



## First Five Years Fund

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### **First Five Years Fund Welcomes New Federal Rule to Improve Quality and Accountability in Head Start and Early Head Start Programs**

With the release of final regulations that lay out a system to introduce greater competition for Head Start and Early Head Start grantees, the Obama administration today has taken a crucial step toward improving the quality and accountability of the nearly 1,600 delegate organizations that serve almost one million at-risk young children nationwide.

The final rule for designation renewal, based on bipartisan legislation passed by Congress in 2007 and announced by President Obama at Yeadon Regional Head Start in Pennsylvania earlier today, will change the way that federal funds are awarded to the programs that provide Head Start and Early Head Start services. Previously, programs were awarded continuous funding year after year, barring serious problems. Now all grants will be awarded on a five-year basis, and the Department of Health and Human Services, which administers Head Start, will review the performance and program quality of all grantees. Those that don't meet specific quality benchmarks will be required to compete for continued funding. HHS will notify the first group of grantees that will be required to compete in December 2011.

"If we want to deliver results for children and efficiency for taxpayers, we have to make a serious commitment to quality and accountability," said Cornelia Grumman, Executive Director of the First Five Years Fund. "The First Five Years Fund welcomes recompetition as a potentially powerful way to ensure that *all* Head Start programs are efficient, effective, and accountable to the stakeholders who matter most: each and every American who benefits when at-risk children are provided with the quality care they need to succeed in school and in life."

The full text of the final rule is available [here](#).

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### **First Five Years Fund**

*First Five Years Fund helps America achieve better results in education, health and economic productivity through investments in quality early childhood education programs for disadvantaged children. FFYF provides knowledge, data, and advocacy - persuading federal policymakers to make investments in the first five years of a child's life that create greater returns for all.*