



Arizona Head Start Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

HEAD START Changes Lives

Creating Solutions
for Kids, Families
and Communities

2019 Positive Statewide Impact

Federal funding (Head Start/
EHS and EHS-Child Care
Partnerships) added more
than **\$185,025,547**
to Arizona's economy





AZHSA Leadership 2018-19 Program Year

Director: Moises "Moe" Gallegos

Executive Committee:

Sonya Montoya, President;
Amy Corriveau, Vice President;
Natalie Alvarez, Treasurer;
Evangelina DelReal, Secretary

Committee Chairs: Disabilities & Mental Health—Ana Herron-Valenzuela, Chair; Maegan Van Wyck, Co-Chair • Early Childhood Development—Shandeen Gomez, Chair; Norma Arreola, Co-Chair • Integrated Health & Safety—Carolyn Willmer, Chair; Connie Morrison, Co-Chair • Parent, Family, and Community Engagement—Latrishia Centers, Chair • Karla Solano/Jessica Rivera-Garcia, Co-Chairs

FOUNDED IN 1965, Head Start is based on the premise that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to reach their full potential. Together, Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) offer comprehensive, multi-generational, community-based programs that provide health, nutrition, and family services to children from birth to age five and pregnant women. Working closely with local communities to identify and meet specific needs, Head Start promotes healthy, stable families and engages

parents as equal partners in their child's education. The network of organizations that administer Head Start in Arizona 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 under the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Arizona Head Start Association

Led by a Director and volunteer Executive Committee, the Arizona Head Start Association (AZHSA) was created to empower the coalition of organizations that provide Head Start programs. AZHSA is the driving force behind Arizona Head Start's statewide initiatives across organizational, governmental, and community levels. Focused on advocacy,

collaboration and education, we strengthen and enhance the work of our member agencies and partners through four committees led by dedicated volunteers. Whether developing agreements with key partners, collaborating on critical issues, driving program excellence or promoting professional development, these committees keep AZHSA at the forefront of statewide leadership.

In addition to membership dues, funding for AZHSA studies, projects and training is provided by the Arizona Head Start 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.



Dynamic State and National Partnerships

AZHSA works closely with Arizona's Head Start State Collaboration Office to support strategic planning and carry out statewide initiatives. We also link the Head Start community to state agencies and key players in Arizona's Early Care and Education system, bringing the voice of Head Start to committees for First Things First, Arizona's Child Care administration, and the Arizona Early Childhood Alliance (AZECA).

AZHSA took the lead in raising Head Start/EHS awareness of and participation in the AZECA-sponsored Arizona Early Childhood

Legislative Day on February 21, 2019. This annual event brings together more than 200 statewide educators, administrators, parents, and community champions for opportunities to network and meet with Arizona state legislators. AZHSA members received information on registration and training materials so Head Start staff and parent leaders could arrive fully prepared to serve as effective advocates.

AZHSA maintains equally strong ties to the National Head Start Association (NHSA), communicating frequently on federal-level activities, budget, monitoring, resources, technical assistance, and coordination of efforts.

During the NHSA Fall Leadership Institute week of October 8-11, 2018, AZHSA and Head Start parent leaders visited Representatives for all 9 of Arizona's Congressional Districts and the offices of Arizona's two Senators to advocate for resources and funding—one of two annual visits that AZHSA made to each office. We also assisted NHSA with sponsorship of the Head Start Breakfast on the Hill, yet another opportunity to share the positive impact of Head Start programs with policymakers.

New in 2019, AZHSA began organizing a Young Athletes pilot program in Arizona, developed by NHSA in partnership with Special

Olympics. This sport and play program for children from ages 2 to 7, with and without intellectual disabilities, is another promising resource for improving the health and wellbeing of Head Start children and families. Young Athletes covers basic sport skills like running, kicking and throwing but it also gives children, families and teachers a chance to share the joy of sports. In addition to promoting awareness of and participation in this new resource for Arizona's Head Start community, AZHSA is partnering with the Greater Phoenix Urban League on the program rollout.

