

Head Start and Other Federal Regulations

Organizations and governing bodies that accept Head Start grants agree to follow all the federal laws, regulations, and policies that govern Head Start programs. Listed here are some of the Head Start and other federal laws and regulations that affect the operations of your program.

Governing body and Tribal Council members are not expected to commit this information to memory. However, when resolving issues related to your Head Start program, be sure you have access to someone who knows this information. They should be able to let you know when a law or regulation applies to the situation you are seeking to resolve.

Head Start Act of 2007: The *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*, commonly referred to the Head Start Act, is the most recent federal legislation authorizing and funding the Head Start program.

Head Start Program Performance Standards: These federal regulations describe in detail how Head Start programs should be managed and run. 45 CFR Parts 1301 through 1311 contain significant implications for the operation of Head Start programs.

Information Memorandum (IM): A communication from the Office of Head Start (OHS) that provides policy information to Head Start and Early Head Start grantees and delegate agencies.

Program Instruction (PI): A communication from OHS that addresses a specific requirement Head Start grantees and delegate agencies must implement in their programs.

Policy Clarification: A communication from OHS that assists governing body and Tribal Council members in better understanding requirements and making decisions pertaining to their Head Start program.

Other federal requirements that apply to your organizational structure include laws and regulations that impact hiring, employee relations and protections, tax reporting, civil rights, and more.