



HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICES FRAMEWORK

Purpose of the Head Start State Collaboration Offices

The Head Start State Collaboration Offices (HSSCOs) exist “to facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies...and entities that carry out activities designed to benefit low income children from birth to school entry, and their families¹. They provide a structure and a process for OHS to work with State agencies and local entities to leverage their common interests around young children and their families to formulate, implement, and improve state and local policy and practice. To be effective, the HSSCO director must hold a full-time position of sufficient authority and access to ensure collaboration is effective and involves a range of State agencies².

HSSCO methods by which they coordinate and lead efforts for diverse entities to work together

- **Communication:** Convene stakeholder groups for information sharing and planning. Be a conduit of information between the regional office and the State and local early childhood system.
- **Access:** Facilitate Head Start agencies’ access to, and utilization of, appropriate entities so Head Start children and families can secure needed services and critical partnerships are formalized.
- **Systems:** Support policy, planning, and implementation of cross agency State systems for early childhood, including the State Advisory Council, that include and serve the Head Start community.

Scope of Work – HSSCOs facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies and State and local entities as charged by the Office of Head Start in the Regional Office

School Transitions

- to foster seamless transitions and long-term success of Head Start children by promoting continuity of services between the Head Start Child Development and Learning Framework and State early learning standards including pre-k entry assessment and interoperable data systems.

Professional Development

- to collaborate with institutions of higher education to promote professional development through education and credentialing programs for early childhood providers in states.

Child Care and Early Childhood Systems

- to coordinate activities with the State agency responsible for the State CCDBG program and resource and referral, to make full-working-day and full calendar year services available to children. Include Head Start Program Performance Standards in State efforts to rate the quality of programs (Quality Rating and Improvement System, or QRIS) and support Head Start programs in participating in QRIS and partnering with child care and early childhood systems at the local level.

Regional Office Priorities

- to support other regional office priorities such as family and community partnerships; health, mental health, and oral health; disabilities; and support to military families. Other special OHS and ACF initiative requests for HSSCO support should be routed through the OHS Regional Offices.

¹ Head Start Act Section 642(B)(a)(2)(A)

² Head Start Act Section 642(B)(a)(3)(B)