Arizona Head Start Early Education

- 16,348 total preschool children (3-5 years)
- 5,169 total EHS children (birth-3 years)
- 1022 total Head Start/EHS classes
- 4,069 full-day center-based children
- 8,341 part-day center-based children
- 1,900 EHS home-based children
- 154 children in full-work-day family child care program



Early Childhood Development and Education

Head Start is at its best when it combines the innovative approach of an always-learning mindset with a reliable system of quality evaluation and improvement metrics. Working with Arizona's Department of Education (ADE) and other key stakeholders, AZHSA helps to develop strategies and implement statewide policies, standards and tools for improvement systems like Teaching Strategies Gold® and

CLASS®. During the 2018-19 program year, AZHSA collaborated with First Things First (FTF) on streamlining the Qualify First rating process in a move toward eliminating the need for additional FTF review of CLASS scores. Created and administered by FTF, Quality First is Arizona's tiered quality rating improvement system for early learning programs.

AZHSA also works to develop, expand and promote growth opportunities for Head Start staff. One of the focal points for the

2018-19 program year was an increase of Head Start employee participation in the statewide Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry, the one-stop online resource for professional development and job opportunities. Collaborating with key partners like Arizona PBS and ADE, AZHSA attended joint executive meetings and monitored subcommittee work to support the development of more efficient processes for Workforce Registry data collection. Inclusion of outreach coordinators at AZHSA quarterly committee meetings further raised

awareness of the Workforce Registry's value to Head Start staff.

AZHSA continued working closely with Training and Technical Assistance specialists from Head Start Region 9 in growing the Arizona Mentor Network. Coaching has often proven to be far more effective than lectures or brief trainings in building skills and identifying personal improvement goals. AZHSA members are serving as monthly meeting hosts for learning, teaching and sharing opportunities with coaches, mentors, and child-care partners.

Year-End Child Health Profile

- 95% children with health insurance
- 95% children with continually accessible health care
- 96% children with all possible immunizations (or exempt)
- 93% children diagnosed with chronic condition received medical treatment
- 93% of pregnant women received prenatal healthcare
- 92% children with continually accessible dental care

Whole Health Considers a Child's Total Environment

Head Start combines high-quality learning experiences with techniques and strategies that support a child's social-emotional environment. In September of 2018, AZHSA and statewide partners sponsored a two-day conference around this "whole child" approach entitled "Social-Emotional Learning: The Heart of Academic Achievement." Childhood practitioners, administrators and community partners gathered for two days of informative presentations, including a keynote address by

Tweety Yates, Ph.D., Pyramid Model Consortium consultant and trainer.

Throughout the year, AZHSA engages with state and regional committees supporting programs that address childhood health issues from asthma, obesity, and food insecurity to school readiness and lead poisoning. AZHSA support continued for the oral health pilot program that uses silver diamine fluoride for cavity prevention in children. New partnerships include Eyes on Learning, dedicated to expanding awareness, collecting data, and driving policy improvements in a state that ranks 48th for vision screening in children from birth to age five. Another new initiative was the creation of a protocol for improved tracking of children's health services that will enable comparisons to regional and national data.

AZHSA also leads the way in developing MOUs (Memorandums of Understanding) and formal agreements with state agencies that facilitate service delivery. Requiring several years of groundwork prior to finalization, the Head Start-WIC (Women, Infants and Children) MOU has earned national recognition. The Office of Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center website refers to the WIC MOU as an example of data-sharing between programs that ensures coordination of services and confidentiality of data while it streamlines administrative procedures for staff and program participants. Information and resources for this recently enhanced MOU are now featured on the AZHSA website.

