

Questions from Family Child Care Webinar December 6, 2012

1. How does this program differ from what was being done 10 years ago where EHS was implemented in homes and linked to a child care program for some of the additional services?

Answer: This information is specifically about the Family Child Care Program Option in Early Head Start. Family Child Care became an official option based on the Final Rule on Family Child Care Option, February, 2008. Here is a link describing the final rule:

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/Family%20and%20Community%20Partnerships/Community%20Partnership/Program%20Options/AdditionofFamil.htm>

2. How are programs managing Family Meetings (Parent Meetings) within Family Child Care? If there is only one or two EHS children in a given Family Child Care it can be difficult to set it up as a "meeting" and we have found that families don't want to go to a different location than their FCC home for a meeting.

Answer: This is something we can check with programs about. I know one program that has several providers in the same area, and they have a parent meeting. Also, the Child Development Specialist in each program with a Family Child Care Option, usually works with 6 providers, and she can help organize Family Meetings. Let us know if you want to connect with an existing program.

3. What kinds of challenges have programs run into with facilities up keep with subcontractors?

Answer: One of the benefits of contracting with providers is that all Head Start requirements can be listed in the contract. Then both the provider and the program are aware of what conditions must be met, both programmatically, and with facilities. Also, the Child Development Specialist works with providers on the environment in the home.

4. Has OHS ever considered allowing EHS Home Visiting staff work in-home with family child care providers?

Answer: The Home-Based Program Option is a different option than the Family Child Care Option. The Home Based Option is defined as 1306.3(j) *Home-based program option means Head Start services provided to children, primarily in the child's home, through intensive work with the child's parents and family as the primary factor in the growth and development of the child.*

The requirement of the Home Based option is working in the child's home with the parents and family as the most important teacher in the child's life.

5. If our state implements a head Start "Look Alike" option, what supports will be available to us in implementing this EHS/FCC option? Our state has funded Parent/Child Centers for many years (since 1979) which have almost exactly the same goals, performance standards, and support systems as EHS. They serve a huge number of families who are pregnant or have young children. They typically also house our Children's Integrated Services Programs (assistance with Early Intervention, Infant and Family Mental Health, Education for parents, Health, nutrition, and job training. they are, however, open to all families regardless of income, who are seeking support. We have a great EHS-FCC project in the Northeast Kingdom of the state. We are wondering about ways to expand that statewide.

Answer: We would encourage you to continue to expand services through family child care. It is an option that parents of infants and toddlers really want. I would contact local EHS programs to see how you might partner with them. It is a strong message from both the Office of Head Start and the Office of Child Care that communities work together around families. Training and other professional development opportunities should be for all providers in a community whenever possible. Sharing resources should also be a community wide endeavor.

6. I am concerned about using federal Early Head Start and child care funds in my program because I don't want to seem like I am double dipping. What suggestions do you have?**Answer:** Programs can layer both federal Early Head Start and child care funds together to expand access to many opportunities and resources as long as both funds are not used to pay for the same service. EHS programs using the FCC option can use child care funds to pay for children's part- or full-day care and EHS funds can be layered on top to pay the provider for EHS requirements such as comprehensive services. Funds

from EHS and child care can also be used together to maximize professional development opportunities, such as layering EHS funds for training and technical assistance with child care funds for training to meet the CDA requirements for EGS.

Learn more from the Tip Sheet – Making Program Regulations Work for You at:

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/Early%20Head%20Start/ehs-fcc/tip-sheets-providers.pdf>