

§ 1303.20

reasons beyond the control of either party or the Board.

[65 FR 4770, Feb. 1, 2000]

Subpart C—Appeals by Current or Prospective Delegate Agencies

§ 1303.20 Appeals to grantees by current or prospective delegate agencies of rejection of an application, failure to act on an application or termination of a grant or contract.

(a) A grantee must give prompt, fair and adequate consideration to applications submitted by current or prospective delegate agencies to operate Head Start programs. The failure of the grantee to act within 30 days after receiving the application is deemed to be a rejection of the application.

(b) A grantee must notify an applicant in writing within 30 days after receiving the application of its decision to either accept or to wholly or substantially reject it. If the decision is to wholly or substantially reject the application, the notice shall contain a statement of the reasons for the decision and a statement that the applicant has a right to appeal the decision within ten work days after receipt of the notice. If a grantee fails to act on the application by the end of the 30 day period which grantees have to review applications, the current or prospective delegate agency may appeal to the grantee, in writing, within 15 work days of the end of the 30 day grantee review period.

(c) A grantee must notify a delegate agency in writing of its decision to terminate its agreement with the delegate agency, explaining the reasons for its decision and that the delegate agency has the right to appeal the decision to the grantee within ten work days after receipt of the notice.

(d) The grantee has 20 days to review the written appeal and issue its decision. If the grantee sustains its earlier termination of an award or its rejection of an application, the current or prospective delegate agency then may appeal, in writing, to the responsible HHS official. The appeal must be submitted to the responsible HHS official within ten work days after the receipt of the grantee's final decision. The ap-

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peal must fully set forth the grounds for the appeal.

(e) A grantee may not reject the application or terminate the operations of a delegate agency on the basis of defects or deficiencies in the application or in the operation of the program without first:

(1) Notifying the delegate agency of the defects and deficiencies;

(2) Providing, or providing for, technical assistance so that defects and deficiencies can be corrected by the delegate agency; and

(3) Giving the delegate agency the opportunity to make appropriate corrections.

(f) An appeal filed pursuant to a grantee failing to act on a current or prospective delegate agency's application within a 30 day period need only contain a copy of the application, the date filed, and any proof of the date the grantee received the application. The grantee shall have five days in which to respond to the appeal.

(g) Failure to appeal to the grantee regarding its decision to reject an application, terminate an agreement, or failure to act on an application shall bar any appeal to the responsible HHS official.

§ 1303.21 Procedures for appeal by current or prospective delegate agencies to the responsible HHS official from denials by grantees of an application or failure to act on an application.

(a) Any current or prospective delegate agency that is dissatisfied with the decision of a grantee rendered under § 1303.20 may appeal to the responsible HHS official whose decision is final and not appealable to the Commissioner, ACYF. Such an appeal must be in writing and it must fully set forth the grounds for the appeal and be accompanied by all documentation that the current or prospective delegate agency believes is relevant and supportive of this position, including all written material or documentation submitted to the grantee under the procedures set forth in § 1303.20, as well as a copy of any decision rendered by the grantee. A copy of the appeal and all material filed with the responsible HHS official must be simultaneously served on the grantee.