Mental Health and Disabilities Services for Special Needs

Research supports that early childhood mental health consultations positive social and emotional outcomes, including reductions in expulsions as children progress through school. Partnering with statewide stakeholders, AZHSA assesses and supports training needs for effective Head Start classroom strategies, from mental health data tracking to metrics like TPOT,[™] CLASS,[®] and Conscious Discipline. Early Head Start's focus on infants and toddlers along with prenatal care takes advantage of the early intervention window so critical to remediating developmental delays and disabilities. AZHSA efforts to strengthen collaboration with Arizona's Child Care Administration and Early Intervention Program included finalizing the renewal and revision of an existing MOU between AzEIP and Head Start. AZHSA also created a series of fact sheets to facilitate the identification of infants and toddlers who could benefit from comprehensive EHS services, including mental health consultants and disability coordinators.



Disabilities & Mental Health Services

- 1,543 children served by mental health professional
- 402 infants toddlers with IFSP*
- 1,831 preschool children with IEP*

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

Safe, Reliable Quality Child Care for Working Parents

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) take advantage of braided/blended funding to bring together qualified teachers and coaches, evidence-based curricula, responsive caregiving, parent engagement activities, and access to comprehensive services. AZHSA continued to work toward finalizing a collaborative agreement with the Department of Economic Security's Child Care administration that would permit Head Start case managers to distribute EHS-CCP program information and simplify the application process for eligible families. During the 2018-19 program year, 1,244 infants and toddlers received services through 37 EHS-CCP agreements.

Head Start Engages Parents, Families and Communities

Head Start benefits entire communities by supporting personal growth, economic improvement and family development. Beyond meeting critical needs with counseling, mental health services and crisis intervention, Head Start programs encourage leadership and self-sufficiency. Parents receive support for personal and family goal-setting and guidance on creating a stable and healthy home environment. Father engagement is emphasized and dads learn about the key role they play in healthy child development. Respected as the very heart of Head Start, parents are involved in governance, program planning and classroom activities. During the 2018-19 program year, more than 16,240 volunteers were current or former Head Start parents and 1,239 former Head Start parents held staff positions.

Supporting the Head Start community in meeting the real-world needs of Arizona's unique neighborhoods and communities is the reason that AZHSA focuses so intently on partnerships and collaborations. Working with state agencies and coordinators, AZHSA continued to raise awareness of Head Start/EHS program services and improve referral systems—particularly for children in foster care, refugees, and homeless families. Of the 882 homeless families that received Head Start/EHS services during the 2018-19 program year, 254 acquired housing.

Head Start Family Services

- 19,922 Head Start/EHS families
- 8,159 single-parent families
- 14,368 one or both parents employed
- 2,299 parents in job training or school
- 1,820 parents earned GED or advanced grade level
- 1,129 parents earned license/certification, AA or BA degree
- 12,873 families received at least one service

Head Start Supports and Engages Dads

- 8,205 fathers participated in family assessment
- 7,185 involved in child's Head Start experiences
- 5,469 participated in family goal-setting
- 2,892 attended parent education workshops
- 500 became involved in program governance

Continual Improvement for Program Excellence

AZHSA advocates for staff growth opportunities and amplifies the voice of Arizona's Head Start community when statewide initiatives and/or funding are being considered—including formal agreements with colleges and universities that expand options and offer benefits to Head Start staff. AZHSA also joins state and national partners including the Head Start State Collaboration Office, the Department of Education, and Head Start Training & Technical Assistance in presenting relevant, leading-edge trainings. Major presentations during the 2018-19 program year included:

DATA BOOT CAMP TRAINING NOVEMBER 7-9, 2018: An interactive module to help Head Start staff create a culture that uses data to drive decisions around more accurate assessment of program results.

WESTERN STATES EARLY LEARNING INSTITUTES FEBRUARY 11-14, 2019: Sponsored by the Region 9 Head Start Association, this annual event offers a variety of experiences for Head Start education staff, program leaders and program partners.

NHSA LANGUAGE PLAYBOOK FEBRUARY 15, 2019: Presented by the National Head Start Association Director of Public Affairs, this interactive training enables staff and parents to be highly effective advocates for Head Start programs with policy/decision-makers.

