



Arizona Head Start Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

A close-up photograph of a young child with light brown hair and blue eyes, smiling broadly. The child is wearing a bright orange short-sleeved shirt with colorful vertical stripes in yellow, blue, pink, and green. The child is lying on a white surface, possibly a blanket, with some small objects visible in the foreground. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor scene with a blue sky and greenery.

Whole Health

Head Start supports kids, families,
and communities on the path to success

azheadstart.org

Head Start

Arizona at a Glance

- ▶ **2018 Positive Statewide Impact**
For each invested dollar,
Head Start yields an annual
ROI ranging from **7 to 9%**
- ▶ Federal funding (Head Start/EHS and
EHS-Child Care Partnerships) added
more than **\$143 million**
to Arizona's economy

Benefits Everyone

SINCE 1965, the National Head Start program has been preparing children from at-risk backgrounds for success in school—and life. Together, Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) programs provide a comprehensive early education program of health, nutrition, and family services to children from birth to age five and pregnant women. Children are able to build core abilities, from early math and reading skills to confidence and resilience. Head Start programs engage parents as equal partners with the child's teacher and work closely with their local community to meet specific needs. Local grantees and delegates from each state receive federal funding through the Office of Head Start under the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.



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

In addition to membership dues, funding for AZHSA studies, projects and training is provided by the Arizona Head Start State Collaboration Office through a grant from the Administration for Children and Families. The Arizona Head Start Association has prepared this annual report. Development, production and distribution were supported in part by funds from the Arizona Head Start State Collaboration Office.



A Message from President Mindy Zapata

The theme of “Whole Health” resonates on every page of this annual report, not only for individuals and families but for entire communities and across the statewide landscape. AZHSA unifies the Head Start voice at every Early Care and Education policy-making table and works closely with the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) on state system development work. We meet regularly with the statewide initiative of First Things First and Arizona’s departments of Education, Health Services, Child Safety, and Economic Security. AZHSA also serves as the link between Arizona Head Start and the National Head Start Association in matters of communication, planning, and coordinating efforts.

The dynamic leaders within our five active committees have applied a laser focus to furthering specific HSSCO’s five-year goals for Arizona Head Start. Whether refining the details of critical agreements, supporting promising new grant proposals, or working closely with the Department of Education on issues critical to the education and wellbeing of Arizona’s children, their dedication ensures that AZHSA is constantly leading the way forward. AZHSA reflects the Head Start commitment to constant innovation, to understanding what is working and what is not—and to sharing that knowledge with the greater community.

In closing, I want to thank each one of our AZHSA members for their unwavering support and also recognize our partners across the statewide network. Special appreciation goes to the thousands of unsung heroes who do the work of Head Start each day, and to the dedicated Head Start parents who stand beside them. They are truly the heart and soul of every program and every endeavor.

Arizona Head Start Association (AZHSA)

Led by a Director and volunteer Executive Committee, the [Arizona Head Start Association \(AZHSA\)](#) was created to serve, unify, and empower the statewide coalition of organizations that provide Head Start/EHS programs. AZHSA carries out its mission of advocacy, collaboration, and education through dedicated volunteers leading five active committees.

AZHSA Leadership 2017-18 Program Year

Director: Moises “Moe” Gallegos

Executive Committee:

Mindy Zapata, President;
Amy Corriveau, Vice President;
Natalie Alvarez, Treasurer;
Sonya Montoya, Secretary

Committee Chairs:

Disabilities & Mental Health—
Tami Philips, Chair;
Glenda Henman, Co-Chair;
Early Child Care Partnership Committee—
Evangalina Del Real, Chair;
Early Childhood Development—
Kim Tan/Shandeen Gomez, Chair;
Shandeen Gomez, Co-Chair;
Integrated Health & Safety—
Connie Morrison, Chair;
Jordan Bohr, Co-Chair;
Parent, Family, and Community Engagement—
Latrisha Centers/Karla Solano, Chair;
Karla Solano/Latrisha Centers, Vice-Chair

