



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

April 23, 2014

Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW  
Washington, DC 20447

Attn: OPRE Reports Clearance Officer

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to submit our comments regarding the proposed Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES) (Federal Register Volume 79, Number 40 (Friday, February 28, 2014) Pages 11445-11446).

The National Head Start Association is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that believes that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life if given the opportunity that Head Start offers to children and their families. It is the national voice of more than a million children in Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the United States. Head Start and Early Head Start represent a national commitment to providing early learning opportunities for the children who are most at-risk and who have been proven to benefit most from early learning experiences.

The Head Start FACES study has provided important insights into the growth and impact of the Head Start program over time. As the next iteration begins, we applaud the commitment this study represents to learning from data and particularly the Plus Studies that will offer a way to better understand some of the specific interventions that have developed to best capitalize on communities' resources and address communities' needs.

One of the emerging areas of Head Start interventions is a deeper two-generation focus on how programs that provide the most intense supports for parents' education, workforce training, and family stability are positioned to change long-term outcomes for both children and families. To that end, we make three recommendations to help document the two-generation work Head Start does with families.

1. In sections J, K, and L of the Head Start Parent Interview, in addition to asking about parent employment, we suggest the interview probe whether parents are engaged in education or job training activities and then whether their access to those opportunities was facilitated by the Head Start program.

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The National Head Start Association, an independent membership organization, advocates on behalf of the entire Head Start community and provides training and resources to Head programs nationwide.

2. In section M of the Head Start Parent Interview, we suggest that after parents are asked about the social services they accessed, a question should be added about whether that access was facilitated by the Head Start program.
3. Finally, we strongly urge the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation to consider designing a Plus Study as FACES 2014 moves forward to look more closely at the ways Head Start programs support families' economic stability and social mobility through two-generation work.

FACES represents an exciting opportunity to document Head Start's legacy of innovative practices and high-quality comprehensive services for the children who need them most. Thank you again for the chance to share our comments. If you have any questions, you can contact me at [yvinci@nhsa.org](mailto:yvinci@nhsa.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yamin Visci".

Executive Director  
National Head Start Association