



## VISION

We envision a future where Head Start is recognized as the gold standard in child development and the provider of choice for California's most vulnerable children and families.

## Guiding Principles

### Funding

Increase Head Start wages to be commensurate with the education and training required.

### Alignment

Align poverty eligibility guidelines, staffing requirements, wages, and funding to strengthen the ability of Head Start programs to serve families and children.

### Simplicity

Reduce and simplify regulations to remove unnecessary administrative burdens and free agencies to focus on serving children.

### Flexibility

Give service providers the flexibility to adapt services and leverage funding to fit local need, and to innovate in designing new services.

### Security

Advance policies that promote the economic security of vulnerable families and children.

## Legislative Priorities

### Federal Priorities

- Dramatically increase wages for Head Start staff to close the wage gap between Head Start and TK-12 teachers.
- Adjust income-eligibility guidelines to account for state, regional or local costs of living.
- Expand categorical eligibility.

### State Priorities

- Increase funding to the state reimbursement rate system to close the wage gap between Head Start and TK-12 teachers.
- Ease or offer flexibility in workforce requirements to improve workforce recruitment and retention.
- Simplify CCTR regulations to align with Early Head Start.
- Improve integration of Head Start in the state ECE system.