

Supporting quality-driven change in Arizona's Head Start Programs

# Transitions



**Arizona  
Head Start  
Association**

**2012  
Annual  
Report**

## A Message from the President

### **AHSA Members and Friends,**

Looking over the highlights of the past year, AHSA's role as a catalyst for positive change is evident from every perspective. Programs that were already in place have grown in power and effectiveness. Arizona's Dental Health Initiative continues to expand thanks to AHSA's leadership in securing a grant that placed new multi-use educational materials into the hands of Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Exciting new ventures like the partnership with the National Head Start Association and Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors curriculum are now thriving in Arizona, enabling Latino parents to be more effective advocates for their children.

This report offers glimpses of AHSA's influence in driving collaborative efforts, creative solutions, quality growth and notable achievement—not only for Head Start but across the Early Care and Education community. Appreciation goes to the dynamic leadership of our volunteer Board of Directors and the tireless work of AHSA's Committee Chairs and committee members. We are also grateful for our partners throughout the state and Arizona's service network. Between the lines of this report are countless untold stories of individual and group contributions, including the accomplishments of our dedicated Head Start member organizations. So many unsung heroes are working in the field every day, devoted to improving the lives of our most vulnerable children and families.

*Natalie Alvarez*

Natalie Alvarez, President  
Arizona Head Start Association

## A Message from AHSA Director Bonnie Williams

The presentation of our Annual Report is always a time of reflection, pride and appreciation. The achievements of AHSA and those of the entire Arizona Head Start community are both humbling and inspiring—but we have not accomplished our work alone. Thousands of dedicated supporters in public and private sectors assist Head Start in meeting critical needs and preparing our kids for success in school—and life. Our partnering efforts repeatedly prove the gains and breakthroughs that are possible when professionals step beyond their walls and work together.

This year's theme pays tribute to AHSA's growing stature as a unifying force for quality-driven change, whether building a vast statewide communications network or sponsoring one of the Southwest's finest Mental Health events. It was AHSA's Quarterly Training on how to use CLASS™—the national observational tool created to improve teacher/child interactions—that launched a collaborative "road show" to deliver this information to the larger Early Care and Education community across the state.

Yes, the challenges can be daunting and the issues complex, but solutions will always emerge when organizations and people who share the same passions and vision are willing to sit at each other's tables. I am deeply appreciative to every individual and group within Head Start—our dedicated staff, parents and volunteers—and to those who partner with AHSA.

Your collective efforts continue to provide life-transforming opportunities to Arizona's most vulnerable young children and their families.

### AHSA Leadership 2011-12 Program Year

Director, Bonnie Williams

#### Executive Committee

Melanie O'Neil/Natalie Alvarez, President; Natalie Alvarez/Mindy Zapata, Vice President; Kristin Andrew, Treasurer; and Cathy Tompkins/Alecia Jackson, Secretary

#### Committee Chairs

Early Care and Education, Angelica Rosell; Health & Nutrition, Jen Gemma; Disabilities and Mental Health, Judy Bell; Professional Development, Lori Jablonsky; Family & Community Engagement, Nina Williams

#### Arizona Head Start at a Glance

- 22,401 total (22,191 children and 210 pregnant women)
- 18,255 Head Start preschool children from 3 to 5 years
- 3,096 Early Head Start (EHS) children from birth to 3 years
- 840 Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) children from birth to 5 years
- 6,313 Head Start/EHS children have enrolled for multiple years
- 789 total Arizona Head Start preschool classes

## America's School Readiness Program

Launched nationally in 1965, Head Start provides comprehensive education, health and family services to poverty-level children and their families. Local grantees receive federal funding for Head Start (HS), Migrant/Seasonal Head Start (MSHS), American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), and Early Head Start (EHS) programs, the latter serving pregnant women and children from birth to age three. The Arizona network of organizations that administer HS and EHS programs include Tribal governments, local municipalities, non-profit agencies, and school districts. Federal funds are granted to these community-based programs through the Office of Head Start (OHS), a division of the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. National administration of Head Start grants is divided into regions, with the San Francisco Region IX Office overseeing Arizona grantees. The Arizona Tribal and Migrant/Seasonal programs are administered through Regions XI and XII respectively. This 2012 Annual Report includes a statistical overview of Arizona Head Start from the 2011-12 Program Information Report (PIR) covering Regional, Tribal, and Migrant/Seasonal programs.

