### NHSA 12 Basic Health Services Credential Competencies

1. Demonstrate understanding of Head Start history, mission, and philosophy.

2. Exhibit general knowledge of the Head Start program, including Performance Standards, planning, policies, procedures, and monitoring.

3. Implement a child health and development services program.

4. Implement health and safety practices and procedures that reduce risk.

5. Assure a physical environment that supports the delivery of high quality services to all children and families.

6. Implement a comprehensive nutrition program, based on needs and developmental appropriateness.

7. Assure implementation of mental health services in partnership with other staff and parents.

8. Assure implementation of parent involvement in health services and a staff health/wellness program.

9. Assure and participate in the involvement of the Health Services Advisory and Parent Committees in the health services program.

10. Implement individualized services for children based on information from their evaluation, observation, and treatment.

11. Maintain standards of conduct and professional ethics.

12. Continue professional development in formal and informal settings.
Health Services Credential: A Competency Based Program

NHSA 12 Basic Health Services Credential Competencies are based upon 12 broad areas that encompass the expectations of Head Start's mission and Performance Standards in the health services area.

- **Competencies 1 & 2** address a broad understanding of Head Start's history, mission, philosophy, regulations and management systems.

- **Competencies 3 through 7** examine the range of health services including dental, mental health, nutrition and facilities.

- **Competencies 8 through 10** focus on health services in all the service delivery areas, from program governance to parent involvement and education.

- **Competencies 11 and 12** take a general look at standards of conduct, professional ethics, and professional development.

The Competencies are further outlined through the indicators, called Functions.

**Functions:**
Indicators within each Competency that further detail the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to fulfill the objectives of health services in Head Start.

**Activities:**
Provide the candidate the opportunity to demonstrate specific skills, abilities and understanding of the Competency. The Activities are numbered according to the Competency and Function with which they correspond.
NHSA Basic Health Services Credential Workbook Sample — Competency 3

(Activity C3-FA-A1 means Competency 3-Function A-Activity 1).
(Activity C3-FA-A1 means Competency 3-Function A-Activity 1).