Performance Standard:	Part 1302 - Subpart D Health Program Services
Sub Category:	1302.44 Child Nutrition
PC Approval Date:	9/2018
GB Approval Date:	8/2018
Form:	(See documents needed)
_	

# **INCA Community Services**

# Head Start & Early Head Start Policies and Procedures







Responsible:

Food Technicians; Nutrition Manager; Area Supervisor/Family Engagement Supervisor; Classroom staff; Health Services Manager and Head Start Director

# **Identification of Nutritional Needs Services**

### Policy:

INCA works with families to identify the nutritional needs of enrolled children

#### Guidelines

- INCA will support adaptations to enhance children's special needs.
- INCA will offer a variety of foods that consider cultural and ethnic preferences.
- INCA will acknowledge education, presentation and acceptance as the key to broaden food experiences.
- Area Supervisor/Family Engagement Supervisor, classroom staff, or Nutrition Manager will attain nutrition assessment for all enrolled children to enlighten staff of food preferences, diet restrictions, etc.

#### **Identification of Nutrition Needs**

Staff and families work together to identify each child's nutritional needs of enrolled children.

- Any relevant nutrition-related assessment data (height, weight, hemoglobin/hematocrit), including nutrition-related health problems such as obesity, iron deficiency, failure-to-thrive, food allergies including tree nut allergies, food intolerances, milk allergies, lactose intolerance, and anything else requiring special dietary considerations (e.g., diabetes).
- Information about family eating patterns, including cultural, religious, ethnic, personal food
  preferences, and special dietary requirements for each child with nutritional-related health
  problems and the feeding requirements of infant and toddlers and each child with
  disabilities.
- For infants and toddlers, current feeding schedules and amounts and types of food provided, including whether breast milk or formula and baby food is used; meal patterns; new foods introduced; food intolerances and preferences; voiding patterns; and observations related to developmental changes in feeding and nutrition. This information is shared with staff and parents and updated regularly.
- Information about major community nutritional issues, as identified through Community Assessment or by the Health Services Advisory Committee or the local health department.

## Special Needs

- The Nutrition Manager and Health Service Manager works with staff to ensure that provision to meet special needs are incorporated into the nutrition program.
- Appropriate professionals, such as physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational
  therapists, nutritionists and/or dietitians are consulted on ways to assist Early Head Start
  and Head Start staff and parents of children with severe disabilities with problems of
  chewing, swallowing or feeding themselves.
- The nutrition plan for services for children with disabilities includes activities to help children with disabilities participate in meal and snack times with classmates.
- The nutrition plan for services for children with disabilities addresses obstacles of disabilities with a nutrition basis.

# Reporting

Area Supervisors/FEC and teaching staff input documentation in Child Plus and notify Health and Nutrition Manager of issues or concerns. Identified in child plus with food allergy flag.

#### **Definitions/Acronyms**

INCA - Head Start and Early Head Start programs

HS - Head Start program

EHS - Early Head Start program

#### **Documentation Needed:**

INCA Nutrition Assessment, Child Health and Medical records, Community Assessment

## **Dissemination of Policy**

The policy will be made available to all Head Start employees through the agency's website @ www.incacaa.org. The agency will educate and train applicable employees and supervisors regarding the policy and any conduct that could constitute a violation of the policy.