**Administration for Children and Families**

Office of Head Start

Head Start and/or Early Head Start Grantee - Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders Counties, Montana

HHS-2015-ACF-OHS-CH-R08-1015

Application Due Date: 07/13/2015

Head Start and/or Early Head Start Grantee - Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders Counties, Montana

HHS-2015-ACF-OHS-CH-R08-1015

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**Department of Health & Human Services**
**Administration for Children and Families**

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|---|---|
| **Program Office:** | Office of Head Start |
| **Funding Opportunity Title:** | Head Start and/or Early Head Start Grantee - Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders Counties, Montana |
| **Announcement Type:** | Initial |
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| **Due Date for Applications:** | **07/13/2015** |

## Executive Summary

***Notices:***

- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the entire funding opportunity announcement (FOA) carefully and observe the application formatting requirements listed in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission.* For more information on applying for grants, please visit "How to Apply for a Grant" on the ACF Grants Page at** http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto.

The Head Start program provides high-quality, comprehensive early education programming to low-income children and families so that children start school ready to succeed. In 2007, Congress enacted legislation that required, for the first time in the program's history, greater competition within communities for Head Start funding. The goal of the legislation and the subsequent regulations, which were effective on December 9, 2011, is to ensure that federal Head Start funding is directed to the organizations that are most capable of delivering high-quality early education that puts children on a pathway to improved outcomes, school success, and opportunity.

In some service areas, the Office of Head Start (OHS) is now offering applicants the opportunity to apply for funding to serve children from birth to age 5 and pregnant women in one application. This provides the opportunity to create a high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive services program with a particular emphasis on the transition from Early Head Start to Head Start or to another high-quality early education program. Applicants are strongly encouraged to bring new and innovative ideas that are evidence-based or evidence-informed to maximize the extent to which Early Head Start and Head Start, in collaboration with other partners and early childhood education providers, can prepare children and their families for school. Applicants are urged to explore synergies and partnerships with existing early childhood programs. This may include combining Head Start and Early Head Start funds with resources from other early childhood programs or funding streams, including state, local, and private sector funding for child care, pre-Kindergarten, and special education services.

The goal of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to ensure an equitable distribution of resources to meet the demonstrated community needs of children from birth to age 5, ensuring continuity of services and taking into account the availability of high-quality and comprehensive early childhood education opportunities (which may include public pre-Kindergarten programs for 4-year-olds). This single FOA solicits applications from public or private non-profit organizations, including faith-based organizations or for-profit organizations that seek to provide a high-quality, comprehensive birth-to-five program incorporating both Head Start and Early Head Start funding, or to provide services for Head Start

only or Early Head Start only, in a manner that ensures continuous services and seamless transitions for children and families residing in Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders Counties, Montana.

Through this FOA, interested applicants have an opportunity to consider proposing a comprehensive, seamless birth-to-five Head Start and Early Head Start program, including services for expectant families, through a coordinated application. The goal is to foster innovative and coordinated models that better integrate Head Start and Early Head Start programming and address community need. This FOA also provides applicants the opportunity to propose to reallocate funding between Head Start and Early Head Start based on both the needs in the community and the applicant's capacity and experience serving pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschool-age children. The Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project reports better outcomes for children and families when they enrolled into programs early in life and received the full spectrum of services until they aged out of the program. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is interested in applicants that can provide high-quality birth-to-five programs by providing both Head Start and Early Head Start services, as well as applications that can provide quality services in only one of the two programs.

Any applicant responding to this FOA will submit one application, whether the applicant is proposing to provide: 1) Head Start services only, 2) Early Head Start services only, or 3) both Head Start and Early Head Start services. Applicants proposing to serve pregnant women are expected to serve the newborn through the Early Head Start program. Applicants should thoughtfully consider their reason for deciding to apply to conduct a program to serve the proposed population, including the particular age group of children and, if applicable, pregnant women. This decision should be based on the needs of the community. Successful applicants will demonstrate capacity and experience serving the relevant target populations (i.e., pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschool-age children). Finally, applications submitted in response to this FOA must coordinate services within a community that support transitions for children and families, and at a minimum comply with 45 CFR § 1304.41 of the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Successful applicants will have a strong plan for transitioning children and families from Early Head Start into Head Start and other preschool programs, as well as transitioning children in Head Start to Kindergarten. ACF will evaluate the responses by applicant organizations based upon the review criteria in *Section V.1. Criteria.*

Funds in the amount of $2,610,491 annually will be available to provide Head Start and/or Early Head Start services to eligible children and their families in Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders Counties, Montana. This dollar amount includes base funding of $2,577,822 (for use in program operations, staffing, materials, equipment, facilities, etc.) and training and technical assistance (T/TA) funding of $32,669. The appropriate use of T/TA funds for the purposes of improving program quality and helping prepare children to succeed in school are described in Section 648 and Section 645A(g) of the Head Start Act.

The Head Start program is administered by ACF, an operating division (OPDIV) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). ACF intends to fund applications that demonstrate an organization's commitment and capacity to operate a Head Start and/or Early Head Start program that raises the quality of early care and education in the community and helps children start school ready to succeed. School readiness requires that children are cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally prepared to continue to make progress as they enter Kindergarten. Effective Head Start and Early Head Start programs help children develop in each of these areas. ACF is seeking applicants that are able to utilize the best evidence-based early education practices in their programs to support high-caliber classroom instruction, home visiting services, and effective family engagement and health promotion.

In addition to the Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. 9801 et seq., Head Start is governed by Program Performance Standards that define the scope of services necessary to support children's development and school readiness. These Program Performance Standards are found in 45 CFR Parts 1301-1310.

The evaluation criteria in this FOA are structured into two phases. Phase One is organized around six core

elements of an effective program that is focused on school readiness and ongoing academic success. They are as follows:

(1) Demonstration of Need for Child Development and Health Services: Location, Population, and Service Delivery Options;

(2) Achieving Early Learning and Development Outcomes to Promote School Readiness for Children;

(3) Past Performance;

(4) Staffing and Supporting a Strong Early Learning Workforce;

(5) Organizational Capacity and Governance; and

(6) Budget and Budget Justification.

Phase Two focuses on an organization's ability to effectively implement and oversee operations that comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. ACF is interested in awarding federal funds to entities that can demonstrate strong organizational capacity as supported by their internal fiscal systems.

**Public Comment**

ACF welcomes public comments from the community listed in this FOA. We are particularly interested in hearing from parents of children presently enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start, persons employed by such agencies, local government officials, and other representatives of the community to be served. The intent of the public comment is to inform ACF about the needs of the service area and any pertinent information commenters may wish to provide about potential applicants. Comments should be sent to the OHS Operations Center at DRS@headstartinfo.org.

## I. Program Description

**Statutory Authority**

The Head Start program is authorized by the Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9831 et seq.

**Description**

**Program Background and Purpose**

The Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide grants to public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to predominately economically disadvantaged children and families. Head Start's primary purpose is to prepare children to be ready for school. In FY 1995, the Early Head Start program was established to serve pregnant women and children from birth to 3 years of age in recognition of the mounting evidence that the earliest years matter a great deal to children's growth and development. Since its beginning in 1965, Head Start has served more than 31 million children and their families. In FY 2013, Head Start served 903,679 children and families; of these, nearly 107,000 participants were served in Early Head Start programs. There are approximately 1,700 Head Start grantees, including 920 grantees providing Early Head Start.

Head Start and Early Head Start programs must provide directly or through referral, early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services that will enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of participating children in the key domains of physical development and health, social, and emotional development, approaches to learning, language and literacy, and cognition and general knowledge. Programs support parent engagement in their roles as their children's teachers and advocates, and help parents move toward self-sufficiency. Head Start promotes school readiness by addressing the key domains of language, literacy, mathematics, science, and social and

emotional development.

Head Start and Early Head Start programs emphasize family engagement because of the critical role that parents play in supporting their children's healthy development and school success. Effective programs engage parents in their children's development and learning, and help parents make progress toward their own educational, literacy, and employment goals. Programs also emphasize the significant involvement of parents in the administration of local Head Start and Early Head Start programs. These leadership opportunities are designed to strengthen skills that parents can apply to improving their family's economic well-being and to becoming more effective advocates for their children.

**Program Approach**

Historically, many communities have provided Head Start services based on a part-day, part-year, or other model. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use this opportunity to design a model of services and program options that best meet the needs of children and families over time, including helping to meet the child care needs of parents who are either working, in school, or in job training. In many cases, this may include providing services across the full working day and the full year, often through collaborations with local child care providers and through utilization of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and other funding sources.

Given the need for continuity of care to support the rapid development in the earliest years, the Office of Head Start (OHS) expects that applicants intending to serve pregnant women, infants, and toddlers to propose serving children in a full-year model for no less than 48 weeks of actual service per year. OHS expects that applicants requesting to implement a full-year model will propose per-child costs that will, in most circumstances, be higher than the costs needed to provide part-year services. It is also expected that applicants, based on community and family need, will select the program option(s) that best meet the changing needs of families over the time they are in the program.

**Program Model**

ACF is interested in new and innovative models that provide continuous and seamless services for pregnant women, children from birth to age 5, and their families. These models should be designed to be responsive to community needs, be evidence-based or evidence-informed, and maximize the extent to which the Early Head Start and Head Start resources, in collaboration with other partners and early childhood education providers, can prepare children and their families for school.

**Program Activities**

Head Start and/or Early Head Start programs will:

- Provide high-quality early education services that promote the physical, health, social, and emotional development approaches to learning, language and literacy, and cognition and general knowledge of young children during the early years;
- Provide services through appropriate program options: center-based, home-based, family child care, combination option, or with the approval of OHS, a locally designed option;
- Ensure continuity of services and smooth transitions between program options when the needs of families change, such as when children are enrolled in full-day options with child care subsidies and families lose subsidies due to job loss;
- Assist enrolled pregnant women to access comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care through referrals;
- Provide pregnant women and other family members, as appropriate, with prenatal education on fetal development;

- Provide information on the benefits of breast-feeding to all pregnant and nursing mothers;
- Provide arrangements for nursing mothers who choose to breast-feed in center-based programs;
- Provide services in a culturally and linguistically responsive manner to support the home environment of the child;
- Provide early opportunities for children to grow and develop in warm, nurturing, and inclusive environments;
- Recruit, train, and supervise high-quality staff to ensure the kinds of warm and continuous relationships and stimulating interactions between caregivers and children that are crucial to learning and development;
- Provide professional development plans for each staff member to ensure that each staff person maintains qualifications for his/her position, including meeting all requirements for staff working with the particular age group;
- Ensure that the level of services provided to families responds to their needs and circumstances, including appropriate screening for all children and referral for children with documented behavioral and/or developmental problems;
- Ensure that all enrolled participants receive health, mental health, nutritional, and oral health screenings, services, and follow-up evaluation and treatment.
- Ensure that services provided meet the needs of children with disabilities and their families, including procedures to identify such children and plans to coordinate with programs providing services as described in Section 645A(b)(11) of the Head Start Act;
- Ensure parent involvement in policy and decision making;
- Provide comprehensive health and mental health services for children and pregnant women, including helping the family to identify and access a medical home to ensure ongoing care;
- Provide parent education that supports healthy parent and child relationships, including working with fathers;
- Ensure formal linkages with other agencies in the community providing services to pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers;
- Support transition planning with families that ensures each pregnant woman and child experiences smooth transitions into Early Head Start, and from Early Head Start to Head Start or other preschool programs, and from Head Start to Kindergarten.

Head Start and Early Head Start are designed to increase the number of low-income children receiving high-quality, comprehensive early education services that help facilitate healthy development, including physical and social/emotional development, and prepare them for school success. To meet this goal, it is critical that funds awarded through this FOA do not supplant existing services. Thus, an entity receiving a Head Start and/or Early Head Start grant must: 1) expand the number of children it is serving relative to the number it would serve in the absence of the grant; and/or 2) improve the services provided to children it would serve in the absence of the grant (i.e., enhancing quality standards or extending the day). Because the cost of serving infants and toddlers is typically higher than the cost associated with serving preschool-aged children, increasing the relative number of Early Head Start slots may result in fewer overall children being served.

Grantees must, unless a waiver is granted, contribute 20 percent of the total cost of the program from non-federal funds. A waiver may be granted for any of the grounds listed in Section 640(b) of the Head Start Act. No more than 15 percent of total costs may be used for program administration. An HHS official may grant a waiver of the 15 percent limitation on allowable development and administration costs for a Head Start or Early Head Start program approving a higher percentage for a specific period of time not to exceed 12 months (45 CFR § 1301.32).

OHS is responsible for monitoring the quality of Head Start and/or Early Head Start program services and the grantee's compliance with federal and other applicable requirements. The federal government uses several mechanisms to conduct its oversight. Most notably, each grantee is subject to onsite monitoring reviews. These reviews can either be announced or unannounced. During onsite visits, all aspects of a

grantee's program are reviewed, including compliance with health and safety requirements, compliance with rules related to children's eligibility for the program, and compliance with financial management requirements. For grantees operating a Head Start program, the review also includes the administration of the CLASS instrument, an observation-based evaluation of teacher-child interaction associated with child outcomes. New grantees are reviewed at the end of their first year of operation based on the authority in Section 641A(c) of the Head Start Act.

As a condition of acceptance of an award under this FOA, all grantees are required to participate fully in ACF-sponsored evaluations and adhere to all evaluation protocols established by ACF to be carried out by its designee contractors.

**Eligible Participants**

Head Start serves children when they are at least 3 years old by the date used to determine eligibility for public school in the community where the Head Start program is located. Early Head Start programs enroll pregnant women and infants and toddlers from birth to age 3. Families must either have incomes below the poverty line or be eligible for public assistance in order to be income eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start programs. In addition, homeless children and children in foster care are categorically eligible for services. Children are selected for enrollment based on age and income eligibility and relative level of need with regard to other criteria that are identified within each community (45 CFR § 1305.6).

Head Start regulations permit up to 10 percent of enrolled participants to be from families that do not meet these low-income criteria. A provision in the Head Start Act, as discussed in Section 645(a)(1)(B), which is applicable to both Head Start and Early Head Start, allows grantees that can ensure that all eligible children, including homeless children, are served, to enroll up to an additional 35 percent of its participants from families with incomes greater than or equal to 100 percent, but less than 130 percent, of the poverty line. It is not expected, however, given the relatively low Early Head Start participation rates, that the provisions of Section 645(a)(1)(B) regarding serving up to 35 percent of a program's enrollment from families with incomes up to 130 percent of the poverty line would apply for this announcement.

Additionally, programs must ensure that at least 10 percent of the total number of children enrolled by the Head Start or Early Head Start agency and delegates are children with disabilities unless a waiver is granted.

Applicants may elect to propose program models that promote socioeconomic diversity within classrooms. Federal Head Start funds must be used to serve eligible children as described in this section. Additional children who are not income eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start can be served so long as their participation is supported through other funding sources, including child care subsidies, public school pre-K allocations, parent paid tuition, or other sources. Such program designs may be beneficial in promoting socioeconomic diversity within classrooms. All costs must be allocated to appropriate funding sources in compliance with federal requirements.

**Head Start and/or Early Head Start: Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders Counties, Montana**

It is important to note that the eligibility requirements are different for Head Start and Early Head Start. For Head Start, **local** public or private non-profit organizations, including community-based and faith-based organizations or for-profit agencies **in the community** are eligible to apply. Applicants must demonstrate they meet the statutory requirement for designation as a Head Start and/or Early Head Start agency as defined in the Head Start Act at sections 641(a)(1) and 645A(d). For Early Head Start, all public or private non-profit organizations, including community-based and faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies are eligible to apply. Entities operating Head Start programs are eligible to operate Early Head Start programs.

For designation as a Head Start agency, ACF will consider all "qualified applicants in such community" as required by Section 641(d) where the applicant demonstrates it has an organizational base within the community to be served. This could be established by virtue of the applicant being a provider of services in the community or having a clear relationship to the community as evidenced, for example, by board representation from the community or by evidence of the support of community leaders, including, but not limited to mayors; city council members; school principals; presidents of local chambers of commerce; county government officials; social service provider organizations; community organizations representing low-income, minority, or other relevant sectors of the community; and child care providers and organizations.

ACF solicits applications from the organizations described in *Section III.1. Eligible Applicants* that wish to compete for funds that are available to provide Head Start and/or Early Head Start services to children and families residing in Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders Counties, Montana**.**

Funds in the amount of $2,610,491 annually will be available to provide Head Start and/or Early Head Start program services to eligible children and their families in Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders Counties, Montana. This dollar amount includes base funding of $2,577,822 (for use in program operations, staff, materials, equipment, facilities, etc.) and training and technical assistance (T/TA) funding of $32,669. The appropriate use of T/TA funds for the purposes of improving program quality and helping prepare children to succeed in school are described in Section 648 of the Head Start Act.

