

# \$50 Million to Support Head Start Teachers, Programs and Families



## What we're requesting

Head Start California is requesting \$50 million in the State Budget to support California's most vulnerable children and families, ensuring children reach kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

## A Great Investment

Head Start is a whole-child, whole family model that works! Children who attend Head Start do better in school, and are more likely to graduate and go to college. Head Start parents read to their children more, are more likely to increase their own education, and report higher levels of self-sufficiency.



## Why is the funding needed?

In California, a Head Start Teacher with a bachelor's degree makes \$41,000, while the average kindergarten teacher makes \$66,000, annually.



Head Start  
\$41K

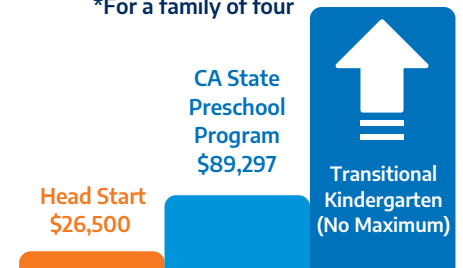
Kindergarten  
\$66K

Only 1 out of every 4 eligible children in California is served by Head Start and Early Head Start programs.



Head Start serves the neediest families, with the lowest household income maximum\* for eligibility:

\*For a family of four



Source: National Head Start Association, 2019

Source: National Head Start Association, 2019  
Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019

Source: United States Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2021  
Source: California Department of Education, 2021

## What will the funding be used for?

**Head Start programs in California are struggling.** Head Start programs are unable to pay competitive wages to teachers and other staff. Funding allocated to raise wages in state-subsidized programs will not benefit the 30% of Head Start programs that do not hold a state contract. The proposed \$50 million in 2022-23 will help Head Start, Early Head Start, Tribal Head Start and Migrant Head Start programs in California to raise compensation in order to recruit and retain our highly-qualified teachers. Investing in Head Start supports California's value of serving the most vulnerable children first.

### Did You Know?



**98%** of early learning teachers are **women**  
**66%** of early learning teachers are **women of color**

Source: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, 2022



### Alignment with State Priorities

"California can advance equity for all young children by ensuring the early learning and care workforce has ... compensation that aligns to qualifications. -California Master Plan for Early Learning and Care

Source: Alcalá et al, 2020