

Head Start: Beyond the Election

Arizona Head Start Association
November 24, 2024

NHSA's Vision

To Lead

To be the untiring voice that will not be quiet until every vulnerable child is served with the Head Start model of support for the whole child, the family, and the community.

To Advocate

To work diligently for policy changes that ensure all vulnerable children and families have what they need to succeed.

NHSA's Mission

To coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.

We are compelled to fulfill this mission by the promise of all possible outcomes:

- One powerful, united Head Start voice
- A collegial, collaborative Head Start field
- Nonpartisan support of an increased federal commitment to Head Start
- Healthier, empowered children and families, and stronger, more vibrant communities

What a Ride!

So much has happened in the last year:

- Leadership challenges in the House
- Proposed Rule -----> New Standards
- FEI and RAN taking a lot of oxygen
- Implementation of new Standards
- The most unprecedented Presidential race arguably ever?

It's going to smooth out in the next couple of months – RIGHT?!



Part 1: What Happened?

The White House

Former President Trump Won

U.S. Senate



Republicans Take the Majority

U.S. House of Representatives

**Republicans Keep (very)
Slim Majority**

**What does the
future hold for
Head Start?**



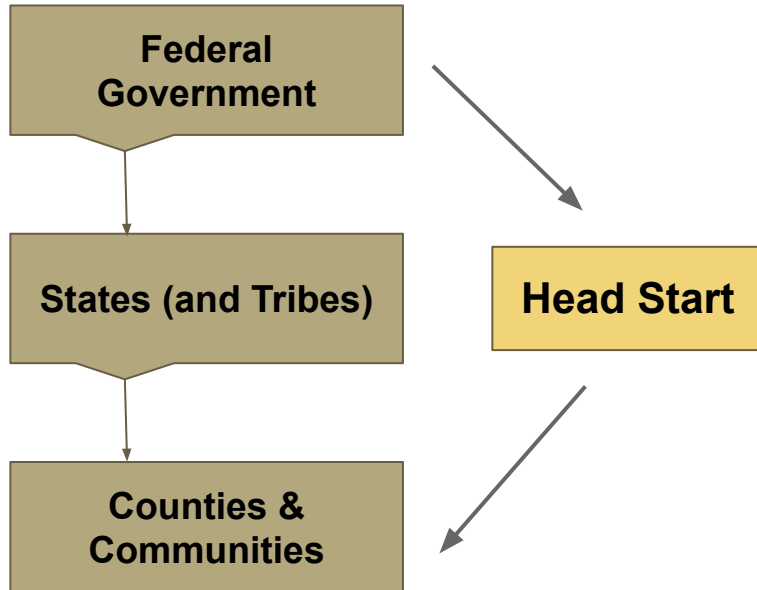
Part 2: The Threats

Biggest Threats Facing Head Start

- Withering on the vine
 - Lack of workforce
 - Lack of funding
- Over-regulation
- Losing our parent/community support
- Messaging in Project 2025
- Losing our bipartisan Congressional support
 - Short term success vs. long term failure
- Blockgranting



Blockgranting 101



- Unlike most federal programs, Head Start is a federal to local program
- Design came from the realities of the '60's and the War on Poverty
- Our model ensures for high quality everywhere, but with local adaptations
- Blockgranting would mean 50+ versions of Head Start – some lacking parent/family engagement or comprehensive services

Part 3: The Opportunities

Biggest Opportunities for Head Start

- Our narrative and track record
 - Nearly 60 years of success
 - Bipartisan Congressional Support
- Our grassroots footprint
 - Unity as a Community
 - Parent/Caregiver and Community Support
- Specific policy changes
 - Fixing bureaucratic burden
 - Expanding eligibility
 - “Small” Bills



Part 4:

The *(Current)* Strategy

Our Political Strategy

- Level-up with every Congressional office
 - Opposition to Neutrality to Understanding to Excitement to Action
 - Grassroots engagement through GO Team
 - 60th Anniversary celebration
- Create a wall in the Senate and House with moderates
 - Sen. Kelly and Sen.-elect Gallego are big supporters!
 - Rep. Ciscomani will reintroduce the HEADWAY Act
- Strategy will be tweaked as we see direction of the GOP
 - Likely heavy economic argument
 - Need to proactively address child health and safety issue
 - Funding for standards message will be tricky

What About the New Rule?

- Full implementation will cost over \$13.2 billion through FY34.
- In FY25 alone, implementation of the rule will cost \$251 million.
- But no funding is provided to cover that cost.
- And the House GOP has introduced a resolution to rescind the rule via the Congressional Review Act.

What About FY25 Appropriations?

- The Senate FY25 Labor/HHS bill would provide an additional \$700 million in Head Start funding:
 - \$544 million for a COLA of approximately 4.4%
 - \$125 million in additional QIF funds
 - \$10 million for the Tribal Colleges and Universities–Head Start Partnership Program
- The House bill includes just \$25 million more for Head Start, so programs and staff would actually be losing money due to inflation

Therefore...