### Mortgages and Long-Term Lease Agreements

If so directed by OHS, the newly funded grantee must accept assignment of any existing mortgages, long-term lease agreements, or security agreements (in the case of a modular unit) on properties subject to a federal interest occupied by the current grantee.

### Applicant Support Website

OHS strongly encourages entities interested in applying for this funding opportunity to visit http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/grants. This interactive applicant support website offers a robust collection of resources intended to support organizations in gaining a deeper understanding of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs, the FOA, and evaluation criteria. A profile of current grantee services, equipment, and inventory can also be found through this website. Head Start is a federal program with important statutory requirements and regulations that grantees must meet. At the applicant support website, applicants can familiarize themselves with these requirements. Finally, the website includes helpful tips for applying via www.Grants.gov. All interested applicants are reminded to frequently refer back to this FOA when preparing their application.

Prospective applicants will also have the opportunity to send questions to OHS by e-mail through the applicant support website listed above. A summary of the questions and OHS' responses will be posted for public view on this website as soon as they become available.

Interested applicants may also contact the OHS Operations Center at (888) 242-0684 or TTY: 711 if they have additional questions.

## II. Federal Award Information

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|---|---|
| Funding Instrument Type: | Grant |
| Estimated Total Funding: | $2,610,491 |

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|---|---|
| Expected Number of Awards: | 2 |
| Award Ceiling: | $2,610,491 Per Budget Period |
| Award Floor: | $500,000 Per Budget Period |
| Average Projected Award Amount: | $0 Per Budget Period |
| Anticipated Project Start Date: | 09/30/2015 |

**Length of Project Periods:**

60-month project with five 12-month budget periods

**Additional Information on Awards**

**Awards made under this announcement are subject to the availability of federal funds.**

**Expected Number of Awards**

Please note that the expected number of awards represents an estimated **range** of awards that OHS might make as the result of this funding opportunity announcement. If the expected number of awards is 1, applicants are expected to submit proposals for the entire service area. If the expected number of awards is 2 or greater, applicants may submit 1 application to apply to serve either the entire service area, or a portion of the service area.

**Award Ceiling Disqualification**

Applications requesting an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period or per project period, as stated in this section, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period. Please see *Section III.3. Application Disqualification Factors.*

Inclusion of start-up/pre-award costs in the application submission is not subject to the "Award Ceiling Disqualification." that is explained in *Section III.3. Other, Disqualification Factors*. However, if an applicant does not segregate start-up/pre-award costs from the base funding award request (SF-424, line 18a, Federal), the "Award Ceiling Disqualification" will apply.

Whether applications are proposing a comprehensive birth-to-five program incorporating both Head Start and Early Head Start funding, or proposing to provide services for Head Start only, or Early Head Start only, **applicants may request funding only up to the Award Ceiling** listed in this section, which is inclusive of base and training and technical assistance funding, but not inclusive of start-up/pre-award costs, if requested.

**Note:** For those programs that require matching or cost sharing, grantees will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period or by project period for fully funded awards, even if the projected commitment exceeds the required amount of match or cost share. **A grantee's failure to provide the required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds.**

Applicants must submit an annual (12-month) budget. The funding amount listed on Line 18a (Federal) of the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, must reflect a full 12 months of funding. The federal funding amounts reflected on the SF-424 and in the applicant's budget submission must match.

The Designation Renewal System (DRS), as established in 45 CFR Part 1307 - Policies and Procedures for Designation Renewal of Head Start and Early Head Start Grantees, went into effect on December 9, 2011.

This regulation requires all Head Start and Early Head Start grants be transitioned from indefinite project periods with 12-month budget periods to 5-year grants (60 months with five 12-month budget periods).

Funding provided for the operation of the program is referred to as "base operating funds" or "base funding"; funding provided for training and technical assistance is referred to as "T/TA."

**Start-up/Pre-Award Costs**

Pre-award costs, including start-up costs, may be requested by an applicant in addition to the base operating and T/TA grant funds. If requested, applicants must provide a separate budget for start-up/pre-award costs, in addition to a 12-month budget for the base funding awarded, within the page limitations stated for the Budget and Budget Justification in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission*. If awarded, start-up/pre-award costs would apply to costs incurred up to 90 days prior to the award start date. Examples of start-up activities are facility renovations, purchase of classroom supplies, building purchase, licensing, background checks, etc.

Approval of start-up/pre-award costs is **not** guaranteed; they are negotiated at the time of award and are based on reasonableness, necessity, and the availability of funds. The incurrence of start-up/pre-award costs in anticipation of an award is done at the applicant's own risk and imposes no obligation on ACF either to make an award or to increase the amount of the approved budget if an award is made for less than the amount anticipated and is inadequate to cover the start-up/pre-award costs incurred. It is possible that ACF may honor start-up/pre-award costs by reducing the base amount of the award to include these costs.

**Estimates for start-up/pre-award costs must be separately identified on the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, and in the Budget and Budget Justification section of the application.** The start-up/pre-award funding amount must **not** be included in the funding amount listed on Line 18a (Federal) of the SF-424. The funding amount listed in Line 18a of the SF-424 must represent only the total annual federal funding the applicant is requesting for base and T/TA funding. Start-up/pre-award costs, if requested, should be included only on the Other Estimated Funding line (Line 18e) and clearly labeled as "Start-up/Pre-Award Costs" in a separate line item on the SF-424A, Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs. Additionally, if applicants are requesting start-up/pre-award costs, these costs must be easily identified as a separate budget in the Budget and Budget Justification section of the application.

Inclusion of start-up/pre-award costs in the application submission is not subject to the "Award Ceiling Disqualification" that is explained in *Section II. Award Information* and in *Section III.3. Other, Disqualification Factors*. However, if an applicant does not segregate start-up/pre-award costs from the base funding award request (SF-424, line 18a, Federal), the "Award Ceiling Disqualification" will apply.

**Note:** Costs incurred for grant application preparation are not considered an approved use of pre-award costs and may not be included in the project budget or budget justification.

**Grant Awards**

Due to the availability of current year appropriated funds, the successful applicant(s) under this FOA *may* receive grant awards with a 5-year project period (60 months) that include 6 budget periods. In cases where a full 12 months of funding is not available at the time of the grant award, the first and sixth budget periods within the 5-year project period will be pro-rated, so that when combined, they equal 12 months of funding. The second, third, fourth, and fifth budget periods would be a full 12 months.

Please see *Section IV.5 Funding Restrictions* for limitations on the use of federal funds awarded under this announcement.

## III. Eligibility Information

## III.1. Eligible Applicants

**It is important to note that the eligibility requirements are different for Head Start and Early Head Start.**

**Entities applying for Head Start only - OR - both Head Start and Early Head Start:**

Eligible applicants are limited to local public or private non-profit agencies, including community-based and faith-based organizations, or local for-profit agencies, pursuant to Section 641(a)(1) of the Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9836(a)(1) in the service area, that can provide Head Start services to children and families residing in Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders Counties, Montana . Applicants must demonstrate they meet the statutory requirement for designation as a Head Start and/or Early Head Start agency as defined in the Head Start Act.

For designation as a Head Start agency, ACF will consider all "qualified applicants in such community" as required by Section 641(d) where the applicant demonstrates it has an organizational base within the community to be served. This could be established by virtue of the applicant being a provider of services in the community or having a clear relationship to the community as evidenced, for example, by board representation from the community or by evidence of the support of community leaders, including, but not limited to mayors; city council members; school principals; presidents of local chambers of commerce; county government officials; social service provider organizations; community organizations representing low-income, minority, or other relevant sectors of the community; and child care providers and organizations.

**Entities applying for Early Head Start only:**

Eligible applicants are any public or private non-profit agencies, including community-based and faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies pursuant to Section 645A(d) of the Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9840A(d).

Eligibility is limited to public or private non-profit organizations, including faith-based organizations or for-profit organizations in the service area that can provide Early Head Start services to children and families residing in Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders Counties, Montana.

Entities operating Head Start programs are eligible to operate Early Head Start programs.

**For ALL applicants:**

In accordance with 45 CFR § 1307.5, grantees terminated for cause by ACF within 5 years prior to the posting date of this FOA are ineligible for competition.

A Head Start or Early Head Start agency is ineligible for competition when it has had a "denial of refunding" (45 CFR § 1303.2) within 5 years prior to the posting date of this FOA.

Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors.*

See "Legal Status of Applicant Entity" in *Section IV.2* for documentation required to support eligibility.

## III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement: Yes

Grantees are required to meet a non-federal share of the project cost, in accordance with **Section 640(b) of the Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9835 (b).**

Grantees must provide at least **20** percent of the total approved cost of the project. The total approved cost of the project is the sum of the ACF (federal) share and the non-federal share. The non-federal share may be met by cash or in-kind contributions, although applicants are encouraged to meet their match requirements through cash contributions. For example, in order to meet the match requirements, a project requesting **$2,610,491.00** in ACF (federal) funds must provide a non-federal share of the approved total project cost of at least **$652,623.00** , which is **20** percent of total approved project cost of **$3,263,114.00** .

**Note:** Grantees will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications, even when the projected non-federal commitment exceeds the required amount of matching or cost share. A grantee's failure to provide the required matching amount will result in the disallowance of federal funds. However, lack of supporting documentation at the time of application submission will not exclude the application from competitive review.

**Waivers**

To receive a waiver or a reduction in the required non-federal share, the applicant must provide ACF with written documentation of need. This request must identify which of the five waiver criteria found at Section 640(b)(1-5) of the Head Start Act it believes to be relevant. It may be submitted with the grant proposal document or during the budget negotiation period. Approval of the waiver request cannot be assumed by the applicant without written notice from ACF. Waiver requests will not result in a deduction of points in the evaluation of the application. In light of the current economic climate, ACF will be receptive to reasonable arguments based on the grounds recognized in the statute for such waivers.

**Please note: The following matching requirement waiver allowed by 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d) is only available to territorial governmental agencies that are applicants or grantees under Early Head Start in the Insular Areas. Head Start grantees in the Insular Areas are not eligible for this waiver.**

**Matching Waiver Pursuant to 48 U.S.C. § 1469a(d)**

Matching requirements (including in-kind contributions) of less than $200,000 (up to $199,999) are waived under grants made to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (other than those consolidated under other provisions of 48 U.S.C. 1469) pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d). This waiver applies whether the matching required under the grant equals or exceeds $200,000.

Non-federal resources will be evaluated under criteria found in *Section V.1.* of this announcement.

## III.3. Other

**DUNS Number and System for Award Management Eligibility Requirements (SAM.gov)**
All applicants must have a DUNS Number (http:// fedgov. dnb.com /webform) and an active registration with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) on the System for Award Management (SAM.gov, www.sam.gov).

Obtaining a DUNS Number may take 1 to 2 days.

All applicants are required to maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If a grant is awarded, registration at SAM.gov must be active throughout the life of the award.

**Plan ahead. Allow up to 10 business days after you submit your registration for it to become active in SAM and an additional 24 hours before that registration information is available in other government systems, i.e. Grants.gov.**

This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application through Grants.gov or prevent the award of a grant. Applicants should maintain documentation (with dates) of your efforts to register for, or renew a registration, at SAM. User Guides are available under the "Help" tab at https://www.sam.gov.

HHS requires all entities that plan to apply for, and ultimately receive, federal grant funds from any HHS Agency, or receive subawards directly from recipients of those grant funds to:

- Be registered in the SAM prior to submitting an application or plan;
- Maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration by an OPDIV; and
- Provide its active DUNS number in each application or plan it submits to the OPDIV.

ACF is prohibited from making an award until an applicant has complied with these requirements. At the time an award is ready to be made, if the intended recipient has not complied with these requirements, ACF:

- May determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award; and
- May use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

**Application Disqualification Factors**

Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

**Award Ceiling Disqualification**

Applications that request an award amount exceeding the *Award Ceiling* per budget period, or per project period, as stated in *Section II. Award Information,* will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period.

Inclusion of start-up/pre-award costs in the application submission is not subject to the "Award Ceiling Disqualification," as explained in *Section II. Award Information*. (See directions for listing these costs in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission, Budget and Budget Justification*.) **However, if an applicant does not segregate start-up/pre-award costs (SF-424 18e, Other) from the base funding award request (SF-424, line 18a, Federal), the "Award Ceiling Disqualification" will apply.**

**Application Submission Disqualifications**

ACF requires electronic submission of applications atwww.Grants.gov**.** Applicants that do not have an Internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents to the Internet may contact ACF for an exemption that will allow these applicants to submit an application in paper format. Information on requesting an exemption from electronic application submission is found in *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options.*

**The deadline for electronic application submission is 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times.*** Electronic applications submitted to www.Grants.gov after 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date, as indicated by a dated and time-stamped email from www.Grants.gov, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. That is, applications submitted to www.Grants.gov, on or after 12:00 a.m., ET, on the day after the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Applications submitted to www.Grants.gov at any time during the open application period, and prior to the due date and time, which fail the Grants.gov validation check, will not be received at or acknowledged by ACF.

Each time an application is submitted via www.Grants.gov, the application will receive a new date and time-stamp email. Only those applications with on-time date and time stamps that result in a validated application, which is transmitted to ACF, will be acknowledged.

**The deadline for receipt of paper applications is 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times.*** Paper applications received after 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. **Paper applications received from applicants that have not received approval of an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.** See "Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission" in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission.*

Applications that are disqualified under any of these circumstances will receive written notification by letter or by email.

**Additional Application Disqualifications**

In accordance with 45 CFR Part 1307 titled "Policies and Procedures for Designation Renewal of Head Start and Early Head Start Grantees," grantees terminated for cause by ACF within 5 years prior to the posting date of this FOA will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

A Head Start or Early Head Start agency that has had a "denial of refunding," defined in 45 CFR § 1303.2, within 5 years prior to the posting date of this FOA will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

## IV. Application and Submission Information

### IV.1. Address to Request Application Package

Office of Head Start
OHS Operations Center
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (888) 242-0684

**Electronic Application Submission:**
The electronic application submission package is available in the FOA's listing at www.Grants.gov.

**Applications in Paper Format:**
For applicants that have received an exemption to submit applications in paper format, Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available in the Application Package available in the FOA's Grants.gov synopsis at www.Grants.gov. They are also available at http:// www.grants.gov/web/ grants/forms/sf-424- family.html. See *Section IV.2.Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission* if applicants do not have an Internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents (files) to www.Grants.gov.

**Standard Forms that are compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d):**
Available at the Grants.gov Forms Repository website at http:// www.grants.gov/web/ grants/forms/sf-424- family.html.

**Federal Relay Service:**

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service for assistance at 1-800-877-8339 (**TTY** - Text Telephone or **ASCII** - American Standard Code For Information Interchange).

## Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

**Formatting the Application Submission**
**For All Applications:**

**Applicants are limited to submitting only one application per service area. Only the last on-time submitted electronic application will be accepted for review. Applicants submitting paper format applications are limited to submitting only one application package. (Please see *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.)**

**Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)**
The individual(s), named by the applicant/recipient organization, who is authorized to act for the applicant/recipient and to assume the obligations imposed by the Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to grant applications or awards.

Each applicant must designate an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). An AOR is named by the applicant, and is authorized to act for the applicant, to assume the obligations imposed by the Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to the grant application or awards.

AOR Authorization is part of the registration process at www.Grants.gov where the AOR will create a short profile and obtain a username and password from the Grants.gov Credential Provider. AORs will only be authorized for the DUNS number registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR).

**Point of Contact**
In addition to the AOR, a point of contact on matters involving the application must also be identified. The point of contact, known as the Project Director or Principal Investigator, should not be identical to the person identified as the AOR. The point of contact must be available to answer any questions pertaining to the application.

**Application Checklist**
Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* of this announcement.

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION IN ORDER FOR THE FULL APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED FOR COMPETITIVE REVIEW. Failing to adhere to the page limitations and formatting restrictions may result in part of the application being excluded from competitive review.**

**Page Limitations**

**Applications are limited to a total of 266 pages, which are distributed across four files. The combined number of pages in all files must not exceed 266 pages. ACF will remove all pages over the 266-page limit and exclude those pages from competitive review.**

All applicants must follow the instructions provided in this section. Be sure to print all attachments (components) on paper and count the number of pages before submitting the application. Keep the printed copy as a hard copy of the application for your files.

