

# Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report August 2023



## **Federal Updates:**

### **Fiscal Year 2024 Monitoring Process for Head Start and Early Head Start Recipients**

**Log Number:** ACF-IM-HS-23-04 | **Issuance Date:** 07-11-2023 During the FY24 program year, CLASS scores will be used for [Designation Renewal System \(DRS\)](#) determinations as described in [45 CFR §1304.11\(c\)](#). As a reminder, from the spring of 2020 through spring of 2023, OHS did not use CLASS scores for DRS determinations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [45 CFR §1304.17](#) of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) allows OHS the flexibility to make DRS determinations without one or more of the data elements required in 45 CFR §1304.11 in instances where a major disaster, emergency, or public health emergency makes some data elements unavailable. Since the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic has ended, OHS can no longer utilize this flexibility. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-im-hs-23-04>

### **The Federal Register released notices seeking the public's comment on:**

- National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being
- Building and Sustaining the Child Care and Early Education Workforce
- Evaluating resources to support the identification and care of children with prenatal substance or alcohol exposure in the child welfare system.
- Testing Identified Elements for Success in Fatherhood Programs

### **From the National Head Start Association:**

The House Committee on Appropriations released their Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Mark which includes \$11,246,820,000 for Head Start and Early Head Start which represents a \$750,000,000 reduction from the current FY23 funding level, among other significant cuts to critical services for children and families. Roughly 80,000 Head Start and Early Head Start children would no longer be able to receive services under the proposed House Appropriations bill. This includes a 6.25% direct cut in funding as well as the impact of inflation, estimated at 3.0% as of June 2023.

### **Treatment of Rebates, Refunds, Discounts, and Similar Cost Savings**

**Log Number:** ACF-IM-HS-23-03 | **Issuance Date:** 07-10-2023 <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-im-hs-23-03>  
Head Start recipients receive a wide variety of rebates, tax credits, refunds, discounts, and similar cost savings that affect the net cost of goods and services or are received as cash payments, such as insurance proceeds and cash-back credit card rewards. Applicable credits are addressed in the Uniform Guidance at [45 CFR §§75.406](#), [75.402](#), [75.453](#), and within the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#) I-22, II-28, II-62, II-65, B-2. As defined in 45 CFR §75.406:

The purpose of this Information Memorandum (IM) is to provide guidance on cost-saving measures and how the savings should be treated by the recipient toward the Head Start award. The IM will also guide recipients in ensuring that direct and indirect cost reductions or cash refunds that relate to a Head Start award are reflected in the recipient's accounting practices, allocated correctly, and returned to the federal award appropriately. This IM supersedes ACF-IM-HS-12-09

**State Updates:** Head Start Sites are updating their entries in the Link B5 system.

## **NRCA Program Updates:**

**Enrollment-** Please see the attached "Enrollment Dashboard."

**Finance Updates-** Please see the attached “Fiscal Dashboard.”

**Pre-Service-** Teaching Staff and Aides have been contacted with their return-to-work dates. The Education Team has done an amazing job putting together a mini conference for teaching staff during pre-service. These trainings will be quite beneficial to classroom staff. Topics include CLASS training, Curriculum and Lesson Planning, Recognizing and Planning for the Social/Emotional Challenges of My Classroom, FLIP-IT (Feelings, Limits, Inquiries and Prompts)

**Personnel-** Vacant Positions: 10

- Full Time Lead Teacher Pulaski
- Full Time Assistant Teachers 2 Pulaski, Margaret Beeks, Floyd
- Full Time Early Education Services Advocate Macy
- Full Time Instructional Aides: Christiansburg, Margaret Beeks,
- Part Time Instructional Aides: Christiansburg and Willis

**Self -Assessment**-including the updates to the 5-year goals Is in the narrative stage and will be completed for your September Meeting.

**Head Start Annual Report** will be completed and ready for the September Meeting

Christiansburg and Floyd **playground installations** have begun.

**The PPR** (Performance Progress Report) for the spending of ARP funds has been accepted by the ACF.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roni Fitch*

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services