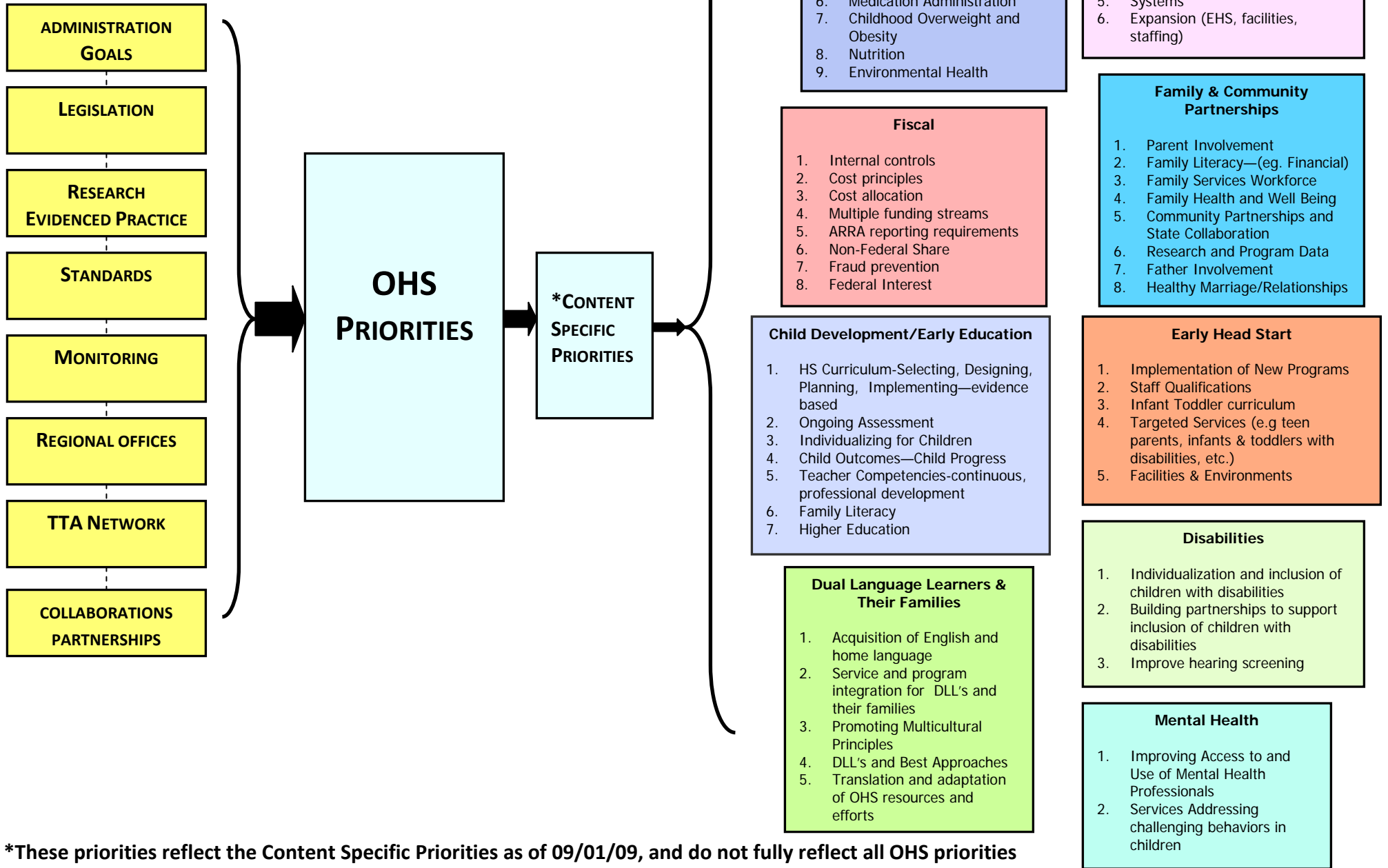


DEVELOPING PRIORITIES



*These priorities reflect the Content Specific Priorities as of 09/01/09, and do not fully reflect all OHS priorities

Head Start Collaboration Offices Priority Areas

Head Start Collaboration Offices are charged with facilitating and enhancing coordination and collaboration between Head Start agencies and other state and local entities that provide comprehensive services designed to benefit low-income children from birth to age five and their families, as well as pregnant women. As members of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care, Head Start State Collaboration Directors have a unique role in assisting the efforts of Head Start agencies to engage in effective coordination and collaboration. To achieve the goals of the Collaboration Office, Collaboration Directors:

- Participate in statewide interagency planning and information/resource sharing efforts addressing services for young children and their families, and promote local Head Start agency representation in these efforts;
- Promote Head Start agencies' participation in statewide efforts to enhance or improve early identification and interventions relating to issues of concern for young children and their families;
- Promote ongoing communication between service providers working with Head Start grantees and other stakeholders to leverage their common interests in addressing the needs of Head Start children and families;
- Facilitate Head Start agencies' access to and utilization of publicly funded services, so that Head Start children and families can more efficiently and effectively secure needed services; and
- Convene stakeholder groups for information sharing, planning, and other collaborative activities to strengthen family and community environments, and reduce the negative impact of high-risk behaviors on children's development.