**Page limitations are identical for electronically-submitted and paper format application submissions.**

**Observe Formatting Restrictions**
All applicants **must** follow the formatting instructions provided in this section. If any portion of the application exceeds the cited page limitation for that section, **the extra pages will be removed and will not be considered for competitive review**. In addition, if the Project Description/Phase One or Phase Two narrative is single-spaced and/or one-and-a-half spaced (in whole or in part), because the requirement for those sections is that pages be double-spaced, the total number of these lines will be doubled. This page calculation will also be applied if any non-numerical charts, tables, or other inserts are single-spaced. This adjustment may result in an increased total number of pages, which may cause the application to be over the page limit. All pages in excess of the required page limitations after calculation of correct formatting will be removed so that the application conforms to the cited double-spaced page limitation.
.
**All narrative documents** (e.g., Abstract, Project Description/Phase One, Budget Justification, Phase Two) **must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman.** The formula for page removal when font size is less than 12-point entails calculating the number of characters an applicant could use if following directions versus what the applicant submitted. For example, an application using Times New Roman with 1-inch margins, single-spaced in 11-point font would have an additional 26 lines or 1500 character advantage over an applicant who submitted using Times New Roman with 1-inch margins, double-spaced in 12-point font. All tables, charts, and inserts must also be in 12-point Times New Roman. If any non-numerical table, chart, or insert is in text smaller than 12-point Times New Roman, the page calculation will be applied. If the resulting page length (after the required font size is calculated) is over the stated page limit for any section, ACF will remove all pages over the page limit from the end of the section and exclude those pages from competitive review.

**Formatting for Appendices (Including Phase Two)**
If the font size of pages in the appendices or the financial statements, notes, audit reports, or other supporting documents in Phase Two is not readable, **all unreadable pages will be removed from the application and will not be reviewed.** For example, pages that contain blurred text or text that is too small to read comfortably will be removed. In addition, applicants are prohibited from submitting 2 or more pages per page in reduced size onto 1 page. If an application contains two or more reduced-sized pages on a single sheet, ACF will count each reduced-sized page as if it were a full-sized page. For example, two pages printed onto 1 sheet of paper would be counted as 2 pages. This calculation may cause the application to be over the page limit, which would result in the removal of all pages from the end of Fourth Electronic File (Phase Two).

**Application Package Components**
Applications must be divided into the sections listed in the table. (The order in which components are submitted electronically via www.Grants.gov or included in a paper application may not be the same as listed in the component table.)

**Page limitations in this table are suggested. Only the 266-page limitation for the full application will be applied.**

**Contents of the application must include the following components, meeting page limits and formatting specifications. A description of the components that are required in each electronic file follow this table in *Electronic Application Submission via www.Grants.gov*:**

| Application Package Components | Suggested Page Limitations | Formatting Requirements |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Required Standard Forms (SFs) and/or OMB-approved Forms** | No page limitations. | See ***Note***. |
| **Required Certifications and Assurances** | No page limitations. | |
| **Proof of Legal Status/Proof of Non-Profit Status** | No page limitations. | |
| **Project Summary/Abstract** | Limited to one single-spaced page. | Single-spaced,12-point Times New Roman. |
| **Project Description/Phase One Narrative** | Limited to 100 double-spaced pages. | Double-spaced,12-point Times New Roman. Only numerical budget tables included as part of the application narrative may be single-spaced. |
| **Budget and Budget Justification** | Limited to 15 single-spaced pages. | Single-spaced,12-point Times New Roman. |
| **Appendices** | Limited to 100 pages. | Documents must be readable and adhere to the formatting requirements specified in this section. |
| **Phase Two Narrative, Financial Statements and Notes, and Audit Reports** | The Narrative is limited to 50 pages.<br>Financial Statements and Notes, and Audit Reports do not have page limitations. | Only the Narrative is suggested to be 50 pages. Financial Statements and Notes and Audit Reports are not subject to a page limitation.<br>The Narrative must be double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman. |

***Note:* Please do not attach additional documents to the SF-424 at Question 14 and/or after Question 15. Instead of providing a separate response to Question 14, all applicants are** required to submit the S**tandard** F**orm** for Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL). In the SF-P/PSL, applicants may cite their primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites. Documents submitted as attachments to the SF-424 will be removed from the application and will not be reviewed.

**ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION via www.Grants.gov:**

**Notice: The Administration for Children and Families has implemented required electronic application submission at *www.Grants.gov*. Applicants are now required to submit their applications electronically unless they have requested and received an exemption that will allow application submission in paper format. *See Section IV.2. Application Submission Options.***

Electronic applications will only be accepted at www.Grants.gov. ACF will not accept applications submitted via email or via facsimile. Only applications, which pass the Grants.gov validation check, will be acknowledged.

**Please read this section carefully before beginning application submission.** It is mandatory to follow the instructions provided in this section to ensure that your application can be printed efficiently and consistently so that no pages are excluded from competitive review.

**Copies Required**

**Each applicant is required to upload a single complete copy of the application package in only four electronic files, excluding Standard Forms, OMB-approved forms, and assurances. No more than four files will be accepted for the review. Application files submitted in addition to the four files will be removed. Standard Forms and OMB-approved forms are not be considered to be additional files.** Applicants submitting electronic applications need not provide additional copies of their application package.

**NOTE:** Applications submitted at www.Grants.gov will undergo a validation check. **The validation check can affect whether the application is accepted for review. Applications that fail the www.Grants.gov validation check will not be transmitted to ACF.** If the application fails the validation check and is not re-submitted by 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date, and passes the next validation check, it will not be transmitted to ACF and is disqualified from competitive review.

**Signatures**

Follow the AOR Authorization and E-Biz POC instructions provided at www.Grants.gov.

**Required OMB-Approved and Standard Forms (SFs)**

Standard Forms (SFs) and OMB-approved forms, such as the SF-424 application and budget forms and the SF-P/PSL (Project/Performance Site Location), are uploaded separately at Grants.gov. See *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* for the listing of required Standard Forms, OMB-approved forms, and required assurances and certifications.

**Upload Requirements**

ACF strongly recommends that electronic applications be uploaded as Portable Document Files (PDFs). Details on the content of each of the four files, as well as page limitations, are listed later in this section.

To adhere to the four-file requirement, applicants may need to convert and/or merge documents together using a PDF converter software. Many recent versions of Microsoft Office include the ability to save documents to the PDF format without need of additional software. Applicants using the Adobe Professional software suite will be able to merge these documents together. ACF recommends merging documents electronically rather than scanning multiple documents into one document manually, as scanned documents may have reduced clarity and readability.

However, ACF understands that all applicants may not have access to this software. Grants.gov offers a listing of several free PDF conversion programs. These programs can be found at http://www.grants.gov /web/grants/support/technical-support /software/pdf-conversion-software.html. Free PDF software, available on this page, will allow users to convert and merge their PDF documents. As an example, ACF is providing written instructions for downloading and a video howing how to use one type of free software listed at Grants.gov at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto#chapter-7 under "How to Apply for a Grant/Submit an Application" at the bottom of the page. [ACF does not endorse any of the software listed on Grants.gov, and applicants are not required to use a specific type of PDF conversion software to submit an application.]

For any systems issues experienced with Grants.gov or with SAM.gov, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues" document for complete guidance at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto#chapter-7 under "How to Apply for a Grant/Submit an Application."

**Application Package Components**
Application files must be divided into the sections listed in the tables below. **Applicants must submit exactly four electronic files as described by file.**

**FIRST ELECTRONIC FILE**

Components must be in the following order within the electronic file. This file should be uploaded to the "Project Narrative File(s)" section of the Application Package. The file name must include "PhaseOne."

| Components | Suggested Page Limitations |
|---|---|
| **Project Summary/Abstract** | Limited to one single-spaced page. |
| **Project Description/Phase One Narrative** | **Limited to 100 double-spaced pages, except the Table of Contents, which may be single-spaced.** Only *numerical* budget tables included as part of the application narrative may be single-spaced. Any non-numerical tables, charts, or inserts must be double-spaced and in 12-point font. |

The Project Description/Phase One section of the application narrative should be submitted in the following order:

- Table of Contents (single-spaced)
- Demonstration of Need for Child Development and Health Services: Location, Population, and Service Delivery Options
- Achieving Early Learning and Development Outcomes to Promote School Readiness for Children
- Past Performance
- Staffing and Supporting a Strong Early Learning Workforce
- Organizational Capacity and Governance

**SECOND ELECTRONIC FILE**

This file should be uploaded to the "Budget Narrative File(s)" section of the Application Package and must include "Budget" in the file name

| Component | Suggested Page Limitations |
|---|---|
| **Budget and Budget Justification** | **Limited to 15 single-spaced pages.** |

**THIRD ELECTRONIC FILE**

This file should be uploaded to the "Other Attachment File(s)" section of the Application Package and must include "Appendices" in the file name.

| Component | Suggested Page Limitations |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| **Appendices** | **Limited to 100 pages**.<br>Include the signed Absence of Non-Compete Agreement Assurance in this section. |

Appendices must include resumes, letters of support, organizational charts, and other supporting documents.

**FOURTH ELECTRONIC FILE**

This file should be uploaded to the "Other Attachment File(s)" section of the Application Package and must include "PhaseTwo" in the file name.

| Component | Suggested Page Limitations |
|---|---|
| **Phase Two Narrative, must be clearly labeled as "Phase Two"** | **Phase Two Narrative is limited to 50 pages**. The Narrative must be double-spaced. |
| **Financial Statements and Notes, and Audit Reports** | Financial Statements and Notes, and Audit Reports are **exempt** from the page limit. |

With the exception of the required Standard Forms (SFs), all application materials must be formatted so that they will print out onto 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1-inch margins. **All pages of the application component, i.e., Project Description, Budget Justification, Appendices, must be sequentially numbered.** Applicants should print all attachments on paper and count the number of pages before submitting the application. Applicants should keep a hard copy of the submitted application package for their files.

**Accepted Font Styles:**
Applicants must use 12-point font in Times New Roman (TNR).

**Applicants must follow the instructions provided in this section:**

**File Naming**

**Carefully observe the file naming conventions required by www.Grants.gov. Limit file names to 50 characters (characters and spaces).** Special characters that are allowed under Grants.gov's naming conventions, and are accommodated by ACF's systems, are listed in the instructions available in the Download Application Package at Grants.gov. Please also see http://www.grants.gov /web/grants/support/technical-support /troubleshooting/restricting-special-characters.html.

**Use only file formats supported by ACF:**
It is critical that applicants only submit application components using the supported file formats listed here. **Documents in file formats that are not supported by ACF will be removed from the application and will not be used in the competitive review.** This may make the application incomplete and ACF will not make any awards based on an incomplete application.

**ACF supports the following file formats:**

- Adobe PDF – Portable Document Format (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)

- Image Formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

**Do not encrypt or password-protect the electronic application files!**
If ACF cannot access submitted electronic files because they have been encrypted or are password protected, the affected file will be removed from the application and will not be used in the competitive review. This may make the application incomplete and ACF will not make any awards based on an incomplete application.

**PAPER FORMAT APPLICATIONS:**

**The following requirements are only applicable to applications submitted in paper format. Applicants must receive an exemption from ACF in order for applications submitted in paper format to be accepted. See *Section III.3.Application Disqualification Factors*.** See *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission* later in this section under *Application Submission Options*.

The application must be submitted in the following order and is limited to 266 pages with the except of Standard Forms, OMB-approved forms, certifications and assurances:

| Components | Suggested Page Limitations |
|---|---|
| **Required Standard Forms (SFs) and/or OMB-approved Forms** | No page limitations. |
| **Required Certifications and Assurances** | No page limitations. |
| **Proof of Legal Status/Proof of Non-Profit Status** | No page limitations. |
| **Project Summary/Abstract** | Limited to one single-spaced page. |
| **Project Description/Phase One Narrative** | Limited to 100 double-spaced pages, except the Table of Contents, which may be single-spaced. |
| **Budget and Budget Justification** | Limited to 15 single-spaced pages. |
| **Appendices** | Limited to 100 pages. Include the signed Absence of Non-Compete Agreement Assurance in this section. |
| **Phase Two Narrative, Financial Statements and Notes, and Audit Reports – must be clearly labeled as "Phase Two"** | Limited to 50 pages. Narrative portion must be double-spaced.<br>Financial Statements and Notes, and Audit Reports are **exempt** from the page limit. |

The Project Description/Phase One section of the application narrative must be submitted in the following order:

- Table of Contents (single-spaced)
- Demonstration of Need for Child Development and Health Services

- Achieving Early Learning and Development Outcomes to Promote School Readiness for Children
- Past Performance
- Staffing and Supporting a Strong Early Learning Workforce
- Organizational Capacity and Governance

Appendices may include resumes, letters of support, organizational charts, financial statements, signed Absence of Non-Compete Agreement Assurance, and other supporting documents.

The Phase Two narrative must be submitted in the following order:

- Internal Control Compliance and Ethical Values
- Accounting Policies and Procedures
- Accounting System
- Audit reports, financial statements and notes

Only *numerical* budget tables included as part of the Phase One or Phase Two application narrative may be single-spaced. Any non-numerical tables, charts, or other inserts must be double-spaced and in 12-point Times New Roman.

**Copies Required**
Applicants must provide one original and two copies of all application materials when submitting an application in paper format.

**Signatures**
An original signature of the AOR is required only on the original copy of paper application submissions. A point of contact on matters involving the application must also be identified on the SF-424 at item 8f. The point of contact, known as the Project Director or Principal Investigator, should not be identical to the person identified as the AOR.

**Format Requirements for Paper Applications**
Applicants submitting applications in paper format must follow the instructions provided in this section.

All application materials must be submitted on 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1-inch margins. **All pages of the paper application submission must be sequentially numbered. Application materials must be printed on one side only of each page so that they may be easily reproduced**. If two-sided pages are submitted, only the "front" page will be used.

Because each application will be duplicated, do not use or include separate covers, binders, clips, tabs, plastic inserts, maps, brochures, or any other items that cannot be processed easily on a photocopy machine with an automatic feed. Do not bind, clip, staple, or fasten in any way separate subsections of the application, including supporting documentation. Use a clip (not a staple) to securely bind the application together. Applicants are advised that the copies of the application submitted, not the original, will be reproduced by the Federal government for review. Application materials must be one-sided for duplication purposes.

**Accepted Font Styles:**
Applicants must use 12-point font in Times New Roman (TNR) for all application narratives.

**Packaging the Application:**
All copies of a mailed or hand-delivered paper application must be submitted in a single package. The package must be clearly labeled for the specific funding opportunity it is addressing.

**Addresses for Submission of Paper Applications**
See *Section IV.6. Other Submission Requirements* for addresses for paper application submissions.

**Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications**

**Applicants seeking grant or cooperative agreement awards under this announcement must submit the listed Standard Forms (SFs), assurances, and certifications with the application.** All required Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available in the Application Package posted for this funding opportunity at www.grants.gov.

Other versions of required Standard Forms, assurances,and certifications are available at Grants.gov http: // www.grants.gov / web / grants / forms / sf-424- family.html.

| Forms / Assurances / Certifications | Submission Requirement | Notes / Description |
|---|---|---|
| SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL) | Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date. | Required for all applications. In the SF-P/PSL, applicants may cite their primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites. As a Standard Form (SF), this form is not included in the application's page limitation. |
| Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form) | Submission required of all applicants with the application package. If it is not submitted with the application package, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant. | Submission of the certification is required for all applicants. |
| SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities | If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application. If it is not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant. | If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the applicant shall complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. |
| Assurance: Absence of Non-compete Agreement | Submission is required with the application package for all applicants wishing to receive bonus points. Signed assurance must be submitted by the application | Applicants that wish to receive the bonus points must include in their applications the following signed statement, "On behalf of (organization), I, (name), attest that (organization) does not have a |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | due date. The format for the assurance is available in the *Appendix* at the end of this funding opportunity announcement. See *Section V.1. Criteria* for more information on bonus points. | non-compete or other agreement with any entity, at the time this application is submitted, which prohibits the entity from applying for a Head Start or Early Head Start grant on its own behalf or imposes a penalty on that entity for making such application." The statement must be signed by the person who is authorized to sign the application on behalf of the applicant. |
| DUNS Number (Universal Identifier) and Systems for Award Management (SAM) registration. | A DUNS number is required of all applicants.<br><br>To obtain a DUNS number, go to http://fedgov.dnb.com/ webform.<br><br>Active registration at the Systems Award Management (SAM) website must be maintained throughout the application and project award period.<br><br>SAM registration is available at http://www.sam.gov. | A DUNS number and SAM registration are eligibility requirements for all applicants.<br><br>See *Section III.3. Other* for information on obtaining DUNS number at<br><br>http://fedgov.dnb.com/ webform and registration at SAM.gov at http://www.sam.gov. |
| SF-424A Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs / SF-424B Assurances - Non-Construction Programs<br><br>and<br><br>SF-424C - Budget Information Construction Programs / SF-424D - Assurances Construction Programs | Submission is required for all applicants when applying for non-construction **and** construction activities under the proposed project. Standard Forms must be used. Standard Forms must be submitted by the application due date. | Required for all applications when applying for non-construction and/or construction activities under the proposed project. Please see special instructions in the *Checklist* in *Section VIII. Other Information* in this announcement.<br><br>• Projects that include **non-construction and construction** activities must submit the SF-424A, B, C, and D, along with the SF-424 and SF-P/PSL.<br><br>By signing and submitting the SF-424B and/or SF-424D, applicants are making the appropriate certification of their compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. |

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| SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance | Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date. | Required for all applications. |

## The Project Description

### Part I: The Project Description Overview

**Purpose**
The project description provides the majority of information by which an application is evaluated and ranked in competition with other applications for available assistance. It should address the activity for which federal funds are being requested, and should be consistent with the goals and objectives of the program as described in *Section I. Program Description*. Supporting documents should be included where they can present information clearly and succinctly. When appropriate, applicants should cite the evaluation criteria that are relevant to specific components of their project description. Awarding offices use this and other information in making their funding recommendations. It is important, therefore, that this information be included in the application in a manner that is clear and complete.

