

## **Internet Safety Announcement For Child Care Resource & Referral – Head Start & Early Head Start Programs**

### **Introduction**

It is the policy of Child Care Resource & Referral to:

(a) Prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

### **Definitions**

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is federal law that mandates the use of Internet filters and other measures to protect children from explicit and inappropriate content.

Congress enacted CIPA in 2001 to protect minors from offensive Internet content accessible through publicly funded organizations, such as schools and libraries. Public administrators, including teachers and librarians, are responsible for overseeing and ensuring CIPA adherence.

## **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)**

E-rate is a federal program that provides Internet service discounts to CIPA-compliant schools and libraries. Per CIPA, funded organizations must adopt Internet monitoring systems and adhere to formal Internet safety documentation and reporting requirements.

CIPA regulations issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are as follows:

- Funded institutions must provide suitable and effective Internet safety policies.
- Unsafe content, such as child pornography or other potentially disturbing images, must be blocked.
- Qualifying institutions must hold a minimum of one public hearing and provide ample notice regarding safety proposals.

Although most public organizations restrict access to Facebook and other social network websites, CIPA recipients must develop and set Internet safety policies for monitoring Web, instant messaging, chat and email use.

CIPA does not mandate tracking Internet use but is considered a legislative standard for blocking minors from accessing harmful Internet content.

### **Access to Inappropriate Material**

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

### **Inappropriate Network Usage**

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of Child Care Resource & Referral Head Start & Early Head Start programs online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors. Education, Supervision and Monitoring It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Child Care Resource & Referral Head Start & Early Head Start program staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children’s Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of Information Technology Services Staff or designated representatives.

Following receipt of the personnel policy or parent handbook, the staff and parents will acknowledge that he/she received the information, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the Agency's acceptable use policies. Adoption of this Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board of Directors and Policy Council from Child Care Resource & Referral at a public meeting on September 20, 2010.