## Arizona Head Start Association

The Arizona Head Start Association (AHSA) provides a forum of empowerment and unification for Arizona's Head Start programs. AHSA reaches far beyond its membership, creating and contributing to collaborative partnerships across the Early Care and Education community and every governmental level. Led by a Director and a volunteer Executive Committee, AHSA integrates service delivery through five standing committees: Early Care and Education, Health & Nutrition, Disabilities & Mental Health, Professional Development, and Family & Community Engagement. Along with membership dues, funding for AHSA projects is provided in part by the Arizona Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) through a grant from the Administration for Children and Families.

[azheadstart.org](http://azheadstart.org)





# MAXIMIZING the POWER of COLLABORATION

## National, State and Regional Representation

AHSA works closely with the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO), housed in the Arizona Department of Education, to accomplish state system work. HSSCO leads collaborative initiatives, contracting with AHSA to carry out that work through its committee structure. AHSA directors and committees also support HSSCO's statewide strategic planning, from clarifying issues to identifying available resources. AHSA's ties to the National Head Start Association are equally strong, including frequent communications on federal activities, budget, monitoring, resources, technical assistance, and coordination of efforts. AHSA also raises the visibility of Arizona Head Start at meetings of the Head Start Region IX Association, which serves Arizona, Nevada, California, Hawaii and the Outer Pacific islands. AHSA's presence at the table introduces issues that are unique to Arizona and affords opportunities to learn about programs and challenges facing other states.

## Dynamic Engagement with Key Partners

AHSA serves as a unifying presence, connecting the Head Start community with state agencies and important players within Arizona's Early Care and Education system. AHSA collaborates closely with Arizona's Department of Health Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Economic Security, and First Things First. Other private and public organizations that enjoy an active partnership with AHSA include the Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children, Arizona Early Intervention Program, Children's Action Alliance, Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition, and the Arizona Child Care Association. "The communication links and spirit of cooperation that AHSA promotes throughout this system enables us all to maximize resources, eliminate duplications and meet challenges more effectively," said AHSA Director Bonnie Williams.

## AHSA Mission Statement

- Advocate for the needs of Head Start children and their families.
- Act as a liaison with other agencies that support the educational, health, and social service needs of young children and their families.
- Provide a forum for discussing statewide, regional, and national issues.
- Develop statewide collaborative efforts that help strengthen the delivery of services to children and their families.
- Provide a communication link and a unified voice to statewide, regional, and national stakeholders.

# BUILDING COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

## Widely Distributed Newsletter

Sharing information with statewide audiences and stakeholders is one of AHSA's crowning achievements. Reaching beyond the Head Start community to inform and engage a much broader audience, AHSA's monthly email newsletter continues to grow in influence and circulation. The newsletter gained more than 1,000 subscribers in 2012 for a current database of 3,200 recipients. Along with news, updates, event announcements and state agency summaries, active links expand the content to provide a peerless tool for connectivity and collaboration.

## Powerful Online Presence

AHSA's website features a new look and expanded functionality, funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Arizona Community Foundation. Registration for events and programs are now completely electronic, generating invoices and event rosters. Website visitors are able to read and subscribe to AHSA newsletters and the Annual Report, email AHSA leadership, and review Projects & Initiatives. They can also learn more about membership and sponsorship opportunities, read the latest committee notes, review current Head Start job openings, and tap into additional resources that include comprehensive Professional Development information. Head Start parents can easily find information about eligibility, guidelines, enrollment and program locations. Work continues to make the website a promising tool for information and engagement.

## Highly-Valued Quarterly Gatherings

AHSA's Quarterly Meetings and Trainings have grown in stature as "must attend" events that offer unequalled opportunities for members to learn, share and collaborate. The three-day structure begins on Wednesday with training provided by the statewide Training/ Technical Assistance system or national trainers, followed on Thursday by a general membership meeting and AHSA committee work. Friday concludes the event with the AHSA Board Meeting. Guest speakers give attendees direct access to state, regional and national leaders who can provide first-hand information and immediate authoritative answers to questions. AHSA featured National Head Start Association Executive Director Yasmina Vinci; Lourdes Ochoa, Bureau Chief of the Arizona Department of Health Services, Child Care Licensure; and Jan Len, Laura Candeloro, Cynthia Yao and Donna Elmore, staff from the Office of Head Start-Region IX.



## Expanding Head Start Outreach

Throughout the year, AHSA continues to represent the voice of Head Start at annual events and forums. In addition to sponsoring one of the Southwest's finest Mental Health Conferences, AHSA provided information and/or presentations at such gatherings as First Things First Early Childhood Summit, Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children, Coordinated School Health Conference, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness Conference, Celebrate the Young Child Conference, Children's Obesity Conference, The EAR Foundation of Arizona Seminar, and the Intertribal Circle of Caring and Sharing.