**General Expectations and Instructions**
Applicants should develop project descriptions that focus on outcomes and convey strategies for achieving intended performance. Project descriptions are evaluated on the basis of substance and measurable outcomes, not length. Extensive exhibits are not required. Cross-referencing should be used rather than repetition. Supporting information concerning activities that will not be directly funded by the grant or information that does not directly pertain to an integral part of the grant-funded activity should be placed in an appendix.

### Part II: General Instructions for Preparing a Full Project Description

**Introduction**
Applicants must prepare the project description statement in accordance with the following instructions while being aware of the specified evaluation criteria in *Section V.1. Criteria*. The text options give a broad overview of what the project description should include while the evaluation criteria identify the measures that will be used to evaluate applications.

**Table of Contents**
List the contents of the application including corresponding page numbers. The table of contents must be single spaced and will be counted against the total page limitations.

**Project Summary/Abstract**
Provide a summary of the application's project description. The summary must be clear, accurate, concise, and without reference to other parts of the application. The abstract must include a brief description of the proposed grant project including the needs to be addressed, the proposed services, and the population group(s) to be served.

Please place the following at the top of the abstract:

- Project Title
- Applicant Name
- Address
- Contact Phone Numbers (Voice, Fax)
- E-Mail Address

- Web Site Address, if applicable

The project abstract must be single-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font, and limited to one page in length. Additional pages will be removed and will not be reviewed.

**Objectives And Need For Assistance**

Clearly identify the physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, and/or other problem(s) requiring a solution. The need for assistance including the nature and scope of the problem must be demonstrated, and the principal and subordinate objectives of the project must be clearly and concisely stated; supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials from concerned interests other than the applicant, may be included. Any relevant data based on planning studies should be included or referred to in the endnotes/footnotes. Incorporate demographic data and participant/beneficiary information, as well as data describing the needs of the target population and the proposed service area as needed. When appropriate, a literature review should be used to support the objectives and needs described in this section.

**Approach**

Outline a plan of action that describes the scope and detail of how the proposed project will be accomplished. Applicants must account for all functions or activities identified in the application. Describe any design or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and/or community involvement in the project. Provide a list of organizations, cooperating entities, consultants, or other key individuals that will work on the project, along with a short description of the nature of their effort or contribution.

Cite potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing project goals and explain strategies that will be used to address these challenges.

**For Applicants Submitting an Application to Implement a Birth-to-Five Program**

Applicants seeking funding for both Head Start and Early Head Start programs should describe in their application how the model of joint operation of Head Start and Early Head Start will be conducted in the community, as well as how the entity will manage both sets of services.

**PHASE ONE**

**1. Demonstration of Need for Child Development and Health Services: Location, Population, and Service Delivery Options**

The application must identify the specific geographic location(s) to be served and provide data about why that geographic area is in high need of early childhood education and family support services.
Data provided must include the number of eligible pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers; the availability and scope of other early childhood education services for low-income infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers and families in the proposed geographic area; the extent to which children from low-income families are not meeting school readiness goals; the number of families in extreme poverty; jobless rates; high incidents of community health problems; criminal justice involvement or violence; or other similar factors. Applicants should leverage existing needs assessment and school readiness data for the proposed service area where appropriate and applicable, and if necessary, applications can include other methods to collect data on the need for services such as informal surveys, community meetings, questionnaires, and interviews. The application should also provide descriptive information regarding the available early childhood education services for low-income infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families in the proposed geographic area.

Applicants must clearly justify how the needs of the community are best served by the proposed approach, including by clearly articulating the rationale for proposing an Early Head Start-only or Head Start-only

program. The application must describe the program option(s) proposed for each age group to be served. This includes how many pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers will be served; the types of services the applicant will provide; as well as the number of hours per day, days per week, weeks per year, and home visits that meet the needs of families, including the role of child care partners. Applications that propose the home-based option for any age group must include the proposed number of home visits and socializations for that subgroup. The application must describe how the proposed program will partner with other programs or services in the community to best meet the needs of low-income families to be served.

Head Start and Early Head Start are designed to increase the number of low-income pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers receiving high-quality, comprehensive early education services that help facilitate healthy development, including physical and social/emotional development, and prepare them for eventual school success. To meet this goal, it is critical that funds awarded through this FOA do not supplant existing services. Thus, an entity receiving this grant must: 1) expand the number of pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers it is serving relative to the number it would serve in the absence of the grant; and/or 2) improve the services provided to pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers it would serve in the absence of the grant. In this section, applicants must describe how the number of pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers served and the type of services received would be affected if the applicant is awarded a grant to implement the proposed set of services.

Please see *Section V.1. Criteria* for program-specific requirements that are the critical elements that will be evaluated in the application review process.

**2. Achieving Early Learning and Development Outcomes to Promote School Readiness for Children**

Early Head Start is designed to help infants and toddlers start preschool. Head Start is designed to help preschoolers start school ready to succeed. School readiness requires that children are cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally prepared to continue developing and learning. Both programs are governed by the Head Start Program Performance Standards that define the scope of services necessary to support children's development across all domains. The application must demonstrate the capacity to implement and sustain the comprehensive, high-quality, individualized educational, health, mental health, nutritional, oral health, and other social services to pregnant women, infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families that prepare children to succeed in school. To this end, the applicants must describe how they will implement program components and, where applicable, describe separately for infants and toddlers and for preschoolers. The application must name the curriculum or curricula that will be used, describe why that curriculum/curricula was selected, and present the evidence basis that the curriculum/curricula effectively improves school readiness (for preschoolers) or its developmental foundations (for infants and toddlers). The application also must include information about how the applicant will meet the health, nutrition, and family engagement needs for pregnant women and children of various ages. Applicants must describe how service effectiveness and quality will be measured, monitored, and improved upon over time. The applicant must show how it will use child assessment data and other program data to individualize services and learning opportunities for children and to inform continuous program improvement; how they will provide ongoing professional development, including regular observation and feedback; how they will engage parents in their roles as teachers and advocates for their children; and how they will partner with preschools, including Head Start, as well as child care programs, local education agencies, and other programs serving young children and their families to create continuity for young children and pregnant women across systems.

The application must also describe how the applicant will meet the unique needs of special populations reflective of the ages and groups proposed to be served, including children with disabilities, dual language learners, children and pregnant women experiencing homelessness, working families, and children in

foster care.

The application will be evaluated on the degree to which the proposed program will meet the comprehensive needs of pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in the community, including the special populations described above. The applicant must provide information about why it made various programmatic choices, including, where applicable, how its choices reflect the best practices in the field as well as the unique needs of the community it will serve. In addition, the application must propose the coordination of services within a community that support transitions for children and families in accordance with 45 CFR § 1304.41 of the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

If applicable, the application provides information about proposed delegate agencies, how those delegate agencies were chosen, and how the grantee's oversight will ensure the delegate agencies implement high-quality programs that adhere to the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Please see *Section V.1. Criteria* for program-specific requirements that are the critical elements that will be evaluated in the application review process.

**3. Past Performance**

The applicant provides evidence of organizational experience (including the experience of key leaders in the organization) that supports its ability to implement a comprehensive child development program for pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Reviewers will evaluate the degree to which the application demonstrates a high-functioning program with a competent management team and effective systems with demonstrated capacity to use data to inform continuous improvement in such areas as professional development, instructional practices, and family engagement.

The application must provide detailed information about how the applicant's past experience in early education (or related fields) and in communities similar to the targeted community will enable them to operate a successful Head Start and/or Early Head Start program. The application must provide evidence of the quality of the early education programs or related programs they have operated in the past. The applicant must demonstrate their capacity and experience serving pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschool-age children. The applicant must provide evidence of the quality of services to be provided based on licensing, accreditation, ratings, or independent evaluations of programs, outcome data for children, or other information provided.

The application must also provide information about the past experience of organizations with which it proposes to delegate all or part of their services to any group of proposed participants (pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers) and their families. Please note that if the applicant is a current or former Head Start and/or Early Head Start grantee, ACF will retrieve and review the grantee's last two OHS triennial monitoring reports, plus any other OHS monitoring reports issued in the 5 years preceding the posting of this FOA.

The application must explain the ways (if any) in which their past experience - or the past experience of any delegate agencies - differs from operating a Head Start and/or Early Head Start program, both generally and as compared to the program(s) the applicant is proposing to implement. The applicant must discuss how it will address these differences and succeed in providing effective, high-quality, comprehensive Head Start and/or Early Head Start services.

Please see *Section V.1. Criteria* for program-specific requirements that are the critical elements that will be evaluated in the application review process.

**4. Staffing and Supporting a Strong Early Learning Workforce**

The application must describe the qualifications and experience of the applicant staff in planning,

organizing, and providing comprehensive child development services at the community level. Applicants proposing a birth-to-five program must include staff with infant/toddler as well as preschool expertise in decision-making roles to ensure the needs of each age group will be addressed.

The application must address: (1) how the applicant will facilitate strong staff-child relationships that support the development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; (2) how it will ensure that staff are prepared for and supported in implementing evidence-based instructional practices that are individualized based on the ongoing assessment of each child to support positive child outcomes; and (3) how it will ensure that all staff will successfully partner with families in supporting children's development. The application also must describe how the applicant will attract and retain qualified staff, including through salary and benefits; how it will support staff through the regular provision of feedback, supervision, coaching, and other mechanisms; and how it will assess staff performance and address under-performing staff.

The application also must describe the management staff's knowledge of Head Start and/or Early Head Start's broad requirements and how it will ensure that all program staff understand how those standards are applicable to them.

Please see *Section V.1. Criteria* for program-specific requirements that are the critical elements that will be evaluated in the application review process.

**5. Organizational Capacity and Governance**

This section measures the applicant's ability to effectively implement and oversee operations that comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The applicant describes its internal systems for communication, record keeping, reporting, and ongoing monitoring. The application provides evidence of past success in organizational management and successful governance. The applicant should also describe how its decision to serve pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschool-age children is based on the needs of the community and also considers the applicant's capacity and experience serving the relevant target populations. Applicants proposing a birth-to-five approach should include strategies and methods that ensure the varying and appropriate needs of children birth to 5 years of age.

The applicant must address how its management system supports its ability to direct change based on the ongoing collection and analysis of relevant data (child assessment, community assessment, assessment of professional development and training, ongoing monitoring, and other sources).

Applicants must also demonstrate capacity to effectively implement a system of governance, taking into account the ultimate responsibility of the agency Board as well as the crucial role of the Policy Council and parents in decision making. The applicant provides information about how its current governance structure would change (if at all) to meet the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

The application describes mechanisms for ensuring fiscal integrity, timely implementation of services, and strong coordination with broader early childhood systems.

Please see *Section V.1. Criteria* for program-specific requirements that are the critical elements that will be evaluated in the application review process.

**PHASE TWO**

Phase Two is a financial review that will be performed by financial experts contracted by ACF. This review will be used to determine risk and whether an applicant should be considered as Low (low-to-no risk), Moderate (some minor deficiencies are determined), or High (high risk).

This review will not change the Phase One scores determined by the objective review panel, but will assist ACF in making award decisions.

The financial review of Head Start applicants serves to determine the financial capabilities of an applicant based on information provided in the application package, including submitted financial statements adhering to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and/or audit reports or statements from Certified Public Accountants or Licensed Public Accountants, and A-133 compliance audits.

Applicants **must** submit a narrative response that addresses all elements listed in *Section V.1. Criteria, PHASE TWO;* their most recent fiscal year's financial statements and related notes to the financial statements adhering to GAAP; and the last year's audit reports or statements from Certified Public Accountants or Licensed Public Accountants.

**Legal Status of Applicant Entity**

Applicants must provide the following documentation:

Legal Status means being established as a public agency under state law or a non-profit under state or federal law. ACF will accept proof of status as a for-profit organization under state or federal law.

Non-profit organizations applying for funding are required to submit proof of their non-profit status. Proof of non-profit status is any one of the following:

- A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in the IRS Code.
- A copy of a currently valid IRS tax-exemption certificate.
- A statement from a state taxing body, state attorney general, or other appropriate state official certifying that the applicant organization has non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals.
- A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status.
- Any of the items in the subparagraphs immediately above for a state or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local non-profit affiliate.

Unless directed otherwise, applicants must include proof of non-profit status in the *Appendices* file of the electronic application submission.

**Additional Eligibility Documentation**

Applicants must provide the additional, required documentation, or required credentials, to support eligibility for an award, as described in *Section III. Eligibility Information* of this announcement:

Applicants that are current Head Start or Early Head Start grantees must provide proof of policy council approval of the application required by section 642(c)(2)(D)(iii) of the Head Start Act and 45 CFR § 1304.50(d)(1)(i).

**Organizational Capacity**

Provide the following information on the applicant organization and, if applicable, on any cooperating partners:

- Organizational charts;
- Resumes (no more than two single-spaced pages in length);
- Curricula Vitae (CV);
- Biographical Sketches (short narrative description);
- List of Board of Directors;
- Financial statements adhering to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), if available, submit statements for up to the two most recently completed fiscal years (this requirement does not apply to start-up organizations);
- Audit reports or statements from Certified Public Accountants/Licensed Public Accountants, if available, submit statements for up to the two most recently completed fiscal years (this requirement does not apply to start-up organizations);
- Copy or description of the applicant organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures;
- Evidence that the applicant organization, and any partnering organizations, have relevant experience and expertise with administration, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of programs similar to that offered under this announcement;
- Evidence that each participating organization, including partners and/or subcontractors, possess the organizational capability to fulfill their role(s) and function(s) effectively;
- Information on compliance with federal/state/local government standards;
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.

**Third-Party Agreements**

Third-party agreements include Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Letters of Commitment. General letters of support are **not** considered to be third-party agreements. Third-party agreements must clearly describe the project activities and support to which the third party is committing. Third-party agreements must be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments on behalf of their organization.

Provide written and signed agreements between grantees and subgrantees, or subcontractors, or other cooperating entities. These agreements must detail the scope of work to be performed, work schedules, remuneration, and other terms and conditions that structure or define the relationship.

**Letters Of Support**

Provide statements from community, public, and commercial leaders that support the project proposed for funding. All submissions must be included in the application package.

**Plan for Oversight of Federal Award Funds**

Provide a plan describing how oversight of federal funds will be ensured and how grant activities and partner(s) will adhere to applicable federal and programmatic regulations. Applicants must identify staff that will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program activities, staff, and partner(s). Applicants must describe procedures and policies used to oversee staff and/or partners/contractors.

Describe organizational records systems that relate financial data to performance data by identifying the source and application of federal funds so that they demonstrate effective control over and accountability for funds, compare outlays with budget amounts, and provide accounting records supported by source documentation.

**The Project Budget and Budget Justification**

All applicants are required to submit a project budget and budget justification with their application. The project budget is entered on the Budget Information Standard Form, either SF-424A or SF-424C, according to the directions provided with the SFs. The budget justification consists of a budget narrative and a line-item budget detail that includes detailed calculations for "object class categories" identified on the Budget Information Standard Form.

Project budget calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. If matching or cost sharing is a requirement, applicants must include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance). See the table in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* listing the appropriate budget forms to use in this application.