Head Start Collaboration Directors focus on ten specific service or priority areas – Health Care services, Homelessness, Welfare, Child Welfare, Child Care Services, Family Literacy, Disabilities, Community Services, Education, and Professional Development.

Health Services:

To promote access to timely **Health Care** services, including general health, oral health, and mental health services.

According to the Head Start Act of 2007 Section 642B Head Start Collaboration Offices are to

- Promote better linkages between Head Start agencies and other...agencies that provide health, mental health or family services...
- Enhance collaboration and coordination of Head Start services by Head Start agencies with other entities providing...health care...including agencies and State officials responsible for [these] services.

Activities of collaboration offices include, but are not limited to:

- Partnering with State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems and other state wide health initiatives to ensure that low income children receive comprehensive health services
- Facilitating the expansion of integrated nutrition and physical activity programs such as I am Moving, I am Learning, into curriculum of Head Start grantees and daily experiences for children birth to five.
- Playing an active role in implementing the Office of Head Start-American Association of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) Dental Homes Initiative, by serving on State leadership teams to ensure all Head Start children have a dental home
- Assisting Head Start agencies to ensure all eligible children receive the full range of Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services through Federally Qualified Health Centers, community clinics and private providers, and that all necessary follow up is completed for physical, mental and oral health
- Enhancing state partnerships with Health Services Advisory Committees to ensure all children are enrolled in health insurance, including Medicaid and CHIP,
- Facilitating the development of contingency plans within Head Start agencies for coping with sick staff and sick children to avoid the spread of illnesses
- Promoting partnerships to support the unique needs of Early Head Start grantees through linkages with community services such as WIC, La Leche society, Public Health Nursing and others
- Assisting Head Start agencies that serve pregnant women to identify community resources that provide prenatal and post-partum education and care, including mental health services
- Linking Head Start grantees with state and regional representatives of the EPA to promote joint initiatives such as “Care for Their Air” and “Play it Safe” to protect children from environmental hazards such as second and third hand smoke, asthma triggers, pests, and pesticides

Homelessness:

To support access to services for children and families experiencing **Homelessness** through coordination with state and local education agencies implementing McKinney-Vento requirements.

According to the Head Start Act of 2007 Section 642B Head Start Collaboration Offices are to

- Enhance collaboration and coordination of Head Start services by Head Start agencies with other entities providing...services relating to...homeless children...and State officials responsible for [these] services.

Activities of collaboration offices include, but are not limited to:

- Improving coordination between Head Start agencies and State and Local McKinney-Vento coordinators or directors
- Promoting partnerships that support Head Start agencies in addressing barriers to serving children and families experiencing homelessness
- Enabling partnerships between Head Start agencies and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuums of Care networks and State Homeless Education Directors
- Assisting Head Start state-based Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) providers to coordinate with needs of Head Start agencies and community for strong practices in serving children and families experiencing homelessness

Welfare

To encourage and support collaboration with **Welfare** systems (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program).

According to the Head Start Act of 2007 Section 642B Head Start Collaboration Offices are to

- Enhance collaboration and coordination of Head Start services by Head Start agencies with other entities providing...welfare...and State officials responsible for [these] services.

Activities of collaboration offices include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting Head Start grantees to secure TANF information needed to identify and recruit children eligible for Head Start
- Assisting Head Start grantees in developing partnerships with welfare agencies and employers to provide appropriate training and employment opportunities for Head Start parents
- Facilitating collaboration between Head Start Agencies and the welfare system to provide flexibility for Head Start parents as they move along the continuum of education, training and part time employment to full time employment
- Developing partnerships to broaden the availability of training for Head Start family services staff and entry level training for welfare recipients who wish to enter the early childhood field

Child Welfare

To improve or enhance coordination with **Child Welfare** services, including foster care and child protective services.

According to the Head Start Act of 2007 Section 642B Head Start Collaboration Offices are to

- Enhance collaboration and coordination of Head Start services by Head Start agencies with other entities providing...child protective services...services provided for children in foster care and children referred to Head Start programs by child welfare agencies and State officials responsible for [these] services.
- Enable the Head Start agencies to better conduct outreach to eligible families.

