



NHSA's Program of Excellence Accreditation

The National Head Start Association's Program of Excellence Accreditation recognizes and supports the outstanding performance of Head Start grant recipients across the country.

This designation is earned by programs that consistently demonstrate excellence in program management and service performance and continually support the achievement of robust outcomes for children birth to five years old, pregnant people, families, and the communities where they live.

NHSA's Indicators of Excellence

NHSA defines the mark of quality with a 41-part framework known as the 41 Indicators of Excellence, which:

- reflect established performance criteria;
- extract evidence of the ways your program goes beyond the Head Start Program Performance Standards; and
- describe the best and most effective practices for motivating and helping programs make lasting improvements in their services to children and families.

Head Start program applicants who successfully complete the application will earn the Program of Excellence Accreditation.

Application Process

Programs will have three months to complete the accreditation application process including attending online meetings. A \$3,500 application fee is due upon registration.

Learn more and register: www.nhsa.org/excellence

Benefits of Participation

The application process prepares programs for Head Start monitoring protocols through alignment with HSPS standards and entitles programs to:

- A thorough organizational evaluation, designed specifically for Head Start.
- Identification of strengths and coaching in areas for continuous improvement.
- Announcement of accreditation sent by NHSA to your senators, representatives, and state governor.
- Recognition and features by NHSA, access to a marketing toolkit, and assistance to tell your story in the media.
- Use of the NHSA Program of Excellence Accreditation logo, a nationally recognized mark of distinction in the Head Start field.