Project budget Standard Forms (424A and/or 424C) will not count toward page limitations; however, the budget and budget justification are limited to 15 single-spaced pages total with fonts of no less than Times New Roman 12-points.

***Special Note:*** Section 653 of the Act provides that "[n]*otwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds may be used to pay any part of the compensation of an individual employed by a Head Start agency, if such compensation, including non-Federal funds, exceeds an amount equal to the rate payable for level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States Code." The Executive Level II salary of the Federal Executive Pay scale is $183,300. Please see http:// www.opm.gov/ policy-data-oversight/ pay-leave/salaries -wages/ 2015/ executive -senior- level. The statute also defines the term "compensation" as:*

> *"(A) includes salary, bonuses, periodic payments, severance pay, the value of any vacation time, the value of a compensatory or paid leave benefit not excluded by subparagraph (B), and the fair market value of any employee perquisite or benefit not excluded by subparagraph (B); and*
>
> *(B) excludes any Head Start agency expenditure for a health, medical, life insurance, disability, retirement, or any other employee welfare or pension benefit."*

*Additional information on the "Statutory Requirement regarding compensation of Head Start staff" is available in the Program Instruction:* ACF–PI–HS–08–03.

Provide a budget using the 424A and/or 424C, as applicable, for each year of the proposed project. Provide a budget justification, which includes a budget narrative and a line-item detail, for the first year of the proposed project. The budget narrative should describe how the categorical costs are derived. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of the proposed costs.

**Please see *Section V.1. Criteria* for program-specific requirements that are the critical elements that will be evaluated in the application review process.**

Please see *Section III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching* for information on the matching requirement.

Whether applicants are proposing a comprehensive birth-to-five program incorporating both Head Start and Early Head Start funding, or proposing to provide services for Head Start only or Early Head Start only, applicants may only request funding up to the *Award Ceiling* listed in *Section II. Award Information*, which is inclusive of base and T/TA funding.

**Start-up/Pre-Award Costs**

In the operation of a Head Start and/or Early Head Start program, applicants should consider supplementing federal funds with resources from other early childhood programs or funding streams, including state, local, and private sector funding for child care, pre-Kindergarten, and special education

services. Head Start and/or Early Head Start funds must be tracked separately from other funding sources.

**General**

Use the following guidelines for preparing the budget and budget justification. Both federal and non-federal resources (when required) shall be detailed and justified in the budget and budget narrative justification. "Federal resources" refers only to the ACF grant funds for which you are applying. "Non-federal resources" are all other non-ACF federal and non-federal resources. It is suggested that budget amounts and computations be presented in a columnar format: first column, object class categories; second column, federal budget; next column(s), non-federal budget(s); and last column, total budget. The budget justification should be in a narrative form.

**Personnel**

Description: Costs of employee salaries and wages.

Justification: Identify the project director or principal investigator, if known at the time of application. For each staff person provide: the title; time commitment to the project in months; time commitment to the project as a percentage or full-time equivalent: annual salary; grant salary; wage rates; etc. Do not include the costs of consultants, personnel costs of delegate agencies, or of specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant. Contractors and consultants should not be placed under this category.

**Fringe Benefits**

Description: Costs of employee fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate.

Justification: Provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes, retirement insurance, and taxes.

**Travel**

Description: Costs of out-of-state or overnight project-related travel by employees of the applicant organization. Do not include in-state travel or consultant travel.

Justification: For each trip show the total number of traveler(s); travel destination; duration of trip; per diem; mileage allowances, if privately owned vehicles will be used to travel out of town; and other transportation costs and subsistence allowances. If appropriate for this project, travel costs for key project staff to attend ACF-sponsored workshops/conferences/grantee orientations should be detailed in the budget.

**Equipment**

Description: "Equipment" means an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year per unit and an acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of: (a) the capitalization level established by the organization for the financial statement purposes, or (b) $5,000. (Note: Acquisition cost means the net invoice unit price of an item of equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in-transit insurance, freight, and installation, shall be included in or excluded from acquisition cost in accordance with the applicant organization's regular written accounting practices.)

Justification: For each type of equipment requested applicants must provide a description of the equipment; the cost per unit; the number of units; the total cost; and a plan for use of the equipment in the project; as well as a plan for the use, and/or disposal of, the equipment after the project ends. An applicant organization that uses its own definition for equipment should provide a copy of its policy, or

section of its policy, that includes the equipment definition.

**Supplies**

Description: Costs of all tangible personal property other than that included under the Equipment category. This includes office and other consumable supplies with a per-unit cost of less than $5,000.

Justification: Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information that supports the amount requested.

**Contractual**

Description: Costs of all contracts for services and goods except for those that belong under other categories such as equipment, supplies, construction, etc. Include third-party evaluation contracts, if applicable, and contracts with secondary recipient organizations (with budget detail), including delegate agencies and specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant. This area is not for individual consultants.

Justification: Demonstrate that all procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open, and free competition. Recipients and subrecipients, other than states that are required to use 45 CFR Part 75 procedures, must justify any anticipated procurement action that is expected to be awarded without competition and exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold fixed by 41 U.S.C. § 134, as amended by 2 CFR Part 200.88, and currently set at $150,000. Recipients may be required to make pre-award review and procurement documents, such as requests for proposals or invitations for bids, independent cost estimates, etc., available to ACF.

Note: Whenever the applicant intends to delegate part of the project to another agency, the applicant must provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for each contractor/sub-contractor, by agency title, along with the same supporting information referred to in these instructions. If the applicant plans to select the contractors/sub-contractors post-award and a detailed budget is not available at the time of application, the applicant must provide information on the nature of the work to be delegated, the estimated costs, and the process for selecting the delegate agency.

**Construction**

Description: Costs of construction by applicant or contractor.

Justification: Provide a detailed budget and narrative in accordance with the instructions for other object class categories. Identify which construction activities/costs will be contractual and those that the applicant will assume.

**Other**

Description: Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable and appropriate, may include but are not limited to: consultant costs, local travel; insurance; food (when allowable); medical and dental costs (noncontractual); professional services costs (including audit charges); space and equipment rentals; printing and publication; computer use; training costs, such as tuition and stipends; staff development costs; and administrative costs.

Justification: Provide computations, a narrative description, and a justification for each cost under this category.

**Indirect Charges**

Description: Total amount of indirect costs. This category has one of two methods that an applicant can select. An applicant may only select one.

1) The applicant currently has an indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or another cognizant federal agency

Note: An applicant must enclose a copy of the current approved rate agreement. If the applicant is requesting a rate that is less than what is allowed under the program, the authorized representative of the applicant organization must submit a signed acknowledgement that the applicant is accepting a lower rate than allowed.

2) Per 45 CFR § 75.414(f) Indirect (F&A) costs, "any non-Federal entity [i.e., applicant] that has never received a negotiated indirect costs rate, … may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described in § 75.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time."

Justification: This method only applies to applicants that have never received an approved negotiated indirect cost rate from HHS or another cognizant federal agency. Applicants awaiting approval of their indirect cost proposal may request the 10 percent de minimis. When the applicant chooses this method, costs included in the indirect cost pool must not be charged as direct costs to the grant.

**Program Income**

Description: The estimated amount of income, if any, expected to be generated from this project. Program income includes, but is not limited to, income from fees for services performed, the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under federally-funded projects, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under an award, license fees and royalties on patents and copyrights, and interest on loans made with award funds.

Justification: Describe the nature, source, and anticipated use of program income in the budget or refer to the pages in the application that contain this information.

**Commitment of Non-Federal Resources**

Description: Amounts of non-federal resources that will be used to support the project as identified in Block 18 of the SF-424. The match calculation applies to the total project cost (including match) and not just to the federal share.

Justification: If an applicant is relying on match from a third party, then a firm commitment of these resources (letter or other documentation) is required with the application. Detailed budget information must be provided for every funding source identified in Block 18 of the SF-424.

**Note:** Applicants are required to fully identify and document in their applications the specific costs or contributions they propose in order to meet a matching or cost-sharing requirement. Applicants are also required to provide documentation in their applications on the sources of funding or contribution(s) and, for in-kind contributions, a justification of how the stated valuation was determined.

**Paperwork Reduction Disclaimer**

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the Project Description and Budget/Budget Justification is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information. The Project Description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires 10/31/2015. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

## Application Submission Options

### Electronic Submission via www.Grants.gov

- Additional guidance on the submission of electronic applications can be found at http:// www.grants.gov /web /grants /applicants /apply- for- grants.html.
- If applicants encounter any technical difficulties in using www.Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at: 1-800-518-4726, or by email at support@grants.gov, to report the problem and obtain assistance. Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Grants.gov Contact Center is closed on federal holidays.
- Applicants should always retain Grants.gov Contact Center service ticket number(s) as they may be needed for future reference.
- **Contact with the Grants.gov Contact Center prior to the listed application due date and time does not ensure acceptance of an application. If difficulties are encountered, the Grants Management Officer listed in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* will determine whether the submission issues are due to Grants.gov system errors or user error.**

### Application Validation at www.Grants.gov

After an application has been successfully submitted to www.Grants.gov, it still must pass a series of validation checks. After an application is submitted, Grants.gov generates a submission receipt via email and also sets the application status to "Received." This receipt verifies that the application has been successfully delivered to the Grants.gov system.

Next, Grants.gov verifies the submission is valid by ensuring it does not contain viruses, the opportunity is still open, and the applicant login and applicant DUNS number match. If the submission is valid, Grants.gov generates a submission validation receipt via email and sets the application status to "Validated."

If the application is not validated, the application status is set to "Rejected." The system sends a rejection email notification to the applicant and the applicant must re-submit the application package. See "What to Expect After Submitting" at www.Grants.gov for more information.

Each time an application is submitted, or resubmitted, via www.Grants.gov, the application will receive a new date and time stamp. Only those applications with on-time date and time stamps that result in a validated application, which are transmitted to ACF, will be acknowledged.

Applicants will be provided with an acknowledgement from Grants.gov that the submitted application package has passed, or failed, a series of checks and validations. Applications that are submitted on time that fail the validation check will not be transmitted to ACF and will not be acknowledged.

**NOTE:** The Grants.gov validation check can affect whether the application is accepted for review. If an application fails the Grants.gov validation check and is not resubmitted by 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date, it will not be transmitted to ACF and will be excluded from the review.

Similarly, if an applicant resubmits their application to Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date, and the resubmitted application does not pass the validation check, it will not be transmitted to ACF and will

be excluded from the review.

**Systems Issues**

For any systems issues experienced with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues" document for complete guidance at https: // www.acf.hhs.gov / sites / default /files /assets /systems_issue_policy_final. pdf.

**Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission**

ACF recognizes that some applicants may have limited or no Internet access, and/or limited computer capacity, which may prohibit them from uploading large files at www.Grants.gov. To accommodate such applicants, ACF offers an exemption from required electronic submission. The exemption will allow applicants to submit hard copy, paper applications by hand-delivery, applicant courier, overnight/express mail couriers, or by other representatives of the applicant.

To receive an exemption from required electronic application submission, applicants must submit a written request to ACF that must state that the applicant qualifies for the exemption for one of the two following reasons:

- Lack of Internet access or Internet connection, or
- Limited computer capacity that prevents the uploading of large documents (files) at www.Grants.gov.

Applicants may request and receive the exemption from required electronic application submission by either:

- Submitting an email request to electronicappexemption@acf.hhs.gov, or
- Sending a written request to the Office of Grants Management Contact listed in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* in this announcement.

Requests for exemption from required electronic application submission will be acknowledged with an approval or disapproval.

Requests that do not state one of the two listed reasons will not be approved.

An exemption is applicable to all applications submitted by the applicant organization during the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) in which it is received. Applicants need only request an exemption once in a FFY. Applicants must request a new exemption from required electronic submission for any succeeding FFY.

***Please Note:*** electronicappexemption@acf.hhs.gov **may only be used to request an exemption from required electronic submission.** All other inquiries must be directed to the appropriate Agency Contact listed in *Section VII*. of this announcement. Queries or requests submitted to this email address for any reason other than a request for an exemption from electronic application submission will not be acknowledged or answered.

All exemption requests must include the following information:

- Funding Opportunity Announcement Title,
- Funding Opportunity Number (FON),
- The listed Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number,
- Name of Applicant Organization and DUNS Number,
- AOR name and contact information,
- Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving the application (i.e., the Point of Contact), and
- The reason for which the applicant is requesting an exemption from electronic application submission. The request for exemption must state one of the following two reasons: 1) lack of Internet access or Internet connection; or 2) lack of computer capacity that prevents uploading large

documents (files) to the Internet.

**Exemption requests must be *received by* ACF no later than two weeks before the application due date**, that is, 14 calendar days prior to the application due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. If the fourteenth calendar day falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the due date for receipt of an exemption request will move to the next federal business day that follows the weekend or federal holiday.

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* of this announcement.

**Paper Format Application Submission**

**An exemption is now required for the submission of paper applications. See the preceding section on "*Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission.*"**

Applicants with exemptions that submit their applications in paper format, by mail or delivery, must submit one original and two copies of the complete application with all attachments. The original and each of the two copies must include all required forms, certifications, assurances, and appendices, be signed by the AOR, and be unbound. The original copy of the application must have original signature(s). See *Section IV.6*. of this announcement for address information for paper format application submissions. Applications submitted in paper format must be received by 4:30 p.m, ET, on the due date.

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* in this announcement.

## IV.3. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications: **07/13/2015**

### Explanation of Due Dates

The due date for receipt of applications is listed in the *Overview* section and in this section. See *Section III.3. Application Disqualification Factors*.

**Electronic Applications**

The deadline for submission of electronic applications via www.Grants.gov is 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date. Electronic applications submitted at 12:00 a.m., ET, on the day after the due date will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically via www.Grants.gov unless they received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission.*

ACF does not accommodate transmission of applications by email or facsimile.

Instructions for electronic submission via www.Grants.gov are available at: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp.

Applications submitted to www.Grants.gov at any time during the open application period prior to the due date and time that fail the Grants.gov validation check will not be received at ACF. These applications will not be acknowledged.

**Mailed Paper Format Applications**

The deadline for mailed paper applications is 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date. Mailed paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from

competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

**Hand-Delivered Paper Format Applications**

Applications that are hand-delivered by applicants, applicant couriers, by overnight/express mail couriers, or other representatives of the applicant must be received on, or before, the due date listed in the *Overview* and in this section. These applications must be delivered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., ET,Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays). Applications should be delivered to the address provided in *Section IV.6.Other Submission Requirements*.

Hand-delivered paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Hand-delivered paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

**No appeals will be considered for applications classified as late under the following circumstances:**

- Applications submitted electronically via www.Grants.gov are considered late when they are dated and time-stamped after the deadline of 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date.
- Paper format applications received by mail or hand-delivery after 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date will be classified as late and will be disqualified.
- Paper format applications received from applicant organizations that were not approved for an exemption from required electronic application submission under the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Submission* will be disqualified.

**Extensions and/or Waiving Due Date and Receipt Time Requirements**

ACF may extend an application due date and receipt time when circumstances make it impossible for applicants to submit their applications on time. These events include natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc.), or when there are widespread disruptions of electrical service, or mail service, or in other rare cases. The determination to extend or waive due date and/or receipt time requirements rests with the Grants Management Officer listed as the Office of Grants Management Contact in *Section VII. Agency Contacts*.

**Acknowledgement from www.Grants.gov**

Applicants will receive an initial email upon submission of their application to www.Grants.gov. This email will provide a **Grants.gov Tracking Number**. Applicants should refer to this tracking number in all communication with Grants.gov. The email will also provide a **date and time stamp**, which serves as the official record of application's submission**.** Receipt of this email does not indicate that the application is accepted or that is has passed the validation check.

Applicants will be provided with an acknowledgement from www.Grants.gov that the submitted application package has passed, or failed, a series of checks and validations. Applications that are submitted on time that fail the validation check will not be transmitted to ACF and will not be acknowledged.

See "What to Expect After Submitting" at www.Grants.gov for more information.

**Acknowledgement from ACF of an electronic application's submission:**

Applicants will be sent additional email(s) from ACF acknowledging that the application has been retrieved from www.Grants.gov by ACF. Receipt of these emails is not an indication that the application

is accepted for competition.

**Acknowledgement from ACF of receipt of a paper format application**

ACF will provide acknowledgement of receipt of hard copy application packages submitted via mail or courier services.

## IV.4. Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

This program is covered under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," and 45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." Under the Executive Order, States may design their own processes for reviewing and commenting on proposed Federal assistance under covered programs.

