

Head Start California Policy Platform



Head Start California is committed to providing more pregnant mothers, children aged 0-5 and their families access to Head Start and Early Head Start's high-quality school readiness and comprehensive services and to improving the early childhood education and care system for the most vulnerable children in California.

Guiding Principles

Alignment – Balance eligibility, compensation and reimbursement.

We support policy changes that strengthen and align poverty eligibility guidelines, staffing requirements and wages, and reimbursement rates that will attract qualified staff to the field and allow families in or near poverty to qualify for services.

Simplicity – Less is more.

We support policy changes that reduce and simplify regulations that remove unnecessary administrative burdens and free agencies to focus on serving children.

Flexibility – Encourage adaptability and innovation.

We support policy changes that give service providers the flexibility to adapt services and leverage funding to fit local need, and to innovate in designing new services.

Legislative Priorities

Head Start California will pursue:

- Funding and policies that will strengthen the Head Start and Early Head Start workforce including staff recruitment and retention.
- Funding and policies that support quality professional development, including trauma informed care.
- Eligibility solutions to address the disparity between federal poverty thresholds and California's economy.
- Funding for Early Head Start home visiting.
- Policies to simplify and align California's early childhood care and education system.