▶ Arizona Head Start at a Glance

21,048

Head Start/
EHS children

169

EHS pregnant
women

16,139

total preschool
children

4,909

total infants
and toddlers

626

foster care
children

933

migrant/seasonal children

1,118

homeless children

Early Childhood Development



Collaborating with Early Childhood Education stakeholders across the state, AZHSA is instrumental in developing and implementing policies, standards, and tools for quality ratings and improvement systems. Our Early Childhood Development Committee focused on increasing transparency and collaboration between Head Start and the [Arizona Department of Education \(ADE\)](#). Together, they created strategies for capturing data that can support greater continuity of services for Head Start/EHS children and those in public school from kindergarten through third grade. Improved inclusion and information sharing will make it possible to gain traction on a number of statewide goals, including closing the learning gap between typically developing children and those with special needs.

AZHSA also drives awareness of and access to professional growth opportunities for Head Start/EHS staff. The most promising tool on the horizon is [Arizona's Early Childhood Workforce Registry](#), a constantly refreshed database of job-seeking and professional development tools and opportunities. Efforts to boost statewide Head Start staff participation ranged from training and guidance on Workforce Registry processes to establishing a contact at each program for feedback on usage data and issues.

In addition to promoting attendance at AZHSA-sponsored trainings, our Early Childhood Development Committee works closely with specialists from the [Region 9 Teaching/Technical Assistance \(T/TA\) Center](#) to promote and grow the Arizona Mentor Network. AZHSA members take turns hosting Monthly Mentor Network meetings where coaches, mentors, and Head Start/EHS staff and child care partners converge for teaching and learning experiences. The constantly expanding opportunities to form new collaborative relationships meet individual and program needs but they also enable growth of statewide initiatives.





Early Child Care Partnerships

Scientific research about early childhood brain development underlines the critical nature of Early Head Start (EHS) programs and services. That's why failure to address difficult circumstances and intervene early in life has such a devastating impact on educational outcomes. Thanks to braided/blended funding and expanded resources for [Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships](#), more than 1,850 Arizona infants and toddlers from at-risk backgrounds in child care centers or with family child care providers are benefiting from EHS involvement. Advantages include qualified teachers and coaches who support evidence-based curricula, responsive caregiving, broad-scale parent engagement activities, and access to comprehensive services.

AZHSA and [First Things First \(FTF\)](#) are partnering with [Arizona's Department of Economic Security \(DES\)](#) to expand access to quality child care and early learning opportunities. Qualifying \$34 million in directly related FTF annual expenditures as the state match for the [Child Care and Development Fund](#), \$190 million in federal child care funds are now facilitating safe, reliable child care options for eligible families. These opportunities ease the financial burden on working parents and foster families but they also connect child care providers with critical early intervention opportunities.

AZHSA's statewide, front-line collaborations and agreements with [DES Child Care Division](#) will enable Head Start case managers to distribute information about the EHS-CCP program directly to DES subsidy recipients and streamline the application process. Head Start case workers can help families complete both applications in one visit, easing the burden on parents who have to take time off work.

55

Early Head Start
Child Care Partner
agreements

1,850

Arizona infants
and toddlers in
EHS-CCP programs

\$190 Million

Child Care and
Development Fund for
qualifying families



Arizona Head Start Association



Healthy Head Start Kids

100%
children with
all possible
immunizations
(or exempt)

94%
children with
continually
accessible
health care

93%
children with
health
insurance



Integrated Health & Safety

Continuing support for hard-won milestone agreements with Arizona state departments, the Integrated Health & Safety Committee further refined and updated the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AZHSA and the Department of Health Services. With so many Head Start/EHS families qualifying for and receiving WIC benefits, including healthcare referrals and nutritional education, the MOU allows the sharing of critical health information and facilitates mutual referrals.