Applicants should go to the following URL for the official list of the jurisdictions that have elected to participate in E.O. 12372 http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/.
Applicants from participating jurisdictions should contact their SPOC, as soon as possible, to alert them of their prospective applications and to receive instructions on their jurisdiction's procedures. Applicants must submit all required application materials to the SPOC and indicate the date of submission on the Standard Form (SF) 424 at item 19.

Under 45 CFR 100.8(a)(2), a SPOC has 60 days from the application due date to comment on proposed new awards.

SPOC comments may be submitted directly to ACF to: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Grants Management, Division of Discretionary Grants, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW., 6th Floor East, Washington, DC 20447.

Entities that meet the eligibility requirements of this announcement are still eligible to apply for a grant even if a State, Territory or Commonwealth, etc., does not have a SPOC or has chosen not to participate in the process. Applicants from non-participating jurisdictions need take no action with regard to E.O. 12372. Applications from Federally-recognized Indian Tribal governments are not subject to E.O. 12372.

## IV.5. Funding Restrictions

Costs of organized fund raising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred solely to raise capital or obtain contributions, are considered unallowable costs under grants or cooperative agreements awarded under this funding opportunity announcement.

**Note:** Costs incurred for grant application preparation are not considered allowable costs under an award and may not be included in the project budget or budget justification.

No more than 15 percent of total costs may be used for program administration. An HHS official may grant a waiver of the 15 percent limitation on allowable development and administration costs for a Head Start or Early Head Start program approving a higher percentage for a specific period of time not to exceed 12 months (45 CFR § 1301.32).

## IV.6. Other Submission Requirements

Submit paper applications to one of the following addresses. Also see *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission.*

**Submission By Mail**
Office of Head Start
OHS Operations Center
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20024

**Hand Delivery**
Office of Head Start
OHS Operations Center
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20024

**Electronic Submission**
See *Section IV.2* for application requirements and for guidance when submitting applications electronically via http://www.Grants.gov.
For all submissions, see *Section IV.3.* Submission Dates and Times.

## V. Application Review Information

### V.1. Criteria

**Please note:** Reviewers will not access, or review, any materials that are not part of the application documents. This includes information accessible on websites via hyperlinks that are referenced, or embedded, in the application. Though an application may include web links, or embedded hyperlinks, reviewers will not review this information as it is not considered to be part of the application documents. Nor will the information on websites be taken into consideration in scoring of evaluation criteria presented in this section. Reviewers will evaluate and score an application based on the documents that are presented in the application and **will not** refer to, or access, external links during the objective review.

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated using the criteria described in this section. The corresponding point values indicate the relative importance placed on each review criterion. Points will be allocated based on the extent to which the application proposal addresses each of the criteria listed. Applicants should address these criteria in their application materials, particularly in the project description and budget justification, as they are the basis upon which competing applications will be judged during the objective review. The required elements of the project description and budget justification may be found in *Section IV.2* of this announcement.

The review of applications under this FOA is structured in two phases. Phase One will result in a numerical score as evaluated by a panel of non-federal reviewers. Phase Two criteria will **not** be used by reviewers to score applications, but will assist ACF in making award decisions. Please see *Section V.2. Review and Selection Process* for more information on the Phase One and Phase Two reviews.

**PHASE ONE**

| **1. Demonstration of Need for Child Development and Health Services: Location, Population, and Service Delivery Options** | **Maximum Points: 20** |
|---|---|

Reviewers will evaluate the extent to which the applicant:

1.1. Clearly identifies the precise geographic location and boundaries of the area the applicant proposes to serve. The applicant must use information from its community assessment to define the area(s) of greatest need and show how it will direct Head Start and/or Early Head Start resources to these areas.

1.2. Provides a detailed description of its plan to provide child development services for the highest need Head Start and/or Early Head Start eligible children and/or pregnant women and their families. This plan must include education, health, nutrition, social, and family support services, and other service needs of these children, including the special populations the applicant proposes to serve (children with disabilities, dual language learners, homeless children and/or pregnant women, children in foster care, etc.). The plan must include the number of eligible pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers to be served by program type (Head Start or Early Head Start), by geographic location, and by program option. The plan must also include the estimated number of children needing full-day and full-year care. The applicant must describe its procedures to identify children with disabilities.

1.3. Describes the rationale for which ages of children the applicant proposes to serve, demonstrating how the applicant will satisfy unmet demand. Provides an analysis of access to other early childhood education programs for each age group of children under 5 in the geographic area.

1.4. Demonstrates community engagement in the geographic locations proposed by the applicant in order to improve the efficiency of service delivery, increase access to needed services, and prevent duplication. Demonstration of community engagement may include memoranda of understanding that provide commitments of exchange of services, resource support, referrals, or other agreements.

1.5. Justifies the program option or options for each age group as most appropriate for the communities in which the applicant proposes to provide services (e.g., full-day center-based, home-based, family child care, or combination option, including the number of children to be served by each option). If proposing to serve in multiple communities, the applicant specifies the number of pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers to be served in each community. The application specifies how the proposed number of hours per day, days per week, weeks per year, and home visits meets the needs of families, including the role of child care partners. Applicants proposing the home-based option must include the proposed number of home visits and socializations for each age group(s) to be served. The applicant's proposed program option(s) support(s) the needs of infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers, and their families as described in response to the evaluation criteria listed above.

- **For applicants proposing an Early Head Start program**: Programs must provide a minimum of 48 weeks per year for infants and toddlers to ensure the continuity of services that best supports positive outcomes. Applicants proposing to enroll pregnant women must explain how the services will support the needs of expectant families.
- **For applicants proposing a Head Start program**: Applicants must propose a number of weeks per year for preschoolers that meets the Head Start requirements.

1.6. Describes how pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers, and their families will be recruited and selected for the program to ensure that services will be provided to those who have the most serious need for these services. The applicant describes how the program will ensure that not less than 10 percent of the total number of children actually enrolled will be children with disabilities.

1.7. Clearly states how many children the applicant is currently serving as a Head Start and/or Early Head Start grantee, delegate agency or partner to a Head Start and/or Early Head Start grantee, or in other early education or related programs. Clearly states how many Head Start and/or Early Head Start children the applicant would serve if awarded this grant.

| **2. Achieving Early Learning and Development Outcomes to Promote School Readiness for Children** | **Maximum Points: 40** |
|---|---|

Reviewers will evaluate the extent to which the applicant:

2.1. Provides a plan to implement a high-quality, comprehensive program for the population the applicant proposes to serve, with specific attention to how the plan will be different based on the ages and needs of children and families eligible for services. The plan for a high-quality, comprehensive program includes using a curriculum or set of curricula and teaching practices that promote progress toward school readiness goals and that:

- Are based on scientifically valid research;
- Are developmentally appropriate for all of the ages of children proposed to be served;
- Provide continuity of care to promote attachment and a secure foundation for learning in all program options. For infants and toddlers, explains an approach to staffing continuity across the days, months, and years of service; and
- Are aligned with all relevant state early learning guidelines and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework for preschoolers.

2.2. The application specifies the name of the curriculum or curricula proposed to be used in different program options and for children of different ages, why the curriculum was chosen, and the evidence supporting how the curriculum is tied to outcomes for children.

2.3. Discusses what tools it will use to support domains that the selected curriculum does not support. The application describes a process for establishing and measuring school readiness goals, including the plans to address the following domains, as appropriate for the age and developmental needs of enrolled children:

- Language and literacy development
- Cognition and general knowledge
- Approaches toward learning
- Physical well being and motor development
- Social and emotional development

School readiness goals must reflect the ages of children that the applicant proposes to serve in the program and must be culturally and linguistically appropriate. The application explains the extent to which school readiness goals were or will be established in consultation with the parents of children who will be participating in the program. Additionally,

- **For applicants proposing an Early Head Start program**: Infant and toddler school readiness goals must reflect the ages of children (birth to 3). The application explains the extent to which goals were or will be established in alignment with state early learning guidelines for infants and toddlers, as appropriate.

- **For applicants proposing a Head Start program**: Preschool school readiness goals must reflect the ages of children 3 to 5, and align with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, state early learning guidelines, and the requirements and expectations of schools the children will attend after Head Start.

2.4. Describes how the applicant will meet the needs of infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers with disabilities, including procedures to identify such participants, plans to provide trained personnel, and plans to provide services to assist children in making meaningful progress in attaining age-appropriate knowledge, skills, abilities, and development.

2.5. Describes how the applicant will meet the unique needs of its targeted population, including infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers in the child welfare system, dual language learners, homeless children, and pregnant women. The application describes procedures to identify such children, plans to provide trained personnel, and plans to provide services to assist these infants and toddlers in making meaningful progress in attaining age-appropriate knowledge, skills, abilities, and development.

2.6. Describes how the applicant will meet the health, mental health, nutritional, and oral health needs of pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers. The application describes the system for health screening and services that will ensure participants are accurately referred for necessary follow-up evaluation and treatment within time frames specified by Head Start regulations. Screening and services for identified needs include, at a minimum, health, sensory, developmental, and oral health, and may be provided directly or through community partner providers.

2.7. If proposing center-based or family child care services, the applicant describes a plan for observing teacher practice, including teacher-child interactions. If proposing home-based services, the applicant describes a plan for observing home visitor practice, including interactions with the family and child, and supporting the parents in their role as the child's primary caregiver/teacher. For all program services, the applicant describes using this information to inform professional development and practice improvements. The application includes the name of any instruments to be used.

2.8. Specifies the name and process for selection of their assessment tool. The applicant describes a plan to use child assessment data to individualize the instruction and learning for each child and, as necessary, refer for additional evaluation and intervention; and to aggregate and analyze child-level assessment data at least three times per year (except for programs operating less than 90 days, which will be required to do so at least twice within their operating program period); and to use that analysis in combination with other program data to determine grantees' progress toward meeting its goals, to inform parents and the community of results, and to direct continuous improvement related to curriculum, instruction, professional development, program design, and other program decisions, in accordance with 45 CFR § 1307.3(b)(2). Applicants are reminded that assessment must be developmentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate.

2.9. Describes a plan to coordinate with public and private entities that are willing to commit resources to assist the program in providing high-quality child health and developmental services and program management services. Such partnerships must include a plan to coordinate the proposed Head Start and/or Early Head Start program with other child care and preschool programs, state pre-Kindergarten programs, programs under Part C and Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and with the educational programs that children to be served will enter upon leaving Early Head Start or Head Start.

2.10. **For applicants proposing an Early Head Start program**: Describes the system of how the applicant will deliver services to enrolled pregnant women post-pregnancy, and how the newborn infant and family will transition into the appropriate program option at the appropriate time; how the program will support transition from Early Head Start to Head Start or other community-based programs; and how the program will support transitions from Head Start to public and community-based school settings in accordance with 45 CFR § 1304.41 of the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Additionally, the application describes how the program will support transitions within the Head Start and/or Early Head Start program, which might include a child moving from one center or program option to another, adjusting to staff turnover, moving from one classroom to the next, or moving to new grantees in different communities as families move for economic or other reasons.

2.11. **For applicants proposing an Early Head Start program**: Describes how the applicant will ensure that infants, toddlers, and their families participating in the program will have the opportunity to receive Head Start or other appropriate preschool services for which they are eligible through the age of mandatory school attendance.

2.12. Provides a plan to facilitate the meaningful engagement of parents (including mothers, fathers, grandparents, foster parents, and kinship caregivers, as appropriate) in activities (at home and, if practicable, at the location of the program) designed to help them become full partners in the education of their children. Such engagement includes participation in the conduct of the program, leadership opportunities, support of their child's development and health, support for the parent-child relationship,

opportunities for employment, and other paths to improved financial well-being. The application identifies and addresses barriers to parent participation, such as lack of transportation access or need for child care.

2.13. Explains the plan to implement the Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework and to offer family literacy and parenting skills training using evidence-based curricula and approaches, either directly or through referral to local entities, public and school libraries, and entities carrying out family support programs. The application includes a plan to offer (either directly or through referrals) other support for families struggling with mental health challenges, domestic violence, homelessness, or substance abuse.

| **3. Past Performance** | **Maximum Points: 20** |
|---|---|

Reviewers will evaluate the extent to which the applicant:

3.1 Demonstrates how the applicant's history and experience, based on past performance providing high-quality early education or other related programs, support its ability to effectively and efficiently administer a project for pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers of the size, complexity, and scope of their proposed program. Reviewers will evaluate evidence of experience, such as, but not limited to:

- Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) rating
- Record of high performance in the early primary grades by children formerly enrolled in the program
- Evidence from use of teacher-child interaction rating system
- Evidence of successful staff development system leading to highly qualified staff
- Evidence of high level of success improving family self-sufficiency

Applicants that serve or have served as delegate agencies to Head Start and Early Head Start grantees must provide documentation of their past performance.

3.2 Documents how the professional experience of the applicant's proposed management team (executive director, program director, managers), based on past performance providing comprehensive, high-quality early care and education, demonstrates an ability to effectively and efficiently administer a project of this size, complexity, and scope within the service area.

3.3 Explains how the applicant's past performance and experience will inform its administration of the Head Start and/or Early Head Start program being proposed and will help ensure a high-quality program. To the degree that the applicant is currently operating a program that differs from the Head Start and/or Early Head Start program being proposed - such as differences in the target population, the set of services provided, the structure of the program (the hours, days, or weeks of operation), the ages of children served, the mechanisms for quality assurance and improvement, the early learning standards to be used, and the performance measurement system - the applicant acknowledges these differences and explains how it will successfully adapt to the differences between its current program and the proposed program.

3.4 Applicants that are current or former Head Start or Early Head Start grantees must include a description of any repeat violations, such as deficiencies, areas of non-compliance, and/or audit findings. These repeat violations should represent findings from the last two OHS triennial monitoring reports plus any other OHS monitoring reports and any audit reports issued in the 5 years preceding the posting of this FOA. Applicants must describe the actions they have taken to address any repeat violations. If the applicant does not have repeat violations, this criterion is not applicable.

| **4. Staffing and Supporting a Strong Early Learning Workforce** | **Maximum Points: 20** |
|---|---|

Reviewers will evaluate the extent to which the applicant:

4.1 Documents that the proposed program director and proposed key staff are qualified and knowledgeable about administering complex social service programs or early education services. The applicant describes its key staff's major functions and responsibilities in the narrative and includes their resumes in the appendix.

4.2 Provides a clear plan to attract and retain qualified staff with the ability to implement a research-based curriculum aligned with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework and state early learning guidelines (as appropriate), effective instructional strategies, and a high-quality, comprehensive program.

4.3 **For applicants proposing an Early Head Start program**: Demonstrates that employees of the agency will meet the requirements of the Head Start Act for staff qualifications set in Section 645A(h) for Early Head Start. The applicant provides documentation showing that all center-based Early Head Start teachers have an Infant Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and have been trained (or have equivalent coursework) in early childhood development with a focus on infant and toddler development as required by Section 645A(h) of the Head Start Act. If applicable, the applicant describes how it will hire Early Head Start home visiting staff qualified or trained to conduct home visits that include the full range of comprehensive Early Head Start services.

4.4 **For applicants proposing a Head Start program**: Describes how all employees in the Head Start center-based programs meet the requirements of the Head Start Act for staff qualifications set in Section 648A and what share of preschool classroom teachers are expected to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.

- For classroom teachers - have: (a) an associate degree in early childhood education; (b) an associate degree in a related field and coursework equivalent to a major relating to early childhood education, with experience teaching preschool-age children; (c) a baccalaureate degree; or (d) has been admitted into the Teach For America program, passed a rigorous early childhood content exam such as the Praxis II, participated in a Teach For America summer training institute that includes teaching preschool children, and is receiving ongoing professional development and support from Teach For America's professional staff.
- For assistant teachers - have at least a CDA credential; be enrolled in a program leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree; or be enrolled in a CDA credential program to be completed within 2 years.

4.5 Describes the plan to maintain child-to-teacher, home visitor, or family child care provider ratios and family service worker caseloads that comply with appropriate regulations given the varying ages of children served, reflect best practices, and are tied to high-quality service delivery in the event of staff absences or vacancies.

4.6 Describes the plan to provide opportunities for qualified parents and other community residents to seek employment and how these opportunities will be designed to improve the quality of the proposed program. The applicant explains how it will provide career development opportunities for professional, paraprofessional, and other staff.

4.7 Describes a clear plan to evaluate job applicants, including existing grantee staff, to determine which applicants are most capable of contributing to the implementation of a high-quality, comprehensive program, including the implementation of a research-based curriculum.

