

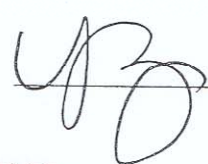


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Office of Head Start
8th Floor Portal Building
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20024

To: Board Chairperson
Mr. Ramon Garcia
Board Chairperson
Hidalgo County Head Start Program
1901 W. State Hwy. 107
McAllen, TX 78504

From: Responsible HHS Official
Ms. Yvette Sanchez Fuentes
Director, Office of Head Start

 9/20/11
Date

Overview of Findings

From 8/8/2011 to 8/10/2011, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted an on-site monitoring follow-up review of the Hidalgo County Head Start program to determine whether the previously identified findings had been corrected. We wish to thank the governing body, Policy Council, staff, and parents of your program for their cooperation and assistance during the review. This Head Start Review Report has been issued to Mr. Ramon Garcia, Board Chairperson, as legal notice to your agency of the results of the on-site program review.

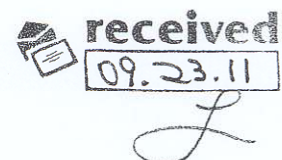
Based on the information gathered during our review, we have closed the previously identified findings. Accordingly, no corrective action is required at this time. If you have questions about this report, please contact your ACF Regional Office.

Distribution of the Head Start Review Report

Copies of this report will be distributed to the following recipients:
Ms. Kimberly Chalk, Regional Program Manager
Ms. Janie Solis, Policy Council Chairperson
Ms. Teresa Flores, CEO/Executive Director/Head Start Director

Overview Information

Review Type: *Follow Up*
Organization: *Hidalgo County Head Start Program*
Program Type: *Head Start*
Team Leader: *Mr. Alfredo Huerta*
Funded Enrollment HS: *3570*
Funded Enrollment EHS: *Not Applicable*



Status of Previously Identified Areas of Noncompliance

| Date of Review in which Noncompliance was identified | Applicable Standards | Program Type | Status |
|--|----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Jan 30, 2011</i> | <i>640(d)(1)</i> | <i>HS</i> | <i>Corrected</i> |

Head Start Act

Sec. 640. Allotment of Funds; Limitations on Assistance

(d)

(1) The Secretary shall establish policies and procedures to assure that, for fiscal year 2009 and thereafter, not less than 10 percent of the total number of children actually enrolled by each Head Start agency and each delegate agency will be children with disabilities who are determined to be eligible for special education and related services, or early intervention services, as appropriate, as determined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), by the State or local agency providing services under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.).

Triennial(1/30/2011)

The grantee did not ensure no less than 10 percent of the total number of children actually enrolled was children with disabilities determined eligible for Special Education and related services or Early Intervention services, as appropriate, as determined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by the State or local agency providing services under section 619 of IDEA. In an interview, the Family Services Director, who oversaw the Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance component of the program, stated the program did not currently enroll 10 percent children eligible for services by the Local Education Agencies (LEAs). She stated the grantee currently enrolled 129 children referred and found eligible--3.5 percent of the total enrollment of 3,690, 198 referred and in the evaluation process, another 30 referred and found ineligible for services, and an additional 75 whose parents signed a Refusal of Services statement.

The Family Services Director further stated the program applied for and received waivers of the requirement for the prior 2 program years. A review of a letter of request and justification for a waiver sent to the Regional Office on August 31, 2009 and a review of an August 24, 2010 letter from the Regional Office found the Regional Office granted retroactive approval of waivers for the program years August 18, 2008 through May 27, 2009 and August 17, 2009 through May 28, 2010. The Executive Director stated the program did not have a waiver for the current program year but had an improvement plan in place stating it would achieve 10 percent enrollment of children with disabilities. She further confirmed the program did not currently meet the required 10 percent.

The grantee did not ensure it enrolled no less than 10 percent children with disabilities and did not have a waiver of the requirement for the current program year; therefore, it was not in compliance with the regulation.

Follow Up - Corrected

The grantee obtained a waiver of the requirement to ensure no less than 10 percent of the total number of children actually enrolled was children with disabilities determined eligible for Special Education services. A review of the April 26, 2011 letter from the Office of Head Start found it approved the grantee's February 7, 2011 waiver request. The waiver was effective August 26, 2010 through May 25, 2011. In interviews, staff described efforts to meet the 10 percent requirement in the upcoming year, as well as a partnership with the local public schools.

The grantee obtained a waiver of the requirement to enroll 10 percent children with disabilities; therefore, it was in compliance with the regulation.

— END OF REPORT —