

EARLY HEAD START TIP SHEET

No. 12, Part 1

Early Head Start (EHS)–Child Care (CC) Partnerships, November 2014

What are the benefits to the community of providing strong Early Head Start (EHS)–Child Care (CC) partnerships?

Response:

Partnerships among community-based child care organizations are one of the most promising practices emerging in the early childhood field. Through thoughtful partnerships, organizations combine often fragmented funds and piecemeal services to better provide for low-income children and their families. Partnering between EHS and community child care programs and providers is a viable option for providing full-day/full-year child care and comprehensive child development services. The Office of Head Start encourages EHS/Head Start (HS) programs to explore and initiate community collaboration and CC partnerships. Successful partnerships support

- high-quality care for all low-income infants and toddlers in participating child care programs;
- comprehensive services for children and families;
- enhanced quality of services and professional development; and
- coordinated service delivery built into the community's infrastructure.

These partnerships are intended to increase the quality of child care for all infants and toddlers in partnering programs through implementing the Head Start Program Performance Standards throughout the day. The partnership ensures that comprehensive services to children and their families such as physical and mental health support; curriculum, screening, and ongoing assessment; nutritious snacks, meals and nutrition education; and family support and engagement extend to all children and families in the partner program.

Requirements for ongoing professional development and credentialing for staff, such as the Child Development Associate (CDA) for family child care or infant/toddler settings ensure that all staff have beyond-the-basic child development knowledge and skills to provide high quality services to all infants and toddlers enrolled.

All partners benefit from such partnership arrangements: children, families, providers, and the community. As services are supported in child care/EHS partnerships using funding from EHS and Child Care Development Funds (CCDF), quality of care improves not only for enrolled EHS children, but for all of the children served by those providers. In a very real way, this approach realizes the Head Start ideal of supporting community growth and development, beyond the individual children served by the EHS program.

Questions to Consider for Planning and Programming:

- What does the EHS program’s community assessment say about the availability of or the need for EHS–CC partnerships?
- How is the community assessment used when developing partnerships?
- Who needs to be at the table to plan and organize your initiative?
- Who are your partners?
- How are parents involved in the decision-making about your child care partnerships?

Performance Standards, Title 45, Code of Federal Regulations:

- 1304.40(b)(1) Grantee and delegate agencies must work collaboratively with all participating parents to identify and continually access, either directly or through referrals, services and resources that are responsive to each family’s interests and goals.
- 1304.41(a)(1) Grantee and delegate agencies must take an active role in community planning to encourage strong communication, cooperation, and the sharing of information among agencies and their community partners and to improve the delivery of services to children and families in accordance with the agency’s confidentiality policies. Documentation must be maintained to reflect the level of effort undertaken to establish community partnerships.
- 1304.41(a)(2)(viii) Grantee and delegate agencies must take affirmative steps to establish ongoing collaborative relationships with community organizations to promote the access of children and families to community services that are responsive to their needs, and to ensure that Early Head Start programs respond to community needs, including providers of child care services.

Resources:

Colvard, Jamie, and Stephanie Schmit. *Expanding Access to Early Head Start: State Initiatives for Infants & Toddlers at Risk*. Washington, DC: CLASP and ZERO TO THREE, 2012.

<http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/ehsinitiatives.pdf>.

Del Grosso, Patricia, Lauren Akers, and Luke Heinkel. *Building Partnerships Between Early Head Start Grantees and Family Child Care Providers: Lessons from the Early Head Start for Family Child Care Project*. Final Report. Princeton, NJ: Mathematica Policy Research, 2011.

http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/earlychildhood/ehs_fcc_evalrpt.pdf.

Early Head Start National Resource Center. “EHS-Child Care Partnerships.” Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/Office of Head Start. Last updated June 5, 2013. Accessed February 21, 2014.

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/poi/ehs-ccp/ehs.html>.

Ewen, Danielle, and Elizabeth Hoffman. *Head Start and Child Care Partnerships Policy Brief*. Biloxi, MS: Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative, 2009.

http://mschildcare.org/CLASP_System_Alignment.pdf.

Mayoral, Maria V. *Building Partnerships between Early Head Start Grantees and Child Care Providers. Fact Sheet*. Washington, DC: ZERO TO THREE, 2013.

<http://rally4babies.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/EHS-Child-Care-Partnerships-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

Office of Child Care. *Cross System Collaboration: A Fresh Look at Working Together: Increasing Access to Quality Early Learning – State Examples*. Washington, DC: U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families, 2012.
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/crosssystemcollaboration.pdf>.

Office of Child Care. Technical Assistance Network. “Early Head Start–Child Care Partnerships.” Accessed March 26, 2014. <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/early-head-start-child-care-partnerships>.

Office of Head Start. *101: Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families, 2014. Accessed March 26, 2014 <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/grants/ehs-ccp/docs/ehs-ccp-101.pdf>.

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This Tip Sheet is not a regulatory document. Its intent is to provide a basis for dialogue, clarification, and problem solving among Office of Head Start, Regional Offices, TA consultants, and grantees. If you need further clarification on Head Start Policies and regulations, please contact your Regional Program Specialist.