The Committee also spearheaded AZHSA support for two important statewide grants—both approved for program launch. Initiated by Arizona State University, the first proposal sought to provide the Maternal Child Health (MCH) population in southwestern Arizona with community-based outreach and leadership training activities. The TRANSCEND Program (Translational Training, Education, and Leadership Program in MCH Nutrition & Childhood Obesity Prevention) seeks to improve the continuum of prevention to healthcare by providing accessible advanced training to nutritionists and other allied health professionals and expanding access to nutrition training for underserved populations—particularly American Indian and Hispanic graduate students.

The second grant supports Oral Health Workforce Activities through the Arizona Department of Health Service, Office of Oral Health. With the overarching goal of decreasing the prevalence of oral disease and increasing the health of Arizona children, this community-based prevention program will include the pilot use of silver diamine fluoride for eligible children in underserved communities.

AZHSA-sponsored trainings and member events cover a wide range of relevant topics including Health & Safety issues. Two AZHSA quarterly meetings hosted guests from the Department of Health with timely updates on Arizona's Opioid Epidemic. Effective statewide action enabled Arizona's Governor to officially end the public health emergency that was first declared on June 5, 2017, but the work continues to save lives and turn the tide of this devastating epidemic.

Disabilities & Mental Health

In concert with the Head Start State Collaboration Office, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and other statewide stakeholders, AZHSA continued to support efforts to establish Arizona as a Pyramid Model state. With a significantly higher-than-national percentage of Arizona children entering Head Start/EHS programs with a history of multiple ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and extreme trauma, the Pyramid Model helps educators and case workers to triage and partner with parents and other caregivers to ensure timely and appropriate support and treatment. AZHSA leadership included assessing and meeting training needs for effective Head Start classroom strategies, from mental health data tracking to evaluation metrics like TPOT™ (Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool), CLASS®, and Conscious Discipline Progress Assessment Rubrics.

Other important collaborations include support for ADE's intensified focus on expulsion prevention, which keeps AZHSA and the Arizona Head Start community at the leading edge of preventive modalities for public school children who are struggling. The reauthorization of Child Care and Development Fund federal block grants are enabling the funding of professional resources that can effectively serve the child and the family as well as prevent disruption within the Head Start center.

AZHSA's Disabilities & Mental Health Committee focused strongly on enhancing communications and collaboration with Arizona's Child Care Administration and the Department of Security's Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP). Early intervention for developmental delays or disabilities is especially critical from birth through 36 months. A close relationship between AZHSA and AzEIP facilitates the identification of infants and toddlers who could benefit from services provided by Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, including access to mental health consultants, health/nutrition managers, and disability coordinators.

Disabilities/Special Education Services



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

Parent, Family and Community Engagement

Head Start programs are locally designed based on feedback and input from parents, teachers, and the community itself. Because every neighborhood, school, family, and student is unique, Head Start tailors approaches to meet real-world needs. Reaching toward the goal of equal access to education for every child is not something a single organization can do. The promise that the future holds for Arizona's children depends on many helping hands and voices working together.

That's why AZHSA's Parent, Family and Community Engagement Committee focused intently on expanding Head Start access and opportunities for Arizona's most vulnerable populations. Drilling down into data on foster care and homeless children, they met with [Arizona's Foster Care Coordinator](#) and the [Department of Education's Homeless Coordinator](#) to discuss ideas for increasing Head Start program awareness and enrollment numbers. Strategies for connecting to the homeless now include a universal referral system with an electronic form for use by community agency and the [Department of Education liaisons](#). AZHSA members had the opportunity to review the form and provide Head Start program feedback prior to the referral system's introduction.

The Committee also led AZHSA's advocacy efforts to boost Head Start attendance at the annual [Early Childhood Legislative Day](#) held at the [Arizona State Legislature](#) in February 2018. Attracting nearly 250 attendees, the event featured key stakeholders including early childhood system partners, community champions, and policymakers. AZHSA members received information on registration and access to training materials, ensuring that Head Start/EHS program directors had everything they needed to sign up and prepare interested parents.



