

HEAD START IN CALIFORNIA



Head Start & Early Head Start

give children from at-risk backgrounds from birth to 5 years old the skills they need to be successful in school and life — supporting more kids, families, and communities on their path to success.

Key Characteristics



Comprehensive support. Designed as a 2-generational effort focused on health, parent engagement, and early learning.

Locally designed. Each program is based on a local community needs assessment.




Federal to local. Grants go directly to agencies from the Office of Head Start.

Strong Outcomes

Children who participated in:

-  **Early Head Start** are less likely to be involved with the child welfare system as they get older.
-  **Head Start** are more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, and receive a post-secondary degree, license, or certification.

Blue Ribbon Commission Draft Recommendations Include:

-  Using **state funds** to expand Head Start programs to full day, full year.
-  Permitting Head Start agencies to receive **MIECHV funding** to support home visiting.
-  **Maximizing state receipt** of Head Start funding.

Head Start in CA By the Numbers

100,000+ Children & their families served

2,000 sites

157 grantees

60% of grantees also have state preschool contracts

#	Grantees by Agency Type	%
66	Private Non-Profit	42%
55	Local Education Agencies	35%
16	Community Action Programs	10%
13	Tribal Gov't	8%
7	Other Gov't Agencies	4%

Current Challenges

Higher standards for staff preparation have outpaced funding for salaries making it hard to attract and retain staff.

The federal poverty threshold is too low for CA. Small families earning minimum wage are no longer income-eligible, but still need help.

