

***Review of Early Head Start (EHS)
and Early Head Start-Child Care
Partnership(EHS-CCP)
Agreement and Goal Setting***





2021-2022 Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Family Assessment 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 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 Framework (PFCE), 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 consist 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 of a three 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.

Review of Head Start Agreement and Goal Setting





Requirements

1302.52 Family partnership services.

A program must implement intake and family assessment procedures to identify family strengths and needs related to the family engagement outcomes as described in the Head Start Parent Family and Community Engagement Framework, including family well-being, parent-child relationships, families as lifelong educators, families as learners, family engagement in transitions, family connections to peers and the local community, and families as advocates and leaders.

A program must offer individualized family partnership services that:

- Collaborate with families to identify interests, needs, and aspirations related to the family engagement outcomes described in paragraph (b) of this section;
- Help families achieve identified individualized family engagement outcomes;
- Establish and implement a family partnership agreement process that is jointly developed and shared with parents in which staff and families to review individual progress, revise goals, evaluate and track whether identified needs and goals are met, and adjust strategies on an ongoing basis, as necessary, and;
- Assign staff and resources based on the urgency and intensity of identified family needs and goals.

In implementing this section, a program must take into consideration any existing plans for the family made with other community agencies and availability of other community resources to address family needs, strengths, and goals, in order to avoid duplication of effort.

Family Partnership Process: Family Roadmap to Success

The Family Partnership Process will help program staff:

- Learn about families and their evolving strengths, challenges, and priorities
- Build trust to establish and maintain positive, goal-oriented relationships
- Engage families in effective goal-setting
- Gain sufficient and meaningful information to complete a Family Partnership Plan

This process is initiated during the Family Meeting where Family Support Worker (FSW) learn and gather information about the family's needs and begin to build trust. It is during this meeting FSW work to identify family's aspirations, hopes, and dreams for themselves and their families through active listening. This meeting is held with families once they are identified to participate in the program.

Another opportunity for families to identify interest, needs, and aspirations is by working with their FSW to complete the family assessment known as the Family Roadmap to Success. Introduced for the 2021-2022 school year, this Roadmap allows families to identify their strengths as well as identify areas of needed support through guided scenarios and statements.

The Family Roadmap to Success, under normal circumstances, is conducted face to face in the family's home or at an agreed upon location. However, due to the need for social distancing in response to CoVID, FSW have also completed the assessment virtually and through the phone. Convenience and comfort for the family is always taken into consideration when meeting with the family via phone, virtual, or face to face.

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The FSW will have to learn and gather information about the family is through a Family Assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to identify a family's strengths and resources as well as identify a family's need for resources and supports. During these assessments FSWs learn:

- what matters to families and what they hope to accomplish,
- which services their family members already receive from other agencies, and
- what child and family goals they are already working on.

It is the role of the FSW to provide support to the family for them to reach their goal(s). FSWs work with families to identify goal based on parent's interest and may yield one of the 7 family outcomes from the Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework. When relationships are strong, families and children are more likely to achieve these outcomes. Together, the FSW and family discuss the skills and strengths that each can contribute toward the family's goals and consider the stressors that may impact the process. These discussions help them work together to develop strategies and action steps for family members to reach their goals.