



0-5 Head Start Policy Council Questions and Answers

Question: What is the 0-5 Head Start Policy Council?

Answer: A committee consisting of current 0-5 Head Start Parents/Legal Guardians, expectant parents who are currently enrolled in the Early Head Start Home-Based program option, as well as community representatives, that provide oversight of quality services for 0-5 Head Start children and families and make decisions related to program design and implementation.

Question: Where does the 0-5 Head Start Policy Council meet?

Answer: Regular (monthly) Meetings of the Policy Council will be held at a place and time agreed upon by the majority.

Question: What are the time commitments that are required of a 0-5 Head Start Policy Council member?

Answer: Regular meetings are held on a monthly basis. The length of these meetings can vary, but generally last about 1.5 hours.

Question: Who is eligible to serve as a 0-5 Head Start Policy Council member?

Answer: 0-5 Head Start Parents/Legal Guardians of currently enrolled children, expectant parents who are currently enrolled in the Early Head Start Home-Based program option and representatives from the community. All Policy Council members must abide by the EightCAP, Inc. Policy Council Code of Conduct.

Question: If I am elected, how long is my membership term?

Answer: Individuals elected to Policy Council are expected to serve for one year from their date of election. Policy Council members may serve up to five, 1 year terms, however, they must stand for reelection annually.

Question: Is this a paid position?

Answer: No. Head Start Performance Standards do not allow for the compensation of Policy Council members. However, we can reimburse for reasonable expenses that result from attending a meeting (i.e. childcare and mileage).

Question: What happens after I turn in a completed Candidate Interest Form?

Answer: A member of the EightCAP, Inc. staff will contact you the next time an election is held to confirm that (1) you are still able and willing to serve and (2) you meet the criteria for membership as set forth in the Policy Council Bylaws.

Question: When do elections happen?

Answer: Elections happen annually. There may be a special election in the event that there is a vacancy seat on the Policy Council.

Question: Who can I contact if I have other questions?

Answer: Questions about the EightCAP, Inc. 0-5 Head Start Policy Council can be directed to Janel Minnis, EightCAP, Inc. 0-5 Head Start Director, at (616) 754-9315, extension 3359 or at janelm@8cap.org.