

Duluth Head Start has been found to have a DEFICIENCY.

A deficiency is defined as:

As defined in the Head Start Act, the term "deficiency" means:

(A) a systemic or substantial material failure of an agency in an area of performance that the Secretary determines involves:

(i) a threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of children or staff;

(ii) a denial to parents of the exercise of their full roles and responsibilities related to program operations;

(iii) a failure to comply with standards related to early childhood development and health services, family and community partnerships, or program design and management;

(iv) the misuse of funds received under this subchapter;

(v) loss of legal status (as determined by the Secretary) or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds; or

(vi) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the agency has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified;ents of the exercise of their full roles and responsibilities related to program operations;

(iii) a failure to comply with standards related to early childhood development and health services, family and community partnerships, or program design and management;

(iv) the misuse of funds received under this subchapter;

(v) loss of legal status (as determined by the Secretary) or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds; or

(vi) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the agency has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified;

(B) systemic or material failure of the governing body of an agency to fully exercise its legal and fiduciary responsibilities; or

(C) an unresolved area of noncompliance.

Head Start Performance Standards we are in violation of are:

1302.90 Personnel policies. (c) Standards of conduct. (1) A program must ensure all staff, consultants, contractors, and volunteers abide by the program's standards of conduct that: (ii) Ensure staff, consultants, contractors, and volunteers do not maltreat or endanger the health or safety of children, including, at a minimum, that staff must not: (G) Physically abuse a child.

We did not ensure all staff did not maltreat or endanger the health and safety of children, including, at a minimum, staff must not physically abuse a child.

On April 26, 2022, a teacher at the Piedmont Elementary Head Start Center caused a 4-year-old child to fall and hit his head on the stairs.

An Early Childhood Specialist and a Grantee Specialist have been assigned to our program, who will help determine a root cause analysis and assist us in developing a corrective action plan.

We will need to correct this deficiency by September 30, 2022.

I have shared the full report, issued by the Office of Head Start, with you as well.