



# Office of Head Start

## Life Safety Code Information

November 19, 2014

*The Life Safety Code targeted questions included in this document are for data collection purposes in center-based head start facilities.*

*Life Safety Codes* (LSCs) are a series of codes developed by the National Fire Prevention Association to assess facility safety across the country. The OHS has included a few of these LSCs in the Environmental Health and Safety Protocol. LSCs are a set of standards widely recognized as benchmarks for facility safety. Ensuring that Head Start children, families, and staff are safe is a top priority for the Office of Head Start (the OHS). The data collected from these questions will provide the OHS with information and photographs of every center-based facility that provides Head Start services. The OHS will use the data to understand how safe its Head Start facilities are throughout the country.

## **Life Safety Code Targeted Questions (Center Based Only)**

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*Used to collect data to inform the Office of Head Start of the quality of safety in grantee center-based facilities*

### **Center-based Center Life Safety Code Targeted Questions**

- ▶ Does the grantee ensure that occupancy loads are calculated and posted for assembly spaces?
- ▶ Does the center have an occupancy load of more than 50 persons?
- ▶ Does the center have an occupancy load of more than 100 persons?
- ▶ Does the building have an automatic fire-sprinkler system?
- ▶ Do children or staff occupy the basement level of the building?
- ▶ Are ceilings a minimum of 7 feet, 6 inches, with no projections protruding so as to provide less than 6 feet, 8 inches?
- ▶ Are all doors used for entry and exit between 32 and 48 inches wide?
- ▶ Are all corridors that lead to an exit a minimum of 36 inches wide?
- ▶ Is every exit door equipped with panic hardware?
- ▶ Do any exit doors have more than one locking or latching device?
- ▶ Does each floor of the center have a minimum of two exits that lead to the outside?
- ▶ Does the center have any dead-end corridors that exceed 20 feet in length?
- ▶ Does the center have any dead-end corridors that exceed 50 feet in length?
- ▶ Are all stairways a minimum of 44 inches wide? *Applies only to buildings with more than 50 occupants*
- ▶ Are all stairways a minimum of 36 inches wide? *Applies only to buildings with fewer than 50 occupants*
- ▶ Is there a fire-alarm system that includes all of the following?

- Manual means of initiation (e.g., pull boxes)
  - Connection to the smoke-detector system
  - Use of both audio and visual signals when activated
  - Automatic alert to fire department
- ▶ Was the fire-alarm system tested within the last 12 months?

***Center-based Classroom Life Safety Code Targeted Questions***

- ▶ Are all classroom doors within 100 feet of the nearest exit?
- ▶ Are all classroom doors within 50 feet of any point in the classroom?
- ▶ Does the classroom have an exit that leads directly to the outside?
- ▶ Does the classroom have at least one outside window for emergency rescue or ventilation?
- ▶ Are all draperies, curtains, and other similar furnishings and decorations flame resistant?
- ▶ Are exit signs illuminated?