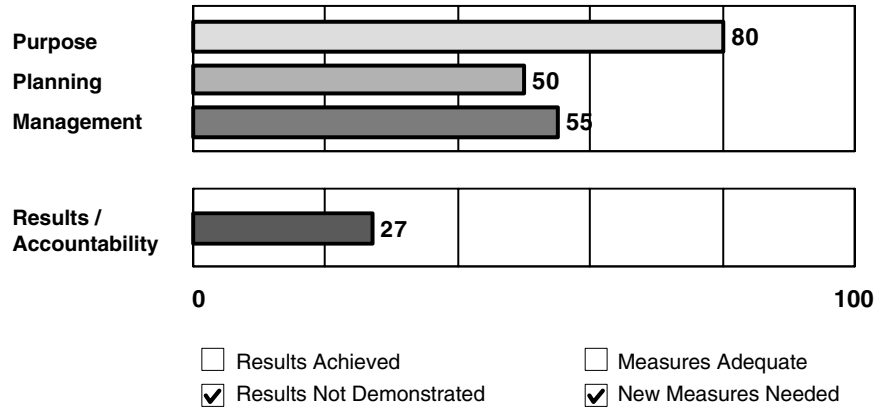


Program: Head Start

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Bureau: Administration for Children and Families



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Long-term Measure: Gain in word knowledge measured at Head Start entry and exit (Prior to 2002, measured as gaining in scale points -- 12 scale pts = 34%, after 2002 as % gains)	2000		10
	2002	32%	32%
	2003	32%	
	2004	34%	
Annual Measure: Percentage of parents that report reading to their child three times a week or more	2000		66%
	2002	70%	70%
	2003	70%	
	2004	70%	
Annual Measure: Other annual measures under development			

Rating: Results Not Demonstrated

Program Type: Competitive Grants

Program Summary:

Head Start provides grants to local public, non-profit and for-profit programs to help low-income children prepare for school and improve their overall development.

The assessment found:

1. The program's long-term goals are not well linked to its purpose -- providing comprehensive development services to children and families. President Bush has focused on strengthening Head Start in its traditional mission of promoting school readiness. The current program design is flawed because it does not hold individual grantees responsible for effectively preparing children for school.
2. The program's existing long-term goals are weak in the area of promoting school readiness.
3. Head Start has not demonstrated sufficient progress in achieving short and long-term results. While Head Start children demonstrate gains in vocabulary, math and social skills, relative to their non-Head Start socio economic peers, they still lag behind other children. Head Start is not well coordinated with other early education and care programs.

Based on these findings the Department will:

1. Create a new system to assess every Head Start center on its success in preparing children for schools.
2. Propose legislation to better integrate Head Start, child care and state operated pre-school programs.
3. Develop annual performance measures that assess the progress of individual grantees in improving school readiness and better measure the impact on children.
4. Provide inflationary increase in program funding for 2004.

(For more information on this program, please see the Department of Health and Human Services chapter in the Budget volume.)

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate
6,537	6,668	6,816