## Generating New Revenue

Based on creating win-win relationships with non-Head Start individuals, groups and companies, AHSA's Sponsorship Program continues to grow. The sponsorship concept is simple but highly effective. Sponsors who make an annual commitment in levels from \$500 to \$5000 receive a corresponding package of benefits that expose their services or products to a highly targeted audience. Plugging into AHSA's vast statewide network ensures a sponsor's visibility to thousands of passionate people who are actively involved in Early Care and Education.

## Addressing Homelessness in Arizona

AHSA is deeply committed to statewide efforts that serve the needs of Arizona's homeless population. During the 2011-12 program year, 142 Head Start families acquired housing and nearly 1,050 homeless children and their families had the advantage of Head Start programs and services. AHSA works closely with Frank Migali, State Coordinator for Homeless Education at the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), in championing initiatives and programs for Arizona's homeless population. ADE and AHSA join forces each year at the annual Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness conference, connecting with liaisons and other partners who serve the homeless community to gain resource and referral options for Head Start children and families.

## Increasing Dental Health Awareness

Administered by the Office of Head Start, the Dental Home Initiative (DHI) defines a Dental Home as having access to comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, family centered dental services. AHSA played a strategic role in the 2011 launch of DHI in Arizona and continues to ensure the initiative's success. By the end of the 2012 program year, nearly 20,000 Head Start children had Dental Homes. Thanks to a \$15,000 Oral Health Grant, AHSA purchased 250 training DVDs and distributed them across Arizona's Head Start programs. These DVDs offer several easily understood, five-minute messages on oral health that are ideal in a wide variety of settings, from parent meetings/trainings to individual home visits, new staff training and community lending. The grant also facilitated the expansion of Oral Health Resources on the AHSA website, which now addresses issues of working with young children from every perspective: Parents, staff, and even dental providers.

### Head Start Staff and Volunteers

- 3,841 total Head Start staff
- 1,045 Head Start/EHS classroom teachers
- 843 assistant classroom teachers
- 21,400 volunteers serve Arizona's Head Start Programs
- 16,300 volunteers are Head Start parents
- 34% of staff is former/current Head Start parents
- 92% of preschool classrooms have at least one teacher meeting degree/credential requirements



## PROMOTING HEALTH and WELLNESS

### Annual Birth to Five Mental Health Symposium

In addition to supporting health education, programs and services across the state, AHSA sponsors, organizes and hosts one of Arizona's premier mental health events. More than 200 participants from Arizona's Early Care and Education community converged at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix on October 18-19 for AHSA's 6th Annual Birth to Five Mental Health Symposium. Quality educational programs around the theme "Building Social Emotional Foundations for School Readiness" featured prominent presenters for workshops ranging from Positive Behavior Support and Conscious Discipline to Brain Development.

Attendees enjoyed several changes in 2012 based on suggestions from previous years, including quick and easy registration at the AHSA website. Instead of pre-selecting a specific agenda, participants could choose from five different sessions at any given time. Full-day institutes were replaced by double sessions for topics that required more in-depth coverage, and a few workshops returned by "popular demand."

"This symposium never fails to provide high-caliber professional education along with opportunities to network, collaborate, and learn about valuable resources on a statewide level," said Event Chair Maria Pimentel. She applauded Anthony Felix for audio-visual support and the tireless efforts of AHSA team members Anne Andrade, Judy Bell, Nancy Devanna, Toni Limbrick, Michelle Thornton, Juan Carlos Tarango and Dianna Posta.







## Positive Statewide Impact

- Arizona Head Start programs serve 22,191 at-risk children from 20,893 families
- Federal Head Start grants bring more than \$122 million into Arizona's economy
- Arizona Head Start agencies generate more than \$35 million in local community in-kind contributions
- Arizona Head Start programs employ nearly 4,000 individuals

## Healthy Head Start Children

- 97% children with continually accessible health care
- 98% children up-to-date on all possible immunizations
- 89% children with up-to-date preventative/primary health care
- 83% of children diagnosed with chronic medical condition receiving treatment
- 90% children with continuously accessible dental care
- 89% preschool children completed dental exams
- 85% children diagnosed as needing dental care received treatment
  - 94% children with health insurance
  - 98% children with at least one primary disability received special services

## Addressing Special Needs

- 2,443 children with disabilities served
- 2,052 preschool children with Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- 391 Early Head Start children with Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

## ADVANCING PROMISING PROGRAMS

### Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors Network

AHSA endorsed Antoinette Martinez and Karla Solano from Catholic Charities to attend the national training for Abriendo Puertas (AP), a peer-to-peer training program designed to improve outcomes for Latino children. Launched as a partnership between the National Head Start Association and the Abriendo Puertas National Training Team, AP focuses on building leadership skills that will enable Latino parents to be powerful advocates and more effective “first teachers” for their children. Martinez and Solano returned to Arizona with the skills and supportive materials to train Head Start leaders throughout Arizona, who in turn, are implementing this curriculum in their various programs.

