

Memorandum of Understanding Between
Hidalgo County Head Start Program
And
Texas Attorney General
2021-2023



The Hidalgo County Head

Start Program (HCHSP) and Texas Attorney General agree to establish a working and cooperative relationship between the parties in order to plan services appropriate for each agency's or program's clients. It is the objective of the **Hidalgo County Head Start Program** to collaborate with partners in our communities, in order to provide the highest level of services to children and families; to foster the development of a continuum of family centered services, and to advocate for a community that shares responsibility for the healthy development of children and families of all cultures.

The terms and conditions set forth in the following document shall constitute the entire Agreement between the **HCHSP and Texas Attorney General** may not be amended except by a written document signed by **HCHSP and Texas Attorney General**.

Texas Attorney General agrees:

- To educate parents on the child support services the agency offers.
- To assist parents in obtaining financial support for their children.
- To inform parents of their rights and responsibilities when applying for services.

Hidalgo County Head Start Program will:

- Provide a comprehensive pre-school program for economically disadvantage children, three to five years of age. The program gives priority to identify, recruit, and serve foster children, homeless children, and children with disabilities and their families. Services include health, mental health, nutrition, education, special services, social services, parent involvement, and transition services.
- Engage in an ongoing family partnership building and provide social service assistance when needed.
- Provide information and referrals to families regarding services of collaborating agency/program.
- Abide by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services final regulations pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
- Maintain the children's, families', and programmatic records in a manner that will assure the protection of the rights and privacy of parents, families, and staff. All **HCHSP** records, data, or information related to individual children, families, and staff will be treated as confidential. Release of information will take place only with clients' prior written consent and approval.
- Follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and HCHSP work safe plans due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Collaboration Efforts between Texas Attorney General and HCHSP:

- In the event that the receiving agency or program is unable to provide services to the client, it is agreed that alternate referrals will be provided as possible resources.
- The undersigned parties agree that they will try, when possible, to participate and collaborate in shared forums, networking meetings, and training sessions.

Termination:

Either party may terminate the Agreement, with or without cause, by giving ten (10) days written notice to the other.

Term:

The Term of this Memorandum of Understanding is for two years commencing **September 1, 2021** and ending **August 31, 2023**, unless earlier terminated as provided herein.

Governing Law:

This Memorandum of Understanding will be construed in accordance with the Laws of the State of Texas and is performable in Hidalgo County, Texas.

Consideration:

This Agreement is being made in consideration of the following: **Texas Attorney General** and **Hidalgo County Head Start Program** agree that there will be no financial exchange of monies or other compensation.

{Signature page to follow}

The below signed authorities agree to the statements in this document in order to develop a strong collaboration and an open communication system at all levels which will enable both **Texas Attorney General** and **HCHSP** to provide the children the best services available.

Texas Attorney General:

Guadalupe Leal, Regional Outreach Coordinator

Date

Hidalgo County Head Start Program

Richard F. Cortez

Honorable Richard Cortez
Hidalgo County Judge

Teresa Flores

Teresa Flores, Executive Director
Hidalgo County Head Start Program

Date *10/4/21*

Date *10-2-2021*



Attest: *[Signature]*
Antonio Cuervo, Jr.
Hidalgo County Clerk

Approved As To Form:

Ricardo González, P.C.
DBA, Oxford & González

By: *[Signature]*

Ricardo González

APPROVED BY
COMMISSIONERS COURT
ON: 9-21-21 MA