



# The Final Rule

---

Eligibility Determination Rule Changes



# Purpose of the Rule:

- To ensure that the neediest children and families within the country receive Head Start services first.



- Final Rule became effective March 12, 2015.

# New Definitions

- Family is now defined as all persons that live with the child, who are supported by the child's parent or guardian and are related to the child by blood marriage or adoption, the child's authorized caregiver or legally responsible party.
- Enrolled is when a child has attended class or received a service.
- Accepted is when a child has met eligibility criteria and have completed the process for enrolling.

# Homeless Children

- Homeless children can apply to, enroll in, and attend Head Start without:
  - Proof of Residency
  - Immunization or other medical records
  - Birth Certificate
- Reasonable time must be given for the family to collect this information.



# Major Changes:

- Third Party Verification is now allowed.
- In-Person interviews must be done with the parent/guardian to determine eligibility in the program prior to accepting a child into the program.
- All proof of income must be keep in the child's file for verification.

- Policies must be put in place that describe actions taken against staff that intentionally violate Federal and program eligibility requirements.
- All new eligibility staff must be trained within 90 days of hire on the Final Rule.
- Policy Council and Governing Board must receive training within 180 days of the rule becoming effective and within 180 days of any new placement on the Policy Council or Board.

# THANK YOU!!

- Thank you for all you do for Community Services of Northeast Texas!!

