



## Head Start Reauthorization Summary

- **Recompetition**

Grantees that are not designated as high quality and comprehensive will be required to re compete for their grants every 5 years. This will not begin until, at the earliest, mid-2009.

- **Governance**

There are new board composition and responsibility requirements. Board must have:

- One member with fiscal management or accounting background and expertise;
- One member with early childhood education and development expertise; and
- One member who is a licensed attorney familiar with issues that come before the board
- If such individuals are not available, may use consultants or other individuals instead who work directly with the board.
- Board members may not have a financial conflict of interest with CAA or delegate agency, may not be employed (nor their immediate family members) by CAA or delegate, and may not receive compensation for serving on the board or for providing services to CAA.
- Some additional board members must reflect the community served, including current or former Head Start parents, and others must be selected for their expertise in education, business administration, or community affairs.
- Shared governance between Board and Policy Council (PC) continues, but specific delineation of which body has authority to do what is still somewhat murky on some issues; we anticipate clarification from HHS.

**General Board responsibility:**

- Be legally and financially responsible for administering and overseeing Head Start programs, including safeguarding of Federal funds.
- Adopt practices that assure active, independent and informed governance
- Fully participate in development, planning, and evaluation of Head Start program
- New law requires certain information be shared with Board and PC.

- **Eligibility and enrollment**

- New – up to 35% of children may be from families between 100 and 130% of poverty line.
- Homeless children (broad definition) automatically eligible.
- Stronger penalties for under enrollment. Must attain at least 97% of funded enrollment

- **Full-day and Early Head Start options**

- **Staff educational credentials**

Gradual increase in educational requirements for teachers, including:

- As of October 1, 2011, all teachers (not teacher assistants) must have at least an Associate's degree.
- By 2013, 50% of teachers nationwide must have a B.A.
- As of September 30, 2013, all Teacher Assistants must have at least a CDA.
- As of Sept. 30, 2013, all Education Coordinators must have at least a B.A.

- **Voter registration**

No use of Head Start funds or staff for voter registration, but Head Start site may be used by a nonpartisan group to conduct voter registration during operating hours.

- **Salary Cap**

Head Start grantees may not use any federal funds to pay any portion of compensation (includes salary, bonus, and value of annual and comp leave) over \$172,200 (as of January 2008).

- **New funding/expansion priorities**

Potential enrollment decrease with current funding

- **National Reporting System eliminated**

- **Increased coordination with state**

- **Increased oversight of delegate agency**