4.8 Describes an ongoing strategy for professional development, peer support, supervision, ongoing observations, coaching and mentoring, and evaluation of staff and program managers, oriented to improving the skills, knowledge, effectiveness, and career opportunities of all employees. The applicant describes the process for how it will manage underperforming staff. The applicant also describes how it

has used these strategies in the past, its past successes and challenges, and any modifications it will make in the context of implementing the Head Start and/or Early Head Start program it is proposing.

| **5. Organizational Capacity and Governance** | **Maximum Points: 25** |
|---|---|

Reviewers will evaluate the extent to which the applicant:

5.1 Provides a plan identifying the capacity of the applicant's senior executive managers and governing board to: (1) exercise effective oversight of program operations and accountability for federal funds; (2) include the Policy Council in the planning and decision-making process; (3) ensure representation of the diverse community served; (4) set and monitor overall agency priorities and operational systems; and (5) conduct community assessment, annual self-assessments, ongoing monitoring, and outcome-based evaluations.

5.2 Explains how its organizational oversight meets the program governance requirements established in Section 642(c) of the Head Start Act. The applicant provides information about how its current governance structure would change (if at all) to meet the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

5.3 Demonstrates the existence of management systems for program planning, internal and external communication, recordkeeping, issuance of internal and external reports, and program self-assessment and monitoring.

5.4 Demonstrates an ability to provide effective financial management in operating a Head Start and/or Early Head Start program based on experience.

5.5 If proposing to delegate all or part of its responsibility for operating a program with these funds, the application identifies the proposed delegate agencies, including the communities in which the applicant will operate, the number of children to be served by age of child and their proposed program option(s). If the applicant is not proposing to delegate with other agencies, this criterion is not applicable.

5.6 Describes plans to meet or exceed state and local requirements concerning licensing for facilities and to be accessible by state and local authorities for purposes of monitoring and ensuring compliance unless state or local laws prohibit such access. Where facilities are not available, the application provides a plan to acquire facilities in accordance with the requirements provided for the purchase, construction, and major renovation of facilities described in 45 CFR Part 1309.

5.7 Demonstrates the ability to provide timely and efficient implementation of all program components and services immediately upon award, including planning during the transition period; the availability of classroom space and facilities that meet applicable state and local licensing standards for each age group; the ability to provide necessary transportation; and the ability to recruit eligible pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, and their families.

5.8 Provides plans to coordinate with other state programs and to participate in state systems of early childhood development, including the QRIS or the state equivalent. If the applicant participates in QRIS, it must include its rating. If applicable, the applicant explains why it does not participate if there is a QRIS in its geographic area.

| **6. Budget and Budget Justification** | **Maximum Points: 15** |
|---|---|

Reviewers will evaluate the extent to which the applicant:

6.1 Demonstrates that funds are budgeted to provide all required comprehensive Head Start and/or Early Head Start services to eligible pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers, and their families in a cost-effective manner as indicated in the application narrative. If proposing both Head Start and Early Head Start services, funds must be budgeted separately for Head Start and Early Head Start. The applicant's budget must also clearly distinguish the proposed base operating funds,

training/technical assistance funds, total federal funds, and the applicant's non-federal share.

6.2 Demonstrates that teaching staff salaries are commensurate with the degree qualifications and experience required in Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Proposed staff salaries should reflect the data identified in the Wage and Fringe Benefits Comparability Survey.

6.3 Demonstrates that start-up/pre-award costs, if proposed, are justified, reasonable, and applicable based on the applicant's proposed Head Start and/or Early Head Start program. Start-up/pre-award costs may include: 1) ensuring that proposed facilities comply with state and local requirements and are adequately equipped, 2) purchasing classroom equipment and supplies, and/or 3) conducting staff background checks. If the applicant is not requesting start-up/pre-award costs, this criterion is not applicable.

6.4 Demonstrates that the applicant will contribute the required non-federal share/match of the total project cost using allowable sources. Identifies each source of non-federal share match, including the estimated amount per source and the valuation methodology.

| **Bonus Points** | **Maximum Points: 10** |
|---|---|

7.1 In the interest of ensuring a robust competition for high-quality, comprehensive early care and education service providers, ACF is awarding bonus points to applicant organizations that do not have agreements that prohibit other entities from applying for a Head Start or Early Head Start grant on their own behalf or that impose a penalty on any entity for making such application. Applicants that wish to receive the bonus points must include in the appendices of their applications the following signed statement, "On behalf of (organization), I, (name), attest that (organization) does not have a non-compete or other agreement with any entity, at the time this application is submitted, which prohibits the entity from applying for a Head Start or Early Head Start grant on its own behalf or imposes a penalty on that entity for making such application." The statement must be signed by the person who is authorized to sign the application on behalf of the applicant.

| **PHASE TWO** | **Maximum Points: 0** |
|---|---|

Phase Two is a financial review that will be performed by financial experts contracted by ACF. This review will be used to determine risk and whether an applicant should be considered as Low (low-to-no risk), Moderate (some minor deficiencies are determined), or High (high risk).

This review will not change the Phase One scores determined by the objective review panel, and points will not be assessed, but the Phase Two review will assist ACF in making award decisions. Please see *Section V.2. Review and Selection Process* for more information on the Phase Two financial review.

The financial review of Head Start applicants serves to determine the financial capabilities of an applicant based on information provided in the application package, including submitted financial statements adhering to GAAP and/or audit reports or statements from Certified Public Accountants, and A-133 compliance audits.

**Section 1: Financial Capability** - Evaluates the applicant's ability to sustain operations and perform the planned program. The contracted financial experts will assess an applicant's financial capability based on the applicant's financial statements. Their assessment will cover a variety of criteria primarily focusing on unrestricted net assets (or retained earnings, as applicable), financial statement ratios, access to commercial credit facilities, and diversity of funding sources.

**Section 2: Financial Management Systems** - Evaluates the applicant's ability to properly account for and administer federal funds. The contracted financial experts will assess the applicant's accounting policies and procedures. In addition, the financial experts will assess the applicant's ability to comply with the types of compliance requirements outlined in 45 CFR Part 74 (for non-profit organizations) and

45 CFR Part 92 (for state and local governments).

**Section 3: Additional Information** - Collects information on the applicants' Single Audit opinions (if applicable) and financial statements for the most recent fiscal year.

In response to Section 2, applicants **must** address all of the following elements in a narrative response.

**Internal Control, Compliance, and Ethical Values**

Each applicant shall:

- Describe its policies and procedures to achieve compliance with all post-award requirements (45 CFR Part 74.22 through 45 CFR Part 74.62 (for non-profit organizations) and 45 CFR Part 92.20 through 45 CFR 92.44 (for state and local governments)).
- Describe its ability to meet the 15 percent limitation on development and administrative costs (45 CFR § 1301.32).
- Describe its commitment to high ethical standards in relation to written policies and programs inherent within the organization.

**Accounting Policies and Procedures**

Each applicant shall:

- Describe how it utilizes a logical and consistent method for the allocation of indirect costs to intermediate and final cost objectives.
- If the applicant has an indirect rate agreement:
  - Reference the indirect rate agreements.
  - Identify the process for the collection of indirect costs, calculation of rate(s), and the application or allocation of costs to specific grants.
- If the applicant utilizes the direct allocation method:
  - Describe its process for identifying and prorating joint costs using a base that is most appropriate to the particular element of cost that is being prorated.
- Describe how Head Start resources will be combined with other early childhood funding sources, if applicable, and describe how it will properly allocate costs.

**Additional Information**

Each applicant shall:

- State whether the applicant received a Qualified, Disclaimer, or Adverse audit opinion in the past 2 years for any federal grant program.
- State whether or not the materially non-compliant finding(s), which caused the Qualified, Disclaimer, or Adverse audit opinion, have been resolved.

## V.2. Review and Selection Process

No grant award will be made under this announcement on the basis of an incomplete application. No grant award will be made to an applicant or sub-recipient that does not have a DUNS number (www.dbn.com) and an active registration at SAM (www.sam.gov). See *Section III.3. Other*.

**Initial ACF Screening**

Each application will be screened to determine whether it meets any of the disqualification factors described in *Section III.3.Other, Application Disqualification Factors*.

Disqualified applications are considered to be “non-responsive” and are excluded from the competitive review process. Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this funding opportunity announcement.

**Objective Review and Results**

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using only the criteria described in *Section V.1. Criteria* of this announcement. Each panel is composed of experts with knowledge and experience in the area under review. Generally, review panels include three reviewers and one chairperson.

Results of the competitive objective review are taken into consideration by ACF in the selection of projects for funding; however, objective review scores and rankings are not binding. Scores and rankings are only one element used in the award decision-making process.

ACF may elect not to fund applicants with management or financial problems that would indicate an inability to successfully complete the proposed project. Applications may be funded in whole or in part. Successful applicants may be funded at an amount lower than that requested. ACF reserves the right to consider preferences to fund organizations serving emerging, unserved, or under-served populations, including those populations located in pockets of poverty. ACF will also consider the geographic distribution of federal funds in its award decisions.

The review process under this FOA is structured into two phases.

**Phase One**
Phase One is organized around six core elements of effective Head Start and Early Head Start programs that are focused on school readiness and ongoing academic success. Phase One will result in a numerical score as evaluated by a panel of non-federal reviewers. Applications that score highly in the Phase One review will proceed to Phase Two.

**Phase Two**
Phase Two is a financial review that will be performed by financial experts contracted by ACF. This review will be used to determine risk and whether an applicant should be considered as Low (low-to-no risk), Medium (some minor deficiencies are determined), or High (high risk).

This review will not change the scores or rankings determined by the objective review panel, but will assist ACF in making award decisions.

The financial review of Head Start and/or Early Head Start applicants serves to determine the financial capability of an applicant based on information provided in the application package, including submitted financial statements adhering to GAAP and/or audit reports or statements from Certified Public Accountants/Licensed Public Accountants, and A-133 compliance audits.

The financial review consists of three sections:

- **Section 1: Financial Capability** - Evaluates the applicant's ability to sustain operations and perform the planned program.
- **Section 2: Financial Management Systems** - Evaluates the applicant's ability to properly account for and administer federal funds.

All applicants must submit their most recent fiscal year's financial statements and related notes to the financial statements adhering to GAAP as well as the last year's audit reports or statements from Certified Public Accountants or Licensed Public Accountants.

- **Section 3: Additional Information** - Collects information on the applicants' Single Audit opinions (if applicable) for the past 2 years, financial statements for the past 2 years, as well as the applicant's cost allocation methodology (if applicable).

**Additional Review and Funding Considerations**

The Head Start Act gives priority to organizations based on their ability to serve target populations. In

keeping with Section 641(d)(3) of the Head Start Act, HHS shall give priority to applicants for Head Start funding that have demonstrated capacity in providing effective, comprehensive, and well-coordinated early childhood education and development services and programs to children and their families. Section 645A(e) of the Head Start Act gives priority in Early Head Start funding to entities with a record of providing early, continuous, and comprehensive childhood development and family services.

Please note that, if the applicant is a current or former Head Start or Early Head Start grantee, ACF will retrieve, review, and consider the grantee's last two OHS triennial monitoring reports. In addition, OHS will retrieve, review, and consider any monitoring reports issued in the 5 years preceding the posting of this FOA. ACF will also retrieve, review, and consider state licensing documentation on the applicant. These reports and documents may be considered in making final funding determinations.

ACF reserves the right to deny funding to any applicant that is presently designated as "high risk," probationary or not in good standing, or has been debarred or defunded by any federal agency. ACF reserves the right not to fund applicants with unacceptably high federal Head Start per-child costs when other highly ranked applications are available. Additionally, ACF may decide not to fund projects that would require unreasonably high start-up costs for facilities or equipment, or that propose such a low number of children that the project may require unreasonably high ongoing funding levels relative to the number of additional children and families proposed to be served.

Applications proposing a Head Start program that are not from entities "in the community" to be served do not meet the requirements for designation as a Head Start agency in Section 641 of the Head Start Act. ACF will consider all "qualified applicants in such community" as required by Section 641(d) where the application demonstrates that the applicant has an organizational base within the community to be served. This could be established by virtue of the applicant being a provider of services in the community or having a clear relationship to the community as evidenced, for example, by board representation from the community or by evidence of the support of community leaders, including, but not limited to, mayors, city council members, school principals, presidents of local chambers of commerce, county government officials, social service provider organizations, community organizations representing low-income, minority, or other relevant sectors of the community, including child care providers and organizations.

**Approved but Unfunded Applications**

Applications recommended for approval that were not funded under the competition because of the lack of available funds may be held over by ACF and reconsidered in a subsequent review cycle if a future competition under the program area is planned. These applications will be held over for a period of up to one year and will be re-competed for funding with all other competing applications in the next available review cycle. For those applications that have been deemed as approved but unfunded, notice will be given of such determination by postal mail.

### V.3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Announcement of awards and the disposition of applications will be provided to applicants at a later date.

## VI. Award Administration Information

### VI.1. Award Notices

Successful applicants will be notified through the issuance of a Notice of Award (NoA) that sets forth the amount of funds granted, the terms and conditions of the grant, the effective date of the grant, the budget period for which initial support will be given, the non-federal share to be provided (if applicable), and the total project period for which support is contemplated. The NoA will be signed by the Grants Officer and transmitted via postal mail, email, or by GrantSolutions.gov or the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES), whichever is relevant. Following the finalization of funding decisions, organizations whose applications will not be funded will be notified by letter signed by the cognizant Program Office head. Any other correspondence that announces to a Principal Investigator, or a Project Director, that an application was selected is not an authorization to begin performance.

Project costs that are incurred prior to the receipt of the NoA are at the recipient's risk and may be reimbursed only to the extent that they are considered allowable as approved pre-award costs. Information on allowable pre-award costs and the time period under which they may be incurred is available in *Section IV.5. Funding Restrictions*.

## VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Awards issued under this announcement are subject to the uniform administrative requirements and cost principles of 45 CFR Part 74 (Awards And Subawards To Institutions Of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Nonprofit Organizations, And Commercial Organizations) or 45 CFR Part 92 (Grants And Cooperative Agreements To State, Local, And Tribal Governments). The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is available at http://www.gpo.gov.

An application funded with the release of federal funds through a grant award does not constitute, or imply, compliance with federal regulations. Funded organizations are responsible for ensuring that their activities comply with all applicable federal regulations.

### Prohibition Against Profit

Grantees are subject to the limitations set forth in 45 CFR Part 74, Subpart E-Special Provisions for Awards to Commercial Organizations (45 CFR § 74.81_Prohibition against profit), which states that, "...no HHS funds may be paid as profit to any recipient even if the recipient is a commercial organization. Profit is any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs."

### Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations

Grantees are also subject to the requirements of 45 CFR § 87.1(c), Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations, which says, "Organizations that receive direct financial assistance from the [Health and Human Services] Department under any Department program may not engage in inherently religious activities such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization, as part of the programs or services funded with direct financial assistance from the Department." Therefore, organizations must take steps to completely separate the presentation of any program with religious content from the presentation of the Federally funded program by time or location *in such a way that it is clear that the two programs are separate and distinct.* If separating the two programs by time but presenting them in the same location, one program must *completely* end before the other program begins.

A faith-based organization receiving HHS funds retains its independence from federal, state, and local governments, and may continue to carry out its mission, including the definition, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs. For example, a faith-based organization may use space in its facilities to provide secular programs or services funded with federal funds without removing religious art, icons, scriptures, or other religious symbols. In addition, a faith-based organization that receives federal funds retains its authority over its internal governance, and it may retain religious terms in its organization's name, select its

board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its organization's mission statements and other governing documents in accordance with all program requirements, statutes, and other applicable requirements governing the conduct of HHS-funded activities.

Regulations pertaining to the Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations, which includes the prohibition against federal funding of inherently religious activities, Understanding the Regulations Related to the Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Initiative" are available at http://www.hh s.gov/ partner ships /about/r egulations/. Additional information, resources, and tools for faith-based organizations is available through The Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships website at http://www.hhs.gov/ partnerships/ index.html and at the https://www.acf.hhs.gov /progra ms/ocs / resource/capacity- building- toolkits-for- faith-based-and -community- organizations.

