



Head Start in California

July 2021

MISSION

Head Start and Early Head Start give children from birth to 5-years-old from at-risk backgrounds 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, nutrition services and 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.

BY THE NUMBERS*

- 122,704** children and families
- 1,700** sites
- 147** grantees
- 70%** have state preschool or general childcare contracts

BY AGENCY TYPE

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 59 private non-profit | 44% of kids |
| 56 local education agencies | 29 |
| 12 community action programs | 17 |
| 13 tribal nations | 1 |
| 6 other government agencies | 9 |

THE INVESTMENT IN CA

\$1,000,000 in Head Start funding each year
25,000+ staff employed by Head Start

*Office of Head Start Program Information Report (PIR)

LEAs AND HEAD START PROGRAMS

LEAs - 40 school districts and 15 county offices of education make up 38% of Head Start grantees and serve about 27,600 students, 29% of all Head Start children.

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

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 to 3 years is difficult, expensive and **possibly untenable. We may lose providers.**

