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Community Partnerships: Working with the Grantee & Delegate Agency



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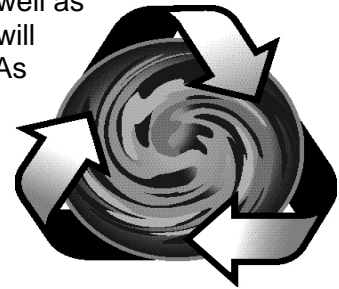
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PREFACE

The relationship between a grantee, and delegate agency sometimes is described as professional, complementary, workable and even difficult. The decision to work with another agency to provide Head Start or Early Head Start services should be thoughtfully planned and discussed in great detail. Both grantee and delegate should feel comfortable and really “know” what they are getting into.

This booklet is designed to help both the grantee and delegate, as well as prospective delegates think about this very important partnership. You will find sample agreements, tips to consider and general do’s and don’ts. As we continue to approach Head Start and Early Head Start from a “**systems**” perspective, let’s consider how the grantee-delegate partnership fits in. The objective of 1304.51 of the Head Start Performance Standards is to establish *dynamic* and *cohesive* management systems that support continuous improvement and foster commitment to providing the *highest level of services to children and families* in accordance with legislation, regulations, and policies.



INTRODUCTION

In order to maximize services, today’s times demand that we all “collaborate”, “partner”, and develop linkages with other organizations. Head Start and Early Head Start programs are finding new and innovative ways to meet this demand. One way that Head Start collaborates nationwide is by subcontracting for services with a “delegate agency”.



According to Head Start regulation 1302.2, a “delegate agency” means a public or private non-profit organization or agency to which a grantee has delegated by written agreement the carrying out of all or part of its Head Start Program.

The Head Start Act of 1998 expanded that definition: The term “delegate agency” means a public, private non-profit, or for-profit organization or agency to which a grantee has delegated all or part of the responsibility for operating a Head Start program.

A delegate agency adds another member in the family of a Head Start and Early Head Start. Delegate agencies can enhance a grantee’s presence in the community, serve a different population of families, and help a program embrace diversity in a different way. There are many rewards to working with a delegate agency; however, there are also special challenges.