Since 1965, Head Start has served as the national program solely dedicated to giving every vulnerable child the opportunity to succeed. Head Start ensures that America’s most at-risk children and their families have access to life-changing education, health, nutrition, and family services. Through the decades, Head Start has emerged as the nation’s leader in early childhood development and education, incubating and introducing evidence-based best practices that nurture development and create positive change. Local grantees and delegates from each state receive federal funding for Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) programs, the latter serving infants and toddlers from birth through three years as well as expectant mothers.

**Arizona Head Start Association**

Led by a Director and volunteer Executive Committee, the Arizona Head Start Association (AHSA) serves and empowers the statewide coalition of organizations that provide Head Start and EHS programs. AHSA is the force that drives Arizona Head Start’s statewide initiatives, including the creation of cooperative partnerships across organizational, governmental, and community levels. Unifying and amplifying the voice of Arizona’s Head Start community, AHSA is dedicated to a mission of advocacy, collaboration, and education through five active committees:

- Disabilities and Mental Health
- Early Child Care Partnership Ad Hoc Committee
- Early Childhood Development
- Integrated Health and Safety
- Parent, Family and Community Engagement

In addition to membership dues, funding for AHSA studies, projects and training is provided by the Arizona Head Start State Collaboration Office through a grant from the Administration for Children and Families under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

**ARIZONA AT A GLANCE**

**2017 Positive Statewide Impact**

- Arizona Head Start/EHS served 20,839 children/pregnant women and 19,430 families
- Federal funding (Head Start/EHS and EHS-Child Care Partnerships) added $143,205,748 million to Arizona’s economy
- For each invested dollar, Head Start yields an annual ROI ranging from 7 to 9%
- Arizona Head Start and Early Head Start programs employed 4,239 individuals

A comprehensive report is available at azheadstart.org
Head Start/Child Health Profile

- 95% children with health insurance
- 98% children with continually accessible health care
- 93% children with all possible immunizations (or exempt)
- 90% children diagnosed with chronic condition received medical treatment
- 86% preschool children needing dental treatment received it

Disabilities/Special Education Services

- 452 infants/toddlers with IFSP *
- 1611 preschool children with IEP *

Head Start Staff

- 4,239 Head Start/Child Health staff
- 744 preschool classroom teachers
- 804 preschool assistant teachers
- 406 EHS center-based teachers
- 995 total classrooms
- 18,000 volunteers serve Head Start/Child Health

* Individualized Education Program (IEP),  
* Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)