- **We are calling on Congress to provide \$13.2 billion in FY25 for Head Start – which includes the Senate number and rule implementation cost.**
- This critical funding will ensure millions of children and families continue to succeed through early learning opportunities that prepare them for future success.
- But...that may change.

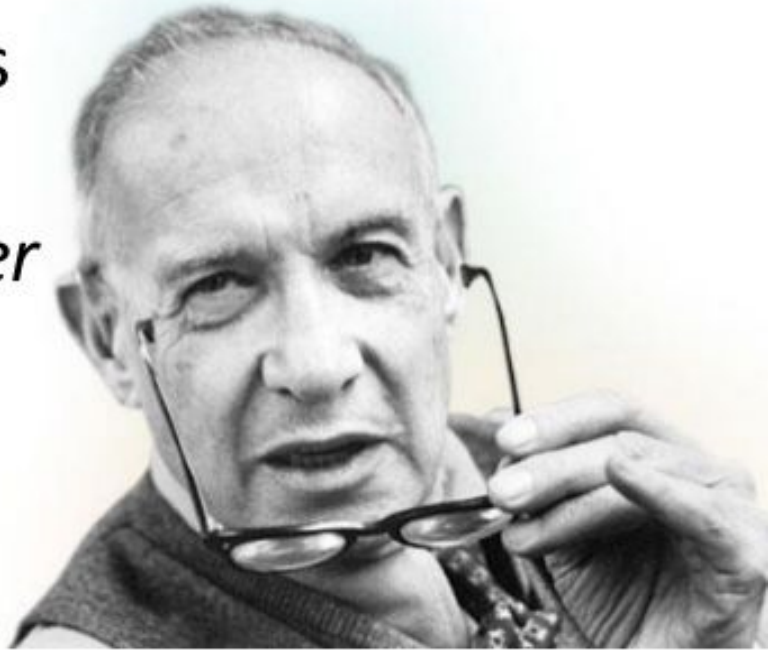
Part 5:

Creating our Future

(By Being the Best We Can Be)

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

– *Dr. Peter F. Drucker*



Upgrade Your Recruitment

For Teachers

Our mission field as a |

Head Teach

This **Teacher Recruitment Toolkit** contains:

1. [Templates for Facebook and LinkedIn](#)
2. [Downloadable forms](#)
3. [Customizable PDFs of a Flyer/Poster](#)

Facebook and LinkedIn Template
Click photo to download.

Exciting Job Opportunities at Head Start!

Transform the lives of children and families with a Head Start! We're looking for passionate individuals to join our Head Start and Early Childhood team. Are you dedicated to working with kids and fostering their lifelong learning? If so, we want you on our team!

Why Join Us?

- Break, learn, change lives
- Professional development opportunities
- Supportive environment

Contact us to Learn More
#Bring #EducationJobs #EarlyChildhoodEducation #JoinOurTeam

© National Head Start Association, 2024



#TeachingJobs #JoinOurTeam

For Families

Our mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader

Head Start Family Recruitment

This **Family Recruitment Toolkit** contains tools that program name, website URL, phone number, email:

1. [Templates for Facebook posts](#)
2. [Customizable Facebook covers that can be printed](#)
3. [Press release template](#)
4. [Public Service Announcement \(PSA\) videos](#)

Facebook Template Posts
Click photo to download.

Back to School With Me

Get your little ones ready! #EarlyHeadStart programs teach services, resources ensure young children are prepared for children from infancy through foundation for their #BackToSchool #HeadStart

Back to School With Me

This new school year, see #EarlyHeadStart programs we've modeled #EarlyChildhoodEducation, health services, and family support to prepare children, ages zero to five, for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Helped for children from infancy through foundation for their #BackToSchool #HeadStart #EarlyChildhoodEducation, health services, and family support to prepare children, ages zero to five, for success in kindergarten and beyond. Contact us today! #Bring #EducationJobs #EarlyChildhoodEducation #JoinOurTeam

© National Head Start Association, 2024



bitly

Tell Your Stories

*60 Stories for 60
Years:
Voices for Head Start*



go.nhsa.org/60stories

Addressing Workforce Issues: 2024 Workforce Survey

- This is our one and only survey this year on workforce and enrollment
- Current data is critical to make the case for funding on Capitol Hill
- **Survey deadline is Nov. 22** – please to take 10 minutes before then!



[go.nhsa.org/
workforce-survey](https://go.nhsa.org/workforce-survey)

Improving Our Partnership With OHS



“The Head Start community needs a trusted partner in the administration who can help Head Start grant recipients continuously adapt to meet the changing needs of their communities. Instead, the Head Start community has lost trust in their administration partners due to busy work, confusing and seemingly inequitable administrative decisions, and unreliable and conflicting communication.”

– letter from the NHSA Board to Sec. Becerra

Take Action!



Urge Your Members of Congress to Support Increased Funding for Head Start!

- Take 1 minute right now to send your emails.
- Take 5 minutes later to encourage those on your email lists & your social media followers to do the same.



nhsa.org/take-action

Part 6:

What else?!?

(Questions)

Thank You!

Bob Bissen
Senior Director
of Government Affairs
bbissen@nhsa.org
202-438-0737