IMMIGRATION-MIGRANT-REFUGEE FORUM MAY 15, 2019: Timely presentations and resources covered topics from fear, trauma and resilience to CLASP updates, immigration policies, a guide to creating "safe space" policies for early education childhood programs, and the Protecting Immigrant Families campaign.

Head Start Staff

- 4,303 Head Start/EHS staff
- 206 contracted staff
- 1,239 staff former HS parents
- 824 preschool classroom teachers
- 798 preschool assistant teachers
- 577 infant/toddler staff
- 393 family and community partnerships staff
- 19,188 volunteers serve Head Start/EHS



Arizona Head Start Programs

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

G Northern Arizona Council of Governments
(928) 774-9504 • nacog.org

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

G Child-Parent Centers, Inc.
(520) 882-0100 • childparentcenters.org

For programs in Gila & Pinal Counties contact:

G Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc.
(888) 723-7321 • pgccs.org

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

G Western Arizona Council of Governments
(928) 782-1886 • wacog.com

For programs in Maricopa County contact:

G Catholic Charities Westside Head Start
(623) 486-9868 • CatholicCharitiesAz.org

G Child Crisis Arizona
(602) 889-6165 • childcrisisaz.org

G Chicanos Por La Causa - Early Head Start
(602) 716-0156 • cplc.org

G City of Phoenix Education Division
(602) 262-4040
phoenix.gov/humanservicesnservices

G Maricopa County Human Services Early Education Division
(602) 372-3700
maricopa.gov/619/Early-Education

G Southwest Human Development Head Start
(602) 560-0000 • swhd.org

G Urban Strategies, Early Head Start
602-718-1720 • urbanstrategies.us

D Alhambra School District Head Start
(602) 246-5155 • alhambraesd.org

D Booker T. Washington Child Development Center, Inc.
(602) 252-4743 • btwchild.org

D Deer Valley Head Start
(623) 445-4991 • dvusd.org

D Fowler Head Start
(623) 474-7260 • fesd.org

D Greater Phoenix Urban League Head Start
(602) 276-9305 • gphxul.org

D Murphy Head Start
(602) 353-5181 • msdaz.org

D Roosevelt School District Head Start
(602) 243-4885 • rsd.k12.az.us

D Washington Elementary School District
(602) 347-4806 • wedschools.org

D Wilson Head Start
(602) 231-0373 • wsd.k12.az.us

For Migrant & Seasonal Program Services contact:

G Chicanos Por La Causa Early Childhood Development
(602) 307-5818 • cplc.org

For Tribal Program Services contact:

G Cocopah Head Start
(928) 627-2811 • cocopah.com

G Colorado River Indian Tribes Head Start
(928) 662-4311 • crit-nsn.gov/critheadstart

G Gila River Indian Community Head Start
(520) 562- 6901 • gilariver.org

G Havasupai Head Start
(928) 448-2821 • havasupai-nsn.gov

G Hopi Head Start
(928) 734-3512 • hopi-nsn.gov

G Hualapai Tribe Head Start
(928) 769-2522 • hualapai-nsn.gov

G Navajo Nation Head Start
(928) 871-6902 • navajoheadstart.org

G Pascua Yaqui Head Start
(520) 838-7150 • pascuayaqui-nsn.gov

G Quechan Head Start
(760) 572-0263
quechantribe.com/departments-head-start.html

G Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Early Childhood Education Center
(480) 362-2200 • www.saltriversschools.org

G San Carlos Apache Tribe Head Start Program
(928) 475-2740 • sancarlosapache.com

G Tohono O'odham Head Start
(520) 383-7800 • tonation-nsn.gov

G White Mountain Apache Tribe Head Start Program
(928) 338-4938 • whitemountainapache.org

G indicates Grantee **D** indicates Delegate

The Arizona Head Start Association has prepared this annual Report. Development, production and distribution of this fact sheet was supported in part by funds from the Arizona Head Start State Collaboration Office.



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