Activities of collaboration offices include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting Head Start grantees to improve local coordination with child welfare
- Helping Head Start grantees to align child welfare parent involvement goals and Head Start parent engagement goals, including self-sufficiency
- Partnering with the Children's Bureau's *Improving Child Welfare Outcomes through Systems of Care* grant initiative
- Linking Head Start grantees to local agencies implementing the "Strengthening Families" initiative
- Facilitating linkages between home visiting programs, such as nurse-family partnerships, and home based Early Head Start and Head Start programs

Child Care

To coordinate activities with state child care agencies and child care resource and referral agencies to strengthen partnerships between local Head Start and child care programs to make full-working-day and full-calendar-year **Child Care** services available to children.

According to the Head Start Act of 2007 Section 642B Head Start Collaboration Offices are to

- Assist Head Start agencies to coordinate activities with the State agency responsible for administering the State program carried out under the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et sq.) and entities providing resource and referral services in the State, to make full-working-day and full calendar year services available to children.
- Enable the Head Start agencies to better conduct outreach to eligible families.

Activities of collaboration offices include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting collaboration between state education agencies and state child care licensing agencies to improve the standards of quality and reduce regulatory barriers facing early childhood programs
- Building linkages between Head Start, local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and the State Child Care Agency (CCDBG)
- Ensuring collaboration between Head Start agencies and local child care programs to ensure that quality full-working day and full calendar year services are available to children and families who need them
- Facilitating Head Start involvement in child care quality improvement and licensing initiatives
- Collaborating with State Child Care Administrator to build capacity in child care agencies for quality infant toddler care through linkages with Head Start professional development and curriculum development

Family Literacy

To promote and support state and local connections that enhance **Family Literacy**.

According to the Head Start Act of 2007 Section 642B Head Start Collaboration Offices are to

- Enhance collaboration and coordination of Head Start services by Head Start agencies with other entities providing...family literacy services [and] reading readiness programs (including such programs offered by public and school libraries)...and State officials responsible for [these] services.

Activities of collaboration offices include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting understanding of the Head Start definition of family literacy among Head Start grantees
- Coordinating financial literacy opportunities using existing community or state resources and programs, including the adult education system and/or local financial institutions
- Working with the state adult education system to improve coordination at the local level
- Facilitating collaboration with State and donors agencies to provide Head Start children with books to own and use at home
- Ensuring Head Start representation in state-wide initiatives to develop or improve literacy curriculums for caregivers
- Assisting with coordination of state-based Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) system initiatives to increase family literacy with needs of Head Start grantees

Disabilities

To increase opportunities for children with **Disabilities**.

According to the Head Start Act of 2007 Section 642B Head Start Collaboration Offices are to

- Promote better linkages between Head Start agencies and...other child or family supportive services, such as services provided under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Enhance collaboration and coordination of Head Start services by Head Start agencies with other entities providing...services relating to children with disabilities... and State officials responsible for [these] services.

Activities of collaboration offices include, but are not limited to:

- Working with the State Interagency Coordinating Councils established under IDEA to promote policies and practices that support the effective inclusion of Head Start and Early Head Start children with disabilities
- Collaborating with organizations in Head Start's training and technical assistance network to coordinate activities and resources for children with disabilities and their families
- Facilitating the inclusion of Head Start representatives, including representatives from American Indian and Migrant grantees operating in their States, on Statewide interagency activities addressing the needs of low-income children with disabilities
- Encouraging the coordination and participation of local Head Start personnel in the State's child identification efforts ("Child Find") and other early identification activities
- Facilitating coordination between Head Start/EHS grantees and the Local Education Agencies and Part C/Early Identification for approaches that promote the timely referral, evaluation, and transition of children from Head Start into elementary school in accordance with Federal, State and local requirements

Community Services

To promote and support full utilization of relevant **Community Services**, including public schools, public libraries, museums, and law enforcement agencies, and promote effective outreach efforts to Head Start-eligible families.

