**Template Response to the HHS Request for Information**

**Request for Information: Ensuring Lawful Regulation and Unleashing Innovation To Make America Healthy Again, Docket: AHRQ-2025-0001**

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of [PROGRAM NAME] in [CITY, STATE] with our suggestions on ways to streamline Head Start regulations while maintaining the strengths of the program. [PROGRAM NAME] serves [NUMBER] children in [HEAD START PRESCHOOL / EARLY HEAD START / ETC.].

Head Start is a launchpad for future leaders and strong communities. It empowers children inside and outside the classroom by building essential foundations for early childhood learning, giving them the academic and developmental skills they’ll need for success in school and life.

We pride ourselves on being a national network with local control: every Head Start program tailors their services to meet the unique needs of the children, families, and communities they serve. For example, our program chooses to [EXAMPLE OF LOCAL DECISIONS / PRIORITIES/ ETC.].

*Decisions on where and how to serve the children and families in your community vary widely and that variation shows that Head Start is certainly not one-size-fits-all! See this* [*draft compendium*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vt6XiYf3CGQReDm4PU4dyRPWITrqs2pA2NY7EeZbJOk/edit?tab=t.0) *for ideas on how other programs have adapted Head Start in their communities, and include an example of a priority or local adaptation that your program has made.*

Head Start has a history of always striving to improve, keeping up with changes in best practice and what we know about how young children learn, grow, and thrive. We support regulatory simplification geared towards improving our ability to best run our program, and we also urge you to maintain what makes Head Start strong in your efforts to improve efficiency and reduce bureaucracy.

In the spirit of continuous quality improvement, we recommend your consideration of these changes to regulation:

[EXAMPLE(S) OF CHANGES TO REGULATION OR GUIDANCE.]

*Ideas may include regulations or processes that are unnecessary or duplicative, increase bureaucracy without a meaningful positive impact, or hinder creative approaches to running the program. Remember that it’s critical not just to share what you want to change, but why such a change would be helpful and what alternatives you’d propose, if any.*

In addition, we urge you to **not** eliminate requirements that are foundational to Head Start’s success. The federal framework, when coupled with local flexibility, has been key to maintaining high standards through good times and challenging times. For example, we lift up these areas of regulation that are essential in driving the high quality programming that makes Head Start successful. [EXAMPLE(S) OF ESSENTIAL STANDARDS OR REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE KEY TO MAINTAINING HEAD START’S SUCCESS]

*Core areas of the Head Start Program Performance Standards and related OHS guidance that, in your view,* ***are most essential in supporting Head Start’s mission****. These are the areas of regulation that help drive the comprehensive services, inclusiveness, and high quality programming that make Head Start successful in meeting the needs of children and families who most depend on early learning support.*

Head Start delivers lasting benefits for the next generation, families, communities, and ultimately American taxpayers. Children who attend Head Start are more likely to graduate, secure stable employment, and actively contribute to the workforce. Families of Head Start benefit from greater stability and fewer barriers to workforce participation. We support administrative simplification as part of continuous quality improvement efforts, and urge you to be mindful of Head Start’s core strengths, and the flexibilities grant recipients are currently afforded that could be maximized through non-regulatory guidance. And as always when considering changes, it is important to consider the potential unintended consequences. Thank you for your support of Head Start and our shared desire to improve our ability to partner with families to ensure their and their children’s success.

Sincerely,

[NAME]
[TITLE]

[PROGRAM]

**Submitting Your Comments**

Feel free to use the template above or draft your own.

**Pro tips:**

* Keep in mind what’s important: ideas should be meaningful but should not undermine the mission of Head Start.
* Keep your writing concise and focused.
* Give clear examples and solutions.
* Be constructive in your recommendations – explain why a regulation could be simplified, and how.
* Discuss with your staff and policy councils the frustrations they run into with federal bureaucracy.

**How to submit:**

* Visit the [Request for Information](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/14/2025-08384/request-for-information-rfi-ensuring-lawful-regulation-and-unleashing-innovation-to-make-american) page of the Federal Register.
* On the left toolbar, click on *Public comments*, then *Submit a public comment.*  You can submit your comment as a PDF attachment or copy your text directly into the webpage.

**Deadline to submit comments: Monday, July 14, 2025**