### Teaching Strategies Gold Implementation

Nearly every Head Start program in the state has now adopted Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG), Arizona’s new ongoing progress monitoring tool. TSG provides a unified framework for the Early Care and Education community to assess, plan and individualize for children as well as share results with families. First adopted by Arizona’s public school preschools, TSG is a statewide initiative that will ensure consistently high-quality comparative data on every child’s progress as he or she moves through the educational system.

### Parent Leadership Institute

Nearly 80 Head Start and Early Head Start parents from 17 programs across the state attended the 3rd Annual Parent Leadership Institute in January of 2012. Sponsored by AHSA and the Head Start State Collaboration Office, the full-day program covered topics from kindergarten readiness and special education to health and nutrition, advocacy, parenting and financial literacy. Attendance was free but participant selection was based on recommendations by Head Start programs, increasing the likelihood of attracting leaders who would be passionate about sharing what they learned with other parents.

### Improving the lives of nearly 21,000 families

- 20,893 families have access to Head Start family services
- 14,503 total families received at least one family service\*
- 1,048 homeless children served
- 210 pregnant women served

\*Family services include mental health assistance, dental health care, housing assistance, parenting education, smoking cessation, job education, and more

## FACILITATING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Through the work of its Professional Development Committee, AHSA continually advocates for career advancement opportunities, collaborating with Arizona's higher education system to ensure workable, relevant options for Head Start employees. AHSA's website includes a database of degree/certification programs, contacts, and funding opportunities as well as a Career Center with current job postings. On a statewide level, AHSA represents the voice of Arizona's Head Start community when staffing needs are being considered for new initiatives and/or funding.

AHSA directly supports professional development by organizing and hosting timely, relevant presentations as part of its Quarterly Meeting and Training events. Topics in 2012 included a split session that began with Laura Landis from the Arizona Office of Training/Technical Assistance (T/TA) speaking on "Using the Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework in Your Program." The day continued with a presentation by Adrienne Udarbe from the Arizona Department of Health Services and Caree Jackson from the Centers for Disease Control on the "State Guide to Childhood Obesity Prevention in Early Care and Education Settings." In February 2012 National trainer and consultant Kristin Tenney-Blackwell led a full-day training entitled, "Partnering with Families to Support Young Children's Social Emotional Development: Effective Use of the CSEFEL (Center on the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning) Parent Training Modules."

AHSA's May and November trainings focused on the optimal use of CLASS™ (Classroom Assessment Scoring System), an observational tool designed to document, measure and improve interactions with children. The training, entitled "Interpreting CLASS and Increasing the Instructional Support Domain," was designed to help classroom instructors raise their CLASS scores. Based on overwhelming response to the May training, a collaborative plan evolved to engage a wider audience. Working with the Arizona Department of Education, the Head Start State Collaboration Office, First Things First, and the Arizona Child Care Association, AHSA took the administrative lead in implementing statewide sharing of this valuable information. These full-day CLASS sessions attracted 215 participants in the communities of Tucson, Casa Grande, the east and west valleys of Maricopa County, Central Phoenix, Flagstaff, Yuma and Kingman. Sessions included instructional materials and a flash drive of digital files, setting the stage for further sharing of CLASS instructional support throughout Arizona's Early Care and Education community.

[azheadstart.org](http://azheadstart.org)



For programs in Apache, Coconino, Navajo, & Yavapai Counties contact:

**G Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG)**  
121 E. Aspen • Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
(928) 774-9504 • nacog.org

For programs in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, & Santa Cruz Counties contact:

**G Child Parent Centers, Inc. (CPC)**  
602 E. 22nd St. • Tucson, AZ 85713  
(520) 882-0100 • childparentcenters.org

For programs in Gila & Pinal Counties contact:

**G Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (PGCCS)**  
1750 S. Arizona Blvd. • Coolidge, AZ 85128  
(520) 723-5321 • pgccs.org

For programs in La Paz, Mohave, & Yuma Counties contact:

**G Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG)**  
224 S. 3rd Ave., Suite 206  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
(928) 782-1886 • wacog.com

For programs in Maricopa County contact:

