

Community Assessment

Policy

CFR 1302.11 (a) – “A program must propose a service area in the grant application and define the area by county or sub-county area, such as a municipality, town or census tract or jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian reservation.

CFR 1302.11 (b) (2)-- “a program must annually review and update the community assessment to reflect any significant changes including increased availability of publicly-funded pre-kindergarten, rates of family and child homelessness, and significant shifts in community demographics and resources.”

Reference and Regulation

Head Start Performance Standard CFR 1302.11 (a); CFR 1302.11 (b) (2)

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Community Assessment Procedure

Service Area

NHA has defined its service area as within San Diego County, south of CA State Route 56 to the US-Mexican Border, and from the Pacific Coast, east to US Route 67.

Within this service area, NHA and its delegates -- AKA and ECS, and its sub-recipients – Chicano Federation, SDUSD, Grossmont Community College and National School District provide Head Start and Early Head Start services.

Community Assessment

NHA conducts a comprehensive community assessment (CA) in the first year of the five-year grant period. The CA is updated each year thereafter.

Data collected for the CA includes community strengths and resources available to support Head Start families, as well as community needs and gaps in resources that are not available to Head Start families.

Data will include

- Number and demographic information of eligible children and pregnant women, and their geographic location within the service area (i.e. zip code/County District);
 - Including specific populations, such as
 - Children experiencing homelessness
 - Children in foster care
 - Children with disabilities
- Education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families;

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NHA Early Head Start/Head Start Standard Operating Policies and Procedures

- Typical work, school and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- Child development, child care centers and family child care programs that service eligible children (public and private) and the numbers served; and
- Availability of public-funded pre-kindergarten programs, and whether these programs provide part-day or full-day programs.

Data will be used to ensure that the program is targeting recruitment efforts to specific populations (homeless children, foster children, children with disabilities, families in crisis and families living in poverty).

Data will also be reviewed to consider whether a community demographic has changed to necessitate moving Head Start/EHS services out of a specific community and to a community with an identified need for Head Start/EHS services.

Data is also used to determine:

- Program options
- Hours of operation
- Need for conversion of Head Start slots to EHS slots

Data will also be reviewed to consider whether the characteristics of the community allow it to include children from diverse economic backgrounds (i.e private pay) in addition to the Head Start/EHS funded enrollment.

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