

Lead Screening Policy

Head Start Performance Standards

§ 1304.20 (a) (1) (ii)

§ 1304.20 (d)

Policy

Community Action Head Start recognizes the harmful effects of lead in young children. We screen all children at the beginning of each program year for possible risks of lead exposure and we collaborate with health care providers to have children's blood lead tests completed. It is our policy that a Lead Screening Questionnaire be completed for all children in our Head Start and Early Head Start programs within 90 days of enrollment.

Our program will work in partnership with families to ensure that enrolled children receive this screening. We will work with children's medical providers for any child that has been exposed or is suspected of being exposed to lead and has not received a blood lead test. If a child does not have a pediatrician, families will be referred to another resource provided by Head Start. In addition, they will receive any other necessary follow-up.

As a part of education regarding harmful effects of lead, the Health Services Supervisor will make resources available to families and teachers. Head Start teachers will ensure that age-appropriate messages regarding this topic are incorporated into the classroom and into family meetings.

Procedure

At the beginning of each school year, families will be asked to complete either a **Child or Infant/Toddler Health History** form. If the family answers "yes" to any lead questions, the child will be referred to their primary care provider for further testing. Prenatal participants will be asked to complete the **Prenatal Health History, Nutrition, Lead** form.

Obtaining Lead Screening Information

- The child's **Physical Exam** form asks for lead screening results from the child's doctor. If that information is current, staff will enter it into ChildPlus as a Lead Event.
- Letters and forms for health care providers are given to families during registration explaining Head Start requirements for lead screenings for all children and requesting that blood lead testing be done for children at well-child exams.

Head Start Staff Determination

If the medical provider does not indicate a child's blood lead level, Head Start staff will use the results from the **Health History**. Once the screening is completed, Head Start will follow up:

- Staff will determine whether the child is at high-risk and if further testing is necessary. If the answer to any question on the lead portion of the questionnaire is "yes," the child will be determined to be at high risk and a follow-up blood test must be done.
- The child will be referred to their health care provider.
- Staff will make a referral to the Health Services Supervisor for any child/family who does not have a medical home and/or needs resources to get a blood lead test completed.
- After the screening and determination is completed, staff will enter data from the form into ChildPlus.