~~methods to handle~~ suspected or known child abuse and neglect ~~cases~~, that complies with applicable ~~f~~Federal, ~~s~~State, local, and Tribal laws;

For any teaching staff including, floaters, paraprofessionals/instructional assistants, and lead-classroom teachers, and long-term substitutes, that do not meet the minimum staff qualifications,— must have an Individualized Professional Development Staff

~~Qualification Plan~~ for staff who need to obtain a CDA ~~as well as a Communication system to ensure any changes to staff qualifications or employment are shared with the City of San Antonio completed according to the City of San Antonio Benchmark Due Date Guide on a regular basis per the City of San Antonio DHS Head Start Benchmarks.~~ changes to staff qualifications or employment ~~must be~~ must be shared with the City of San Antonio

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Annual training on positive strategies to understand and support children's social and emotional development, such as tools for managing children's behavior;

~~ed.~~ Training for child and family services staff on best practices for implementing family engagement strategies in a systemic way

~~de.~~ Training for child and family services staff, including staff that work on family services, health, and disabilities, that builds their knowledge, experience, and competencies to improve child and family outcomes. All teaching staff assigned to a co-teach classroom

must receive training specific to the co-teach model; and,

ef. Research-based approaches to professional development for education staff, that are focused on effective curricula implementation, knowledge of the content in Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five, partnering with families, supporting children with disabilities and their families, providing effective and nurturing adult-child interactions, supporting dual language learners as appropriate, addressing challenging behaviors, preparing children and families for transitions (as described in subpart G of this part), and use of data to individualize learning experiences to improve outcomes for all children.

g. Mental health and wellness information available to staff regarding health issues that may affect their job performance. The program must provide regularly scheduled opportunities to learn about mental health, wellness, and health education.

h. Training for staff who determine eligibility on applicable federal regulations and program policies and procedures. Training must include the following:

- Methods on how to collect complete and accurate eligibility information from families and third party sources;
- Strategies for treating families with dignity and respect and for dealing with possible issues of domestic violence, stigma, and privacy; and,
- Policies and procedures that describe actions taken against staff, families, or participants who attempt to provide or intentionally provide false information.

Head Start Act

648A(f)

**Performance Standard(s):**

1301.5; 1302.12(m); 1302.92(a-b); 1302.93(b)