

# Head Start in California



## The Mission

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

## Head Start is Different

**More than early learning.** Head Start is a **poverty intervention program** focused primarily on health, designed by health experts to ensure that children reach kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

**Comprehensive services.** Head Start provides vision, dental, and hearing screenings; immunizations; mental health supports and nutrition services in addition to early education. Designed as a two-generational approach, Head Start supports parents with information about important developmental milestones, guidance on family self-sufficiency goals, job assistance and more.

**Federal to local.** Grants go directly to agencies from the Office of Head Start, so state legislators don't always see Head Start.

## The Investment in California

**\$1,000,000,000+** in Head Start funding each year.

**25,000+** staff employed by Head Start.

## Coming Challenges

The shift of 4-year-olds to Transitional Kindergarten could **displace federal funds** with state funds without serving more children.

There is **not sufficient workforce or facilities** for so dramatic an expansion in so short a period of time.

For providers to shift to serve more children aged 0-3 is difficult, expensive and **possibly untenable**. *We may lose providers.*



## Head Start in CA by the numbers \*

**122,704** children & families

**1,700** sites

**147** grantees

**70%** have state contracts

#	Grantees by agency type	% of kids
59	Private Non-Profit	44%
56	Local Education Agencies	29%
12	Community Action Programs	17%
13	Tribal Nations	1%
6	Other Gov't Agencies	9%

## LEAs and Head Start programs

LEAs - 40 school districts and 15 county offices of education make up 38% of Head Start grantees and serve 29% of all Head Start children.

Non-LEAs serve over 67,000 children and account for 61% of all Head Start children served.

\* Source: Office of Head Start Program Information Report (PIR)