The National Early Education Program

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. Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) provide comprehensive, multi-generational support that includes early care and education, health and nutrition, and family services. Head Start focuses on school readiness for children from three to five, while Early Head Start provides high-quality daycare for infants and toddlers and prenatal services for pregnant women. Working closely with local communities to identify and meet specific needs, Head Start promotes family health and stability while engaging parents as equal partners in their child’s education.

The Voice of Arizona Head Start

The Arizona Head Start Association (AZHSA) was created to empower the coalition of organizations that provide Head Start programs. AZHSA works closely with Arizona’s Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) to support strategic planning and carry out statewide initiatives across organizational, governmental, and community levels. We strengthen and enhance the work of our member agencies and partners through four committees: Early Childhood Development; Disabilities & Mental Health; Integrated Health & Safety; and Parent, Family, and Community Engagement. These committees keep AZHSA at the forefront of statewide leadership, whether collaborating on critical issues, driving program excellence, or promoting professional development.

The Climate of Arizona Head Start
Renewal, Support, and Access to High-Quality Services

Positive Statewide Impact

Head Start federal funding added

$175,213,573

to Arizona’s economy

Arizona Head Start programs employed

4,788 individuals

15,984 children/pregnant women

14,525 families served

641 homeless families

159 found housing by year-end
The Arizona Head Start Association has prepared this fact sheet. Development, production and distribution of this fact sheet was supported in part by funds from the Arizona Head Start State Collaboration Office.

A comprehensive report is available at AZheadstart.org

**Arizona Head Start At-a-Glance**

- **Children**
  - 6,334 behavioral screenings for newly enrolled children
  - 999 received care for chronic health condition
  - 6,960 received preventative dental care
  - 9,880 up-to-date on periodic/diagnostic screenings

- **Community**
  - 364 Head Start/EHS centers statewide
  - 10,026 Head Start/EHS classrooms
  - 1,441 preschool classroom teachers/assistant teachers
  - 459 EHS center-based teachers

**Families**

- 111,882 home visits throughout the year
- 11,059 families received support services
- 11,039 parents employed or in school/job training
- 5,151 fathers involved in child’s educational experiences

**Arizona Head Start At-a-Glance**

- **Children**
  - 211 Head Start programs
  - 11,085 Head Start children
  - 18 Early Head Start programs
  - 3,726 infants/toddlers
  - 150 pregnant women

- **Community**
  - 364 Head Start/EHS centers statewide
  - 10,026 Head Start/EHS classrooms
  - 1,441 preschool classroom teachers/assistant teachers
  - 459 EHS center-based teachers

**Three Seasonal/Migrant programs**

- 1,023 cumulative Seasonal/Migrant children
- 474 preschool Seasonal/Migrant children

**OUR MISSION**

The mission of AZHSA is to pursue excellence in collaboration with local agencies and partners that promotes educational achievements, family self-sufficiency, and generational progress. To achieve this, we advocate for the wellbeing of a high qualified workforce, including opportunities for state level engagement with key stakeholders and elected leaders.

**AZHSA**

Arizona Head Start Association

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