

# The New Head Start Performance Standards Pertaining to Hearing Screening and Follow-up

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The recently published Head Start Performance Standards support the provision of evidence - based hearing screening for all children served in Early Head Start and Head Start programs. Applicable standards are summarized in brief below:

## **§1302.42 Child health status and care.**

(b) Ensuring up-to-date child health status.

(2) Within 45 calendar days after the child first attends the program or, for the homebased program option, receives a home visit, a program must either obtain or perform evidence-based vision and hearing screenings.

(3) If a program operates for 90 days or less, it has 30 days from the date the child first attends the program to satisfy paragraphs (b)(1) and (2) of this section.

(d) Extended follow-up care.

(1) A program must facilitate further diagnostic testing, evaluation, treatment, and follow-up plan, as appropriate, by a licensed or certified professional for each child with a health problem or developmental delay, such as elevated lead levels or abnormal hearing or vision results that may affect child's development, learning, or behavior.

(2) A program must develop a system to track referrals and services provided and monitor the implementation of a follow-up plan to meet any treatment needs associated with a health, oral health, social and emotional, or developmental problem.