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PROGRAM INSTRUCTION

TO: Head Start and Early Head Start Grantees and Delegate Agencies

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2011 Head Start Funding Guidance

INSTRUCTION:

President Obama, on April 15th, 2011, signed Public Law 112-10, the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011. Included in this Act was the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriation of \$7.6 billion for programs under the Head Start Act. This funding will allow programs to continue to serve approximately 965,000 children and families.

The FY 2011 funding level includes \$340 million to continue operations for the expansion programs funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, folding half of the expansion funding into the Head Start and Early Head Start base grants. For the 2011-2012 "school year," this should allow all expansion programs to continue to operate at their full funded enrollment.

Expansion Programs

Programs that received expansion funding under ARRA will receive funding in September 2011 for a six month continuation of those services. These "expansion programs" will receive additional funds in FY 2012 to operate their expansion services for an additional six months provided that there is no cut to Head Start funding in FY 2012. Therefore these programs should plan to operate for a full year. This will ensure continuity to all expansion services through at least September 2012. Maintaining the slots funded through these additional funds beyond the FY 2011-2012 school year is contingent on future funding levels.

Your Regional Offices will contact you to provide information on the amount of funds available to your agency this year and to offer further guidance on the application requirements. The application must be submitted on the Standard Form (SF) 424 and contain the appropriate Board and Policy Council approvals, program narrative and budget narrative.

All Programs

Aside from the increase referenced above there are no other increases to programs. The FY 2011 funding level is also the projected level of funds for Head Start programs in FY 2012 until Congress enacts a budget. Grantees should plan to operate at this funding level until a final decision is reached on the FY 2012 appropriation level for the Head Start program. As always, grantees encountering one

time needs especially related to health and safety concerns should contact their regional office throughout the year.

Please see the attached Q&A for more details on this funding and direct any questions to your OHS Regional Office.

/ Yvette Sanchez Fuentes /

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Q&A on FY 2011 Funding

Q: Does the FY 2011 appropriation make all of the ARRA funding permanent?

A: No. Congress appropriated \$2.1 billion through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), of which \$678 million was awarded to specifically expand enrollment for 12 months. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriation makes 50 percent of the expansion funding (or \$340 million) part of the on-going base grant for each grantee that received expansion under the ARRA.

Q: Since only 50 percent of the expansion funding is made part of the base, what does this mean for my expansion program?

A: For the upcoming 2011-2012 "school year," all expansion grantees will have funding and should plan to serve **all** of their funded enrollment. All of these grantees will receive six months of funding in late FY 2011, and another six months of funding by March 2012 contingent on the FY 2012 appropriation. Funds from the FY 2011 and 2012 appropriations may allow all expansion programs to ensure continuity of services until at least September 2012 with funding across two fiscal years.

Q: How can we plan for receiving an additional six months in FY 2012 when there is not yet a FY 2012 budget?

A: For planning purposes, the Office of Head Start always asks grantees to assume that their base funding will be the same as it was in the previous fiscal year. As a grantee that received expansion, your FY 2011 base now includes 50 percent of the funding to support expansion. Assuming the FY 2012 appropriation does not cut Head Start funding, you should plan to receive an additional six months of funding by March 2012 to continue all your expansion slots through this "school year."