

BETTER BEGINNINGS QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

POLICY FOR HEAD START CERTIFICATION



The Better Beginnings Rules and Regulations state:

7.03 Child Care centers that are accredited through National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the Council on Accreditation (COA), or the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities: Child and Youth Services Standards (CARF), and Family Child Care homes that are accredited through the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) will be considered certified. Facilities with such accreditations will submit a Better Beginnings Application Form and verification of the national accreditation. Additional documentation of Better Beginnings requirements, or reviews may be required determine level of Better Beginnings certification.

Policy:

Head Start facilities are eligible for reciprocation of Better Beginnings criteria by meeting the following requirements.

1. Submit a Better Beginnings application Form A.
2. Submit a copy of the most recent federal monitoring review results including CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) scores.
3. If the report contains findings, a copy of the corrective action or improvement plan shall be included.
4. A copy of prior reviews may be requested and a grantee may be required to participate in certain portions of Better Beginnings if there are multiple findings in multiple areas of the Head Start Performance Standards.
5. Agencies operating an Early Head Start shall be required to meet the Environmental Assessment component.

Upon review of the documentation provided, the level of certification to be awarded will be determined. Certification is valid for 36 months. The facility shall submit annual verification that compliance with federal regulations is maintained.

Head Start grantees may choose not to participate in the reciprocation process but may choose to participate by meeting the Better Beginnings criteria for the level requested.

Electronic submissions of application and documentation are acceptable and encouraged.