

Community Partnerships

Policy/Approach:

Community partnerships are foundational to providing comprehensive services to Head Start and Early Head Start children and families. Staff will establish ongoing collaborative relationships with community organizations to promote the availability of and access to community services that are responsive to needs of enrolled families. Staff will advocate to meet the unmet needs in local communities served and support collaborative efforts to improve service coordination and delivery.

Head Start Program Performance Standards:

1302.53 1302.53 (a)(2)

Procedures:

Family Services, along with other department managers/directors and Family Advocates will maintain contact during the school year with community agencies that provide support and services for both children and families such as:

- Oregon Department of Human Services - Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency.
- Crisis Intervention Services.
- Employment Agencies.
- Non-profit agencies providing services to low-income families.
- Mental health, Nutritional, and Health Care providers.
- Individual and agencies that provide services to children with disabilities and their families.
- Housing assistance agencies and providers of support of children and families experiencing homelessness including local Education agency liaison (McKinney-Vento).
- Education and cultural institutions- such as libraries and museums.
- Josephine County Family Drug Court (BEAR Court).

Staff will:

- Advocate with agencies in the community on behalf of individual families

- Reach out to community organizations as assigned to establish and/or maintain partnership.
- Attend relevant community meetings and/or networking events to receive updates and information;
 - Have two hours per month designated for community partnership work.
 - Take updates and information from Southern Oregon Head Start prepared to share.
 - Bring back relevant information to staff and management.
- Encourage parents to serve on community boards or task forces to develop services responsive to their needs.
- Make presentations to community agencies about Head Start/EHS services.
- Agency representatives will be invited to attend Center Parent Committee Meetings at Head Start/EHS centers & Family Services training presentations.
- Program Directors, Managers, and Supervisors will serve on inter-agency councils, including the Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub, Community College Advisory Boards, Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) committees, and inter-agency task forces.