According to the Head Start Act of 2007 Section 642B Head Start Collaboration Offices are to

- Enhance collaboration and coordination of Head Start services by Head Start agencies with other entities providing early childhood education and development (such as services offered by museums...public and school libraries), agencies providing community service activities, and the State officials responsible for these services.
 - These efforts also contribute to the education priority area
- Promote partnerships between Head Start agencies and other organizations in order to promote inclusion of more books in Head Start classrooms.
- Identify other resources and organizations, both public and private, for the provision on in-kind services to Head Start agencies in the state.
- Promote partnerships between Head Start agencies, State and Local governments, and the private sector to help ensure that children from low-income families, who are in Head Start programs or preschool age, are receiving comprehensive services to prepare the children for elementary school.
- Enable the Head Start agencies to better conduct outreach to eligible families.
- Promote partnerships between Head Start agencies, schools, law enforcement, relevant community based organizations, and substance abuse and mental health agencies to strengthen family and community environments and to reduce the impact on child development of substance abuse, child abuse, domestic violence and other high risk behaviors that compromise healthy development.
 - These efforts also contribute to the health and child welfare priority areas

Activities of collaboration offices include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting Head Start agencies in developing public/private partnerships to increase and coordinate resources for Head Start and other early childhood programs
- Serving as the State point of contact for agencies and planners seeking information about Head Start policies, procedures and services
- Assisting Head Start agencies to establish partnerships with local service agencies and volunteer organizations that build or increase their capacity

- Providing for Head Start representation on State and local planning and policy boards related to services for low-income families
- Through the regional offices, assisting Head Start grantees in planning and coordinating with relevant local entities for emergency preparedness
- Increasing the capacity of Head Start grantees to collaborate with local museums, public & school libraries, and other resources to provide learning experiences for Head Start children
- Promoting partnerships between Head Start agencies and law enforcement, relevant community based organizations, and substance abuse & mental health agencies to reduce the impact on child development of substance abuse, child abuse, and domestic violence
- Expanding the capacity of Head Start agencies to collaborate with private and public entities to effectively recruit eligible children and families to Head Start, such as linking Head Start programs with state Public Radio initiatives to reach low income families

Education

Facilitate alignment of curricula and assessments used by Head Start agencies with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework and, as appropriate, state early learning standards and Kindergarten curricula. Promote and support appropriate curricula for limited English children and expand partnerships with Local Education Agencies that include partnerships with per-kindergarten and transition to kindergarten.

According to the Head Start Act of 2007 Section 642B Head Start Collaboration Offices are to

- Promote alignment of curricula used by Head Start programs and continuity of services with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework, and as appropriate, State early learning standards.
- Enhance collaboration and coordination of Head Start services by Head Start agencies with other agencies providing early childhood education and development...and State officials responsible for [these] services.
- Promote partnerships between Head Start agencies, State and local governments, and the private sector to help ensure that children for low-income families, who are in Head Start programs or are preschool age, are receiving comprehensive services to prepare the children for elementary school.
- Consult with the chief State school officer and local educational agencies and providers of early childhood education and development at both the state and local levels.

Activities of collaboration offices include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitating linkages between Head Start agencies and state-based Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) providers to align curricula and assessments used by Head Start agencies with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework and state early learning standards
- Consulting with chief State school officer to foster understanding of Head Start comprehensive services, alignment of curricula and assessments, and promote partnerships between Head Start and Educational Agencies
- Fostering working relationships between Head Start grantees, local education agencies and child care programs to promote alignment of curricula and shared assessments, establish comprehensive transition policies and practices, and meet the needs of children who are disabled or experiencing homeless
- Promoting Head Start – pre-k partnerships, and facilitating the development of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), to increase the number of low-income children who receive Head Start comprehensive services and family support
- Enhancing the capacity of Head Start Agencies to provide services to dual language learners and their families

- Enhancing linkages that support Head Start grantees as they move to evidence based curricula and assessments, and to implement early math, literacy, and science throughout the curriculum
- Increasing the capacity of Head Start grantees to collaborate with local museums, public & school libraries, and other resources to provide learning experiences for Head Start children

Professional Development

To support Head Start grantees in better accessing **Professional Development** opportunities for staff to meet the Head Start degree requirements through sequences of training and coursework that lead to associate, bachelors and advanced degrees.

According to the Head Start Act of 2007 Section 642B Head Start Collaboration Offices are to

- Enable Head Start agencies to better access professional development opportunities for Head Start staff (...) to make higher education more accessible to Head Start staff.

Activities of collaboration offices include, but are not limited to:

- Working with Head Start agencies to enable them to meet the Head Start degree requirements described in sections 645A(h) and 648A(a)(2)(A) for teachers, assistant teachers, education managers and other staff
- Assisting Head Start agencies in connecting with higher education agencies that provide distance learning programs
- As a member of the State Advisory Council, supporting the Council's efforts to promote and enhance state level planning, policy development and implementation in creating a state wide professional development system that includes inter-institutional articulation agreements and credit for life experiences
- Assisting Head Start agencies in partnering with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal colleges and Universities and Hispanic/Latino Service institutions that are engaged in the Higher Education Initiative to increase the number of Head Start Classroom staff that meet Head Start's degree requirements