

# HSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Ready to Serve? What Potential HSC Board Members Should Know*

## Do you want to help children from at-risk backgrounds?

Head Start California is the premier advocacy organization for Head Start agencies throughout California. We advocate for our members at the federal, state and local county level ensuring that members speak with a unified voice about the challenges facing California's most vulnerable families, and the Head Start agencies that serves them.

## What is Head Start?

Head Start is a comprehensive early education program for children from at risk backgrounds from birth to age 5. Each program is locally designed, and engages parents as equal partners with their child's teacher. From early math and reading to confidence and resilience, Head Start helps children build the abilities they need to be successful in school and life.

## Why now?

Early childhood education has reached a critical juncture in California with the launch of Universal Pre-K. Head Start's role in California's early childhood education system is more important than ever. The board of directors plays a key leadership role in setting our policy agenda and engaging our members with federal and state elected officials, for the benefit of our programs and the children and families we serve.

## Why serve on Head Start California's Board of Directors?



**You will make an impact and leave a legacy.** You will become an advocate for the 90,000 vulnerable children that Head Start serves every year in California.



**You will meet passionate and interesting people.** The Head Start community is a network of leaders committed to improving the lives of children.



**It will expand your understanding of your own organization,** even if you are not the CEO. Boards look at organization as systems and work on alignment through goals, strategy, policy and funding. You will see your agency, and your role in it, from a larger perspective.



**It will broaden your perspective.** Board members bring different experiences, training, interests, and skills to their governance work. Through their collaboration, board members are exposed to new ideas, fresh perspectives and complex challenges.

## What does the HSC board do?

The board *“may exercise, any and all powers which are necessary and convenient to carry out the mission and purposes of the Corporation. All corporate power shall be exercised by the Board, except as otherwise expressly required by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.”* [Bylaws Sec IV.4] Generally, the board:

- Hires and approves compensation for the Executive Director.
- Adopts the budget, conducts oversight of association finances, and plans for its future fiscal health.
- Adopts policies to guide association operations.
- With the Executive Director, sets the strategic direction of the association.

## What is the expectation of individual directors?

- Attend and participate in board and committee meetings and work.
- Encourage membership in the association among all Head Start grantees.
- Promote attendance at events critical to association revenue goals.
- Serve as ambassadors of the association.

## How often does the board meet?

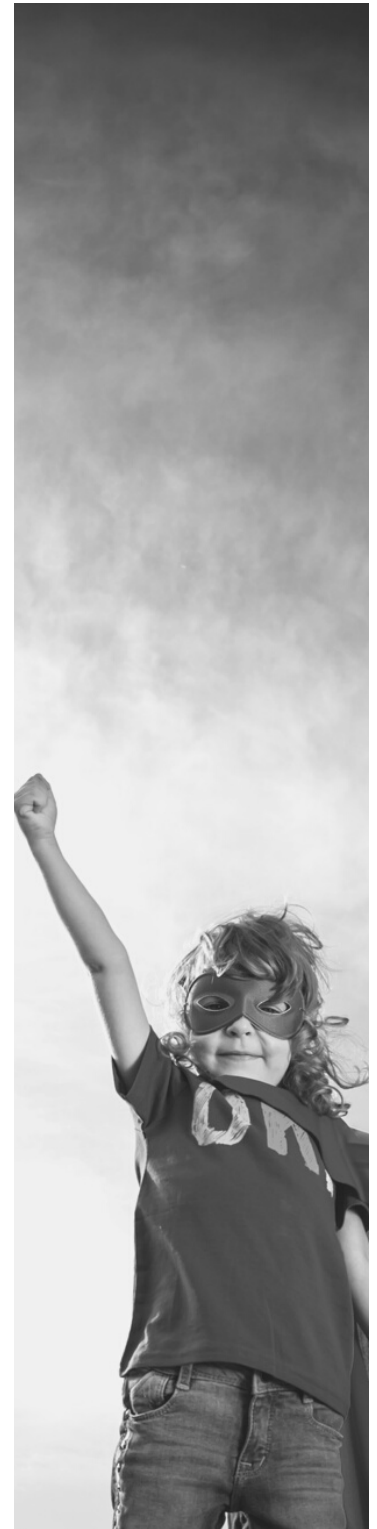
- The board meets at least four times a year, either in person or virtually. In-person meetings are typically held in conjunction with Head Start California conferences.
- Committees meet virtually, with meeting frequencies varying from monthly to quarterly based on the committee’s purpose.

## How is the board structured?

There are **two** types of board members:

- **Elected Directors:** Each of the eleven association-designated clusters nominates two individuals to serve on the board of directors.
- **At-Large Directors:** Directors-at-Large are recruited and selected by the board to attract individuals with a variety of skills, experience and expertise.

**Officers:** The board elects its own officers from among seated board members.



*Will you join us?*