
	DHS Early Head Start Program Policy		
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY 1			
SUBJECT	Safe Environments		
REFERENCE	Environmental Health and Safety		
EFFECTIVE	8/1/2016		
Policy Council Approval: 7/26/16	Policy Council Revision: 5/23/23	Governing Body Approval: 9/19/16	Governing Body Revision: 6/15/23
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Policy:

Early Head Start (EHS) Program, Service Providers will maintain indoor/outdoor environments and facilities to ensure they are safe, clean and in quality condition so as to prevent injury to a child. Service Providers will develop a system to maintain safe environments free from pollutants, pests, hazards, and toxins, including lead, that are accessible to children and could endanger children's safety, and to correct issues identified as unsafe and/or hazardous through the monitoring process.

~~Service Providers will develop and implement procedures to ensure state-certified lead testing of water, soil, and paint once every three years. If lead results are positive, the Service Provider must inform the Head Start Grant Recipient and provide a plan for abatement within 24 hours of notice.~~

Service Providers will maintain Head Start group sizes and ratios. Service Providers will also be responsible for safety drills, maintenance of first aid kits, training of staff, and accommodation of children with disabilities, food safety, and sanitation. In addition, Service Providers will maintain compliance with Texas Health and Human Services Commission Child Care Regulations requirements.

Service Providers will ensure the maintenance log is current and safety concerns are addressed.

Performance Standard(s):

1302.47b(1)(2); 1302.21 (b); ~~1302.102(d)(ii)~~

Information Memorandum:
ACF IM HS 23-01