

Early Head Start Grantee - South Los Angeles, California
HHS-2014-ACF-OHS-CH-R09-0759

The following questions have been received as of October 18, 2013. The answers have been provided by the Office of Head Start.

Question: The RFP is to provide EHS services to some specific zip codes. One of our centers that we might use as part of service delivery is not in any of the eligible zip codes but is close by. The children who would be served there would all be residents of the eligible zip codes. Would this be allowable under EHS rules?

Response: ACF does not provide direct guidance or instruction in the development of an applicant's project design or in writing their applications. Applicants should use their best judgment in determining whether they are able to meet the requirements contained in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), whether they are able to develop an application they believe to be responsive to the FOA and in designing and writing their applications. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using the criteria described in *Section V.1.* of the FOA. The review panels will use the FOA as their principal guidance available to them in the same way that it is the principal guidance for applicants.

Question: On page 5, of the funding opportunity announcement for Early Head Start Grantee: South Los Angeles, California, states: " ACF solicits application from public or private non-profit organizations, including faith-based organizations or for-profit organizations that wish to compete for funds that are available to provide Early Head Start services to infants, toddlers and pregnant women residing in South Los Angeles in zip codes: 90002, 90016, 90026 and 90059". My question is, can applicants apply for Early Head Start services in all four zip codes or can services be provided to only two zip codes?

Response: Per the funding opportunity announcement, *Section II. Award Information, Expected Number of Awards*, "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."

Question: Page 5 of the RFP states: "ACF solicits applications from public or private non-profit organizations, including faith-based organizations or for-profit organizations that wish to compete for funds that are available to provide Early Head Start services to infants, toddlers and pregnant women residing in South Los Angeles in zip codes 90002, 90016, 90026, and 90059 north of Imperial Highway." If the intended service area is located in zip codes within or in proximity to South Los Angeles, then an incorrect zip code have been printed - 90026 is not in South LA. Zip code 90026 is in the Metro area of Los Angeles, some distance north of South Los Angeles. Is it possible that the intended zip code was 90062 (which is also in South LA)?

Response: The zip codes in the funding opportunity announcement are accurate.

Question: If a center-based program provided mats/cradle boards for sleeping and stored them between rest times, can the space that was originally occupied by the mats/cradle boards be used towards the minimum 35 square feet of usable indoor space per child? This is in reference to Early Head Start Tip Sheet No. 20 entitled "Infant/Toddler Sleeping Arrangements, November 2003", which states center-based programs can "provide options other than cribs for sleeping, such as mats or cradle boards" and these sleeping items can be "stored properly between rest times".

Response: Yes, the space may be counted toward the minimum usable indoor space per child, provided that the mats/cradle boards are put away. Although the mats/cradle boards may be put away, center-based programs need to accommodate the individual sleep schedules for toddlers and babies.

Question: Regarding Performance Standard, Title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, 1304.53 (a)(5) that states centers must have "at least 75 square feet of usable outdoor play space per child", does this outdoor space requirement pertain to Early Head Start, in addition to Head Start, center-based programs?

Response: Yes, this requirement pertains to Early Head Start.