

TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED

#57

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) titled "*Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs*" (RIN 0970-AD30; Docket No. ACF-2026-0595); and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule rescinds and significantly weakens the majority of the core Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) that have established Head Start as one of the most effective, research-backed antipoverty programs in American history; and

WHEREAS, Head Start serves over 8,700 children and their families across the City of Los Angeles annually through a two-generation model, providing integrated academic, developmental, physical, and mental health services that strengthen school readiness and promote family economic stability; and

WHEREAS, the proposed NPRM eliminates critical protections for families experiencing housing instability and homelessness by removing self-attestation for eligibility documentation, eliminating active recruitment requirements, rescinding housing cost adjustment policies, and discontinuing certain enrollment protections; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes threaten local workforce development and family economic stability by reducing annual service duration standards by up to 56 percent, forcing working parents to absorb additional child care costs or reduce work hours; and

WHEREAS, the proposed NPRM compromises early childhood educational quality and safety by eliminating federal staff-child ratios, removing mandatory staff coaching and training, instituting an English-only instruction mandate, and removing required bus monitors; and

WHEREAS, the rule strips out vital public health, child welfare, and behavioral health supports by removing required developmental, vision, hearing, and dental screenings, eliminating mental health consultations, and rescinding the prohibition on early childhood expulsions; and

WHEREAS, weakening these foundational services directly undermines key City priorities regarding homelessness reduction, workforce expansion, public safety, and family stability; and

WHEREAS, the Community Investment Department (CID) has prepared a formal public comment strongly urging HHS to withdraw the proposed rule prior to the public comment deadline on October 6, 2026;



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025–2026 Federal Legislative Program **OPPOSITION** to the Department of Health and Human Services Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, *"Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs"* (RIN 0970-AD30; Docket No. ACF-2026-0595); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles **URGES** the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families to withdraw the proposed rules in their entirety and maintain the existing Head Start Program Performance Standards to safeguard the educational, health, and developmental outcomes of vulnerable children and families.

PRESENTED BY:


HUGO SOTO-MARTÍNEZ
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



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