**G Crisis Nursery**  
402 N. 24th St. • Phoenix, AZ 85008  
(602) 889-6165 • crisisnurseryphx.org

**G City of Phoenix Human Services Head Start**  
200 W. Washington, 19th Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
(602) 262-4040  
phoenix.gov/humanservices/index.html

**G Maricopa County Head Start Zero – Five Program**  
234 N. Central Ave. • Phoenix, AZ 85004  
(480) 464-9669  
http://myhsd.maricopa.gov/

**G Southwest Human Development (SWHD) Head Start**  
2850 N. 24th St. • Phoenix, AZ 85008  
(602) 266-5976 • swhd.org

**D Alhambra School District Head Start**  
4510 N. 37th Ave. • Phoenix, AZ 85019  
(602) 246-5155 • alhambraesd.org

**D Booker T. Washington Child Development Center, Inc. (BTWC)**  
1519 E. Adams • Phoenix, AZ 85034  
(602) 252-4743 • btwchild.org

**D Catholic Charities Westside Head Start**  
7400 W. Olive, Suite 10 • Peoria, AZ 85345  
(623) 486-9868 • CatholicCharitiesAz.org

**D Deer Valley Head Start**  
20402 North 15th Ave. • Phoenix, AZ 85027  
(623) 445-4991 • dvusd.org

**D Fowler Head Start**  
6250 W. Durango • Phoenix, AZ 85043  
(623) 474-7260 • fesda.org

**D Golden Gate Head Start**  
1625 N. 39th Ave. • Phoenix, AZ 85009  
(602) 233-0017  
goldengatecenter.org/headstart.htm

**D Greater Phoenix Urban League (GPU) Head Start**  
1402 S. 7th Ave. • Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(602) 276-9305 • gphxul.org

**D Murphy Head Start**  
2615 W. Buckeye Rd. • Phoenix, AZ 85009  
(602) 353-5181 • msdaz.org

**D Roosevelt School District Head Start**  
4615 South 22nd St. • Phoenix, AZ 85040  
(602) 232-4919 • rsd.k12.az.us

**D Washington Elementary School District**  
8430 N. 39th Ave. • Phoenix, AZ 85051  
(602) 347-2206 • wedschools.org

**D Wilson Head Start**  
500 N. 30th Pl. • Phoenix, AZ 85008  
(602) 231-0373 • wsd.k12.az.us

For Migrant & Seasonal Program Services contact:

**G Chicanos Por La Causa Early Childhood Development (CPLC)**  
1242 E. Washington St., Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85034  
(602) 307-5818 • cplc.org

For Tribal Program Services contact:

**G Cocopah Head Start**  
14515 S. Veterans Drive • Somerton, AZ 85350 • (928) 627-2811 • cocopah.com

**G Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Head Start**  
18026 Mohave Rd. • Parker, AZ 85344  
(928) 662-4311 • crit-nsn.gov/critheadstart

**G Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Head Start**  
P.O. Box 97 • Sacaton, AZ 85147  
(520) 562-3423 • gilariver.org

**G Havasupai Head Start**  
P.O. Box 130 • Supai, AZ 86435  
(928) 448-2821 • havasupai-nsn.gov

**G Hopi Head Start**  
P.O. Box 123 • Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039  
(928)-734-7125 • hopi-nsn.gov

**G Hualapai Head Start**  
P.O. Box 119 • Peach Springs, AZ 86434  
(928) 769-2522 • hualapai-nsn.gov

**G Navajo Nation Head Start**  
P.O. Box 3479 • Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-6902 • navajohdstart.org

**G Pascua Yaqui Head Start**  
7474 S. Camino de Oeste • Tucson, AZ 85757  
(520) 838-7150 • pascuayaqui-nsn.gov

**G Quechan Head Start**  
P.O. Box 1899 • Yuma, AZ 85366  
(760) 572-0263

**G Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC)**  
10005 E. Osborn Rd. • Scottsdale, AZ 85256  
(480) 362-2200 • srpmic-ed.org/ecec.asp

**G San Carlos Apache Tribe (SCAT) Head Start Program**  
P.O. Box 278 • San Carlos, AZ 85550  
(928) 475-2740  
scateducationdepartment.com/headstart.html

**G Tohono O'odham Head Start**  
P.O. Box 837 • Sells, AZ 85634  
(520) 383-7800 • tonation-nsn.gov

**G White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) Head Start Program**  
P.O. Box 699 • Whiteriver, AZ 85941  
(928) 338-4938 • wmat.nsn.us

**G** indicates Grantee      **D** indicates Delegate



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P.O. Box 11281 • Casa Grande, AZ 85130  
480-557-9607 • azheadstart.org