**Award Term and Condition under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000**

Awards issued under this announcement are subject to the requirements of Section 106 (g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7104). For the full text of the award term, go to http://www.acf.hhs.gov / grants/ award-term- and- condition -for-trafficking- in-persons. If you are unable to access this link, please contact the Grants Management Contact identified in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* of this announcement to obtain a copy of the term. **Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace** The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106) requires that all organizations receiving grants from any federal agency agree to maintain a drug-free workplace. By signing the application, the Authorizing Official agrees that the grantee will provide a drug-free workplace and will comply with the requirement to notify ACF if an employee is convicted of violating a criminal drug statute. Failure to comply with these requirements may be cause for debarment. Government-wide requirements for Drug-Free Workplace for Financial Assistance are found in 2 CFR Part 182; HHS implementing regulations are set forth in 2 CFR § 382.400. All recipients of ACF grant funds must comply with the requirements in Subpart B - Requirements for Recipients Other Than Individuals, 2 CFR § 382.225. The rule is available at http://www.gpo.gov /fdsys /pkg/ CFR-2001-title45-vol1/content-detail.html.

**Debarment and Suspension**

HHS regulations published in 2 CFR Part 376 implement the governmentwide debarment and suspension system guidance (2 CFR Part 180) for HHS' non-procurement programs and activities. "Non-procurement transactions" include, among other things, grants, cooperative agreements, scholarships, fellowships, and loans. ACF implements the HHS Debarment and Suspension regulations as a term and condition of award. Grantees may decide the method and frequency by which this determination is made and may check the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) located at https://www.s am.gov/, although checking the EPLS is not required. More information is available at https://w ww.acf.hhs.gov/ grants-forms.

**Pro-Children Act**

The Pro-Children Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §§ 7181 through 7184, imposes restrictions on smoking in facilities where federally funded children's services are provided. HHS grants are subject to these requirements only if they meet the Act's specified coverage. The Act specifies that smoking is prohibited in any indoor facility (owned, leased, or contracted for) used for the routine or regular provision of kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services to children under the age of 18. In addition, smoking is prohibited in any indoor facility or portion of a facility (owned, leased, or contracted for) used for the routine or regular provision of federally funded health care, day care, or early childhood development, including Head Start services to children under the age of 18. The statutory prohibition also applies if such facilities are constructed, operated, or maintained with federal funds. The statute does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or

Medicaid funds, portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment, or facilities where WIC coupons are redeemed. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to $1,000 per violation and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.

**HHS Grants Policy Statement**

The HHS Grants Policy Statement (HHS GPS) is the Department of Health and Human Services' single policy guide for discretionary grants and cooperative agreements. ACF grant awards are subject to the requirements of the HHS GPS, which covers basic grants processes, standard terms and conditions, and points of contact, as well as important agency-specific requirements. Appendices to the HHS GPS include a glossary of terms and a list of standard abbreviations for ease of reference. The general terms and conditions in the HHS GPS will apply as indicated unless there are statutory, regulatory, or award-specific requirements to the contrary that are specified in the Notice of Award (NOA). The HHS GPS is available at https://www.acf.hhs.go v/ grants/ discretionary-competitive-grants.

**Federal Recognition of Same-Sex Spouses/Marriage**

Recipients must adopt, review, and revise, as needed, any policies and procedures concerning Head Start and/or Early Head Start child eligibility requirements that apply the regulatory definition of "family," to reflect inclusion of same-sex spouses and marriages. The definition of "family" in the Head Start regulations includes all persons living in the same household who are supported by the income of the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the child enrolling or participating in the Head Start program and who are "related to the parent(s) or guardian(s) by blood, marriage, or adoption." 45 CFR 1305.2(e). The term "family" as used to determine the eligibility of a child to participate in a Head Start and/or Early Head Start program shall include a same-sex spouse. HHS recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex who are lawfully married under the law of a state, territory, or foreign jurisdiction, as long as it would be recognized by at least one state, regardless of the state in which the couple resides.

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**

Applications funded by federal grant programs are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Such applications are frequently requested under the FOIA, consistent with the FOIA's requirement to proactively disclose frequently requested materials at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(2)(D). Each released application will receive appropriate redaction of specific information to protect personal privacy and competitively sensitive commercial information. Information on filing a FOIA request is available at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/submit-a-foia-request.

**Other Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

**The regulations relevant to Head Start (known as the Program Performance Standards) are:**

- 45 CFR Part 1301, Head Start Grants Administration
- 45 CFR Part 1302, Policies and Procedures for Selection, Initial Funding, and Refunding of Head Start Grantees, and for Selection of Replacement Grantees
- 45 CFR Part 1303, Appeal Procedures for Head Start Grantees and Current or Prospective Delegate Agencies
- 45 CFR Part 1304, Program Performance Standards for the Operation of Head Start Programs by Grantee and Delegate Agencies
- 45 CFR Part 1305, Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance in Head Start
- 45 CFR Part 1306, Head Start Staffing Requirements and Program Options
- 45 CFR Part 1307, Policies and Procedures for Designation Renewal of Head Start and Early Head

Start Grantees
- 45 CFR Part 1308, Head Start Program Performance Standards on Services for Children with Disabilities
- 45 CFR Part 1309, Head Start Facilities Purchase, Major Renovation and Construction
- 45 CFR Part 1310, Head Start Transportation
- And all applicable grant regulations

Copies of the current applicable Head Start regulations are available at the websites identified at the end of this announcement. In addition, copies of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars that are used to determine whether expenditures by Head Start and Early Head Start grantees are allowable can be found at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_circulars.html.

## VI.3. Reporting

Grantees under this funding opportunity announcement will be required to submit performance progress and financial reports periodically throughout the project period. The frequency of required reporting is listed later in this section.

**Performance Progress Reports (PPR)**

Notice of Award (NoA) documents will inform grantees of the appropriate performance progress report form or format to use. Grantees should consult their Notice of Award documents to determine the appropriate performance progress report format required under their award. Performance progress reports are due 30 days after the end of the reporting period. Final program performance reports are due 90 days after the close of the project period.

For awards that implement the use of the ACF-OGM-SF-PPR, the form is available under "Reporting, Disclosures, and other Standard Forms" at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/forms#chapter-4.

**Federal Financial Reports (FFR)**

ACF grantees are required to use the SF-425 Federal Financial Report (FFR) for expenditure reporting. SF-425 reports will be due as frequently as is required in the terms and conditions of their award using due dates from reports to PMS. The SF-269 is no longer accepted for expenditure reports. If an SF-269 is submitted, the ACF will return it and require the recipient to complete the SF-425.

All expenditure reports will be due on one of the standard due dates by which cash reporting is required to be submitted to PMS or at the end of a calendar quarter as determined by ACF. As a result, a recipient that receives awards from more than one federal program may be subject to more than one approach, but will not be required to change its current means of submission or be subjected to more than eight standard due dates. **A final cumulative SF-425 is due 90 days after the close of the project period.**

| For budget periods ending in the months of: | The FFR (SF425) is due to ACF on: |
|---|---|
| January 01 - March 31 | April 30 |
| April 01 - June 30 | July 30 |
| July 01 - September 30 | October 30 |
| October 01 - December 31 | January 30 |

The SF-425 form in Adobe PDF and MS-Excel formats, along with instructions, is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/ grants_forms.

For planning purposes, ACF reporting periods for awards made under this announcement are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Performance Progress Reports: | Semi-Annually |
| Financial Reports: | Semi-Annually |

**Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Subaward and Executive Compensation**

Awards issued as a result of this funding opportunity may be subject to the Transparency Act subaward and executive compensation reporting requirements of 2 CFR Part 170. See ACF's Award Term for Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting Requirement implementing this requirement and additional award applicability information at https:// www.acf.hhs.gov/ grants/ discretionary-competitive-grants.

**Tangible Property Report (SF-428)**

All ACF grantees are required to submit the Tangible Personal Property Form (SF-428). The SF-428 is a standard form used to collect information related to tangible personal property: equipment with a unit cost of $5,000 or more, and residual supplies with an aggregate fair market value exceeding $5,000. The form consists of the cover sheet and three attachments to be used as required by the terms and conditions of the award: Annual Report; Final Report and a Disposition Request. A Supplemental Sheet, SF-428S, may be used to provide detailed individual item information. The form is available at http:// www.whitehouse.gov/ omb/ grants_forms.

**Real Property Status Report (SF-429)**

All ACF grantees are required to submit the Real Property Status Report SF-429, if applicable. The SF-429 is a standard report to be used by recipients of federal financial assistance to report real property status or to request agency instructions on real property that is provided as Government Furnished Property (GFP) or acquired (i.e., purchased, constructed, or renovated) in whole or in part under a Notice of Award. This form consists of the cover sheet and three attachments to be used as frequently as required in the terms and conditions of the award: General reporting (SF-429A, Attachment A), Request to Acquire, Improve or Furnish (SF-429B, Attachment B), or Disposition or Encumberance Request (SF-429C, Attachment C). The forms are available at http:// www.whitehouse.gov/ omb/ grants_forms.

## VII. Agency Contacts

**Program Office Contact**

Shawna Pinckney
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Head Start
Portals Building
1250 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (888) 242-0684
Email: OHSTech@reviewops.org

**Office of Grants Management Contact**

Administration for Children and Families

370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW
Aerospace Building - 6th Floor East
Washington, DC 20447
Email: ACFOGMREGE-grants@acf.hhs.gov

**Federal Relay Service:**
Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service for assistance at 1-800-877-8339 (**TTY** - Text Telephone or **ASCII** - American Standard Code For Information Interchange).

## VIII. Other Information

### Reference Websites

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) http://www.hhs.gov/.

HHS Grants Forecast http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) http://www.acf.hhs.gov/.

ACF Grants Homepage https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ grants.

ACF Funding Opportunities http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/.

ACF "How to Apply for a Grant" https://www.acf. hhs.gov/ grants/ how-to-apply-for-grants.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) https://www.cfda.gov/.

For submission of a paper format application, all required Standard Forms (SF), assurances, and certifications are available on the ACF Grants-Forms page at https://www. acf.hhs.gov/grants-forms.

Standard grant forms are available at the Grants.gov Forms Repository webpage at http:// www.grants.gov/web/ grants/forms/sf-424- family.html.

For information regarding accessibility issues, visit the Grants.gov Accessibility Compliance Page at http://www07.grants.gov/ web/ grants/ support/ technical-support/ accessibility-compliance.html.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/.

The *Federal Register* https://www.federalregister.gov/.

United States Code (U.S.C.) http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/.

### Head Start Information on the Internet

The Head Start Act as amended by The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, (Pub.L. 110-134) http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs.

Head Start Program Performance Standards (45 CFR Parts 1301-1311) http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara /cfr/waisidx_07/45cfrv4_07.html#1301.

**Applicant Support Website**

OHS strongly encourages entities interested in applying for this Head Start and/or Early Head Start funding opportunity to visit http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/grants. This interactive website offers a robust collection of resources intended to support organizations in gaining a deeper understanding of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs, the FOA, and evaluation criteria. A profile of current grantee services, equipment, and inventory can also be found through this website. Head Start is a federal program with important statutory requirements and regulations that grantees must meet. At the applicant support website, applicants can familiarize themselves with these requirements. Finally, the website includes helpful tips for applying via Grants.gov. All interested applicants are reminded to frequently refer back to this FOA when preparing their application.

Prospective applicants will also have the opportunity to send questions to OHS by e-mail through the website listed above. A summary of the questions and OHS responses will be posted for public view on the applicant support website as soon as they become available.

Interested applicants may also contact the OHS Operations Center at (888) 242-0684 or TTY: 711 if they have additional questions.

**Application Checklist**

Applicants may use the checklist below as a guide when preparing your application package.

| What to Submit | Where Found | When to Submit |
|---|---|---|
| SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance | Referenced in *Section IV.2.Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.*<br>For electronic application submission, these forms are available on the FOA's Grants.gov "Download Opportunity Instructions and Application" page under "Download Application Package" in the section entitled, "Mandatory."<br>Also available at http://www.grants.gov/web/ grants/ forms.html<br>by using the link to "SF-424 Family." | Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times.*<br>**Do not attach required application elements or additional pages to the SF-424 at Questions 14 or 15!** ***See Section IV.2. Formatting ACF Applications.*** |
| SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL) | Referenced in *Section IV.2.Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.*<br>For electronic application submission, these forms are available on the FOA's Grants.gov "Download | Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times.* |

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| | Opportunity Instructions and Application" page under "Download Application Package" in the section entitled, "Mandatory."<br><br>Also available at http://www.grants.gov/web/ grants/ forms.html<br><br>by using the link to "SF-424 Family." | |
| DUNS Number (Universal Identifier) and Systems for Award Management (SAM) registration. | Referenced in *Section III.3. Other* in the announcement.<br><br>To obtain a DUNS number, go to<br><br>http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform.<br><br>To register at SAM, go to http://www.sam.gov. | A DUNS number and registration at SAM.gov are required for all applicants.<br><br>Active registration at SAM must be maintained throughout the application and project award period. |
| SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities | "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" is referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.*<br><br>For electronic application submission, this form is available on the FOA's Grants.gov "Download Opportunity Instructions and Application" page under "Download Application Package" in the section entitled, "Optional."<br><br>The form is available in the electronic application kit at Grants.gov<br><br>and at http://www.grants.gov/ web / grants/ forms.html by using the link to "SF-424 Family."<br><br>If applicable, submission of this form is required if any funds have been paid, or will be paid, to any person for influencing, or attempting to influence, an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an | If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application.<br>If it not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant. |

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| | employee of a member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan. | |
| Commitment of Non-Federal Resources | Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget Justification*. | Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. |
| The Project Description | Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description*. | Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. |
| The Project Budget and Budget Justification | Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget Justification* of the announcement. | Submission is required in addition to submission of SF-424A or SF-424C. It must be submitted with the application package by the due date in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. |
| Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form) | Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.*<br><br>For electronic application submission, these forms are available on the FOA's Grants.gov page under the "Application Package" tab in the section entitled, "Mandatory."<br><br>Available at http://www. grants .gov/ web/ grants/ forms. html by using the link to "SF-424 Family." | Submission is due with the application package. If it is not submitted with the application package, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant. |

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| SF-424A Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs / SF-424B Assurances - Non-Construction Programs<br><br>and<br><br>SF-424C - Budget Information Construction Programs / SF-424D - Assurances Construction Programs | Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications*.<br><br>For electronic application submission, these forms are available on the FOA's Grants.gov "Download Opportunity Instructions and Application" page under "Download Application Package" in the section entitled, "Mandatory."<br><br>Also available at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms.html by using the link to "SF-424 Family."<br><br>These forms are ***required*** for applications under this FOA:<br><br>• Projects that include **non-construction and construction** activities must submit the SF-424A, B, C, and D, along with the SF-424 and SF-P/PSL. | Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. |
| Project Summary/Abstract | Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description.* The Project Summary/Abstract is limited to one single-spaced page. | Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. |
| Table of Contents | Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description*. | Submit with the application by the due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. |
| Phase Two | Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description* and *Section V.1. Criteria*. | Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. |

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| Assurance: Absence of Non-compete Agreement | Referenced in *Section IV.2 and* template provided in *the Appendix* at the end of this funding opportunity announcement. | Signed assurance is required of applicants that wish to receive bonus points.<br>Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. |
| Third-Party Agreements (also, MOUs and Consortia Agreements) | Referenced in *Section IV.2. Project Description*. | If available, submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3*. If not available at the time of application submission, due by the time of award. |
| Letters of Support | Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description*. | Submission is due by the application due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. |
| Proof of Non-Profit Status | Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description, Legal Status of Applicant Entity*. | Proof of non-profit status should be submitted with the application package by the due date listed in the *Overview* and *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. If it is not available at the time of application submission, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant. |
| Resumes of Key Staff in the organization and proposed Head Start program. | Referenced in *Section IV.2. Project Description, Organizational Capacity.* | Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. |

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| Proof of existing Policy Council approval of application (required of current Head Start and Early Head Start grantees) | Referenced in *Section IV.2. Project Description, Additional Eligibility Documentation.* | Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times.* |
| Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs,"<br>and<br>45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities" | Applicants should go to the following URL for the official list of the jurisdictions that have elected to participate in E.O. 12372<br>http://www. whitehouse.gov /omb /grants_spoc/<br>as indicated in *Section IV.4. Intergovernmental Review* of this announcement.<br>The Executive Order and CFR require that applicants submit all required application materials to their State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and indicate the date of submission on the SF-424 at item 19. | Submission of application materials is due to SPOC by the application due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times.* |

## Appendix

**Assurance Template: Absence of Non-compete Agreement**

If the applicant wishes to receive bonus points, this assurance must be completed, signed and dated, and submitted as part of this application in the appendices.

Date

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of (organization), I, (name), attest that (organization) does not have a non-compete or other agreement with any entity, at the time this application is submitted, which prohibits the entity from applying for a Head Start or Early Head Start grant on its own behalf or imposes a penalty on that entity for making such application.

(Signature)

(First and Last Name)

(Title)

Must be signed and dated by the authorized representative of the applicant organization.