



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
**{{item.tracking\_number}}**

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**Agenda Item Number:** {{item.number}}

**Agenda Date:** June 24, 2025

**In Control:** Head Start Policy Council Meeting

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**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Human Services

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Melody Woosley

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Correspondence I – ACF-OHS-IM-25-04 Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunities for Families in Head Start Programs

**SUMMARY:**

This item presents the following from the Department of Human Services (DHS) Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership programs for action by the Head Start Policy Council.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

This Information Memorandum (IM) outlines Head Start programs' critical role in promoting parent choice to select the early care and education (ECE) providers that best meet their family's needs for their children, and recognizes that Head Start programs serve as the foundation for school readiness by preparing young children for academic and social success. Through this work, Head

Start programs also help parents understand school choice options, including ECE, and can serve as a valuable resource to prepare families to effectively utilize the options in their communities. With this IM, we strongly encourage Head Start programs to facilitate parent choice in three key ways: 1) actively participating in state and local efforts to coordinate ECE enrollment and services and promote access to a variety of ECE options in the state or local community; 2) engaging families to determine, develop, and improve their program model and consider how their program offerings respond to family needs and promote family choice; and 3) re-examining community partnerships and evaluating how they can be strengthened and expanded in ways that support family choice, including through connections to faith-based settings for families that desire this option.

**ISSUE:**

Rules and regulations for the Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Start-Child Care Partnership grants as set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) require the Head Start Policy Council to review programmatic actions to oversee certain key responsibilities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no anticipated impact to the general fund as a result of these actions.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The review of the items included in this memorandum are required for program compliance with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services rules and regulations for Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership programs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff will present a briefing on this item subject to possible action by the HSPC Committee. Staff recommends review and approval of the items included in this memorandum.