1,020 homeless families • 1,020 acquired housing

Parent engagement—a core strength of Head Start

Head Start is just as deeply committed to the “whole health” of the family as it is to each child. In addition to helping families meet immediate and urgent needs, Head Start programs uplift entire communities by supporting personal growth and economic improvement, including providing a safe and stimulating environment for children so parents can focus on work or education. Parents receive job training opportunities, guidance on setting family goals, and information on creating healthy and encouraging home environments.

Directly involved in education, planning, and program operations, Head Start parents learn how to become advocates for their children and engage in school readiness experiences. They learn about child development and how to reinforce classroom learning with activities at home. The impact of parent engagement on the success of Head Start/EHS programs can never be overstated. Of 22,079 volunteers for 2018, nearly 17,500 were current or former Head Start parents.

19,555
Head Start/
EHS children

12,713
families
received at
least one
family service

2,472
families
received
job training

2,013
parents
advanced their
education level

8,467
families
participated
in health
education



Dads as Role Models

Emphasizing the importance of fathers and father figures, the [City of Phoenix Head Start Birth to Five Program Fatherhood Initiative](#) and the [City of Phoenix My Brother's Keeper](#) drew a statewide audience to the 2018 Head Start M.A.N. C.A.V.E. Fatherhood Summit in April of 2018. More than 300 attendees learned strategies for enhancing their education, work, and family outcomes through a day and a half of workshops, panel discussions, and TED Talk presentations.

Head Start Engages Fathers

7,739
fathers
participated
in family
assessment

6,788
fathers
involved
in child
development
experiences

3,273
fathers
attended
parent
education
workshops



Arizona Head Start Programs

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)

1183 E. Cottonwood Lane, Suite 2
Casa Grande, AZ 85112
(520) 316-4501
pgccs.org

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

G Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG)

1235 S. Redondo Center Drive
Yuma, AZ 85365
(928) 782-1886
wacog.com

For programs in Maricopa County contact:

G Catholic Charities Westside Head Start

7400 W. Olive, Suite 10
Peoria, AZ 85345
(623) 486-9868
CatholicCharitiesAz.org

G Child Crisis Arizona

402 N. 24th St
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602) 889-6165
childcrisisaz.org

G City of Phoenix Education Division

234 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 372-3700
phoenix.gov/humanservices/index.html

G Maricopa County Human Services Early Education Division

234 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 372-3700
http://myhsd.maricopa.gov/

G Southwest Human Development (SWHD) Head Start

2850 N. 24th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602) 266-5976
swhd.org

G Urban Strategies Family & Child Academy

1918 W. Van Buren St., Bldg. C
Phoenix, AZ 85009
602-718-1720
urbanstrategies.us/program/family-child-academy

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. (BTW)

1519 E. Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602) 252-4743
btwchild.org

D Deer Valley Head Start

220402 North 15th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85027
(623) 445-4991
dvusd.org

D Fowler Head Start

6250 W. Durango
Phoenix, AZ 85043
(623) 474-7260
fesd.org

D Greater Phoenix Urban League (GPUL) 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

1502 W. Mountain View Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85021
(602) 347-4806
wesdschools.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 A
Sacaton, AZ 85147
(520) 562-6901
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 125
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
navajoheadstart.org

G Pascua Yaqui Head Start

7474 S. Camino de Oeste
Tucson, AZ 85756
(520) 838-7150
pascuayaqui-nsn.gov

G Quechan Head Start

P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366
(760) 572-0263
quechantribe.com/departments-head-start.html

G Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC)

10005 E. Osborn Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85256
(480) 362-2200
ecec.saltriverschools.org

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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PO Box 45483
Phoenix, AZ 85064
602-338-0449
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