The recently published Head Start Performance Standards support the provision of evidence-based hearing screening for all children served in Early Head Start and Head Start programs. Applicable standards are summarized in brief below:

§1302.42 Child health status and care.

(b) **Ensuring up-to-date child health status.**

(2) Within 45 calendar days after the child first attends the program or, for the homebased program option, receives a home visit, a program must either obtain or perform evidence-based vision and hearing screenings.

(3) If a program operates for 90 days or less, it has 30 days from the date the child first attends the program to satisfy paragraphs (b)(1) and (2) of this section.

(d) **Extended follow-up care.**

(1) A program must facilitate further diagnostic testing, evaluation, treatment, and follow-up plan, as appropriate, by a licensed or certified professional for each child with a health problem or developmental delay, such as elevated lead levels or abnormal hearing or vision results that may affect child's development, learning, or behavior.

(2) A program must develop a system to track referrals and services provided and monitor the implementation of a follow-up plan to meet any treatment needs associated with a health, oral health, social and emotional, or developmental problem.