

Proposals affecting eligibility requirements of Headstart published

New proposals affecting eligibility requirements and other provisions of the Headstart Follow Through Act, were published today by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The proposed regulations enable children between three years old and the age of compulsory school attendance to be eligible to enroll in Head Start programs if they come from low-income families, i.e., if their families are below the poverty line or are eligible for public assistance.

The Head Start program continues to allow inclusion of up to 10% enrollment of children who would benefit from such programs but whose families do not meet the low-income criteria. The proposed regulations require that 10% of the total enrollment be handicapped children.

Revised income guidelines show which families are to be counted as "low-income" and which as "non low-income." In order to reflect applicable incomes for farm and nonfarm families, separate guidelines have been designated for each of these two categories.

Proposed regulations concerned with Program and Grants Administration establish uniform requirements for the administration of grants and principles for the determination of program costs and also include provisions covering application and eligibility for operating a Head Start program. They also set personnel administration requirements and limitations on the cost of developing and administering a Head Start program as well as objective criteria for increase of the Federal share of the costs of a Head Start program above 80 percent.

Revisions to Policies and Procedures for Selection of Head Start Grantees contain minor technical amendments in order to conform with the provisions of the Headstart-Follow Through Act.

Priority as Head Start agencies is given to public or local nonprofit agencies which meet established program and fiscal requirements, and which received Head Start funding on January 4, 1975. Revisions are also made to recognize the

change in the statute requiring opportunity for a full and fair hearing in cases of denial of refunding and suspension for longer than thirty days.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions, or objections

regarding the proposed regulations to the Director, Office of Child Development, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 400 6th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, on or before June 21, 1976. All written submissions

made pursuant to these notices will be made available for public inspection in room 2030 of the Office of Child Development.