



WEEKLY UPDATE | JUNE 7 – 2021



California Organizations Call for State Funding for Head Start

Assembly Majority Leader issues letter of support

Sacramento, Calif. (June 2, 2021) - Over 50 California organizations showed their strong support for state funding for Head Start programs. [In a letter](#) to legislative leaders led by Head Start California, they urged the lawmakers to allocate \$50 million for Head Start programs in the 2021-22 budget.

This follows Governor Newsom's announcement of the state's \$75 billion budget surplus and a [proposal to expand Transitional Kindergarten](#) (TK) to all four-year-olds.

The letter is signed by a diverse group of educational organizations — from the California Federation of Teachers to First 5 California — making the case that Head Start requires state funding and resources so it remains strong through this expansion. Head Start is a vital component of the early childhood education system and without additional fiscal support, their ability to accommodate this change will be jeopardized.

"We applaud Governor Newsom's commitment to increasing access to early childhood learning and care for California's families, and we agree that a deep and permanent investment is long overdue. To ensure that Head Start can continue to serve the thousands of children and families who rely on us, as well as expand access to those who need our services, now is the time for the state to invest in Head Start," said Christopher Maricle, Executive Director of Head Start California. "The \$75 billion budget surplus is an unprecedented opportunity for California to provide early childhood services to more families as soon as possible."



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Demonstrating her support, Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes also [submitted a letter](#) to Assembly Member Kevin McCarty, Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2, Education Finance.

“One of my top priorities is to ensure we make critical investments in our state’s system of early education and care. This request is consistent with the BRC Report, which specifically recognizes the critical role of Head Start in California’s mixed-delivery system and recommends state investment in Head Start,” said Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes.

Head Start is a vital resource for California’s most vulnerable families and children. California has nearly 150 Head Start agencies operating over 1,700 sites across the state and serving over 100,000 children and their families annually. Head Start programs employ over 25,000 teachers and staff statewide.

Head Start takes a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of young children, with 4 major components: education, health, parental involvement, and social service. They are nationally recognized for high quality, whole-child, whole-family approach, and a foundation of increasing racial and economic equity.

“Head Start was recognized by the [CA Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission Report on Early Childhood Education](#) as the gold standard in early childhood education and recommended state investment in Head Start. Head Start’s comprehensive services and community-based approach already provide wrap-around services for children and families that need it the most. We must not sacrifice this critical resource as we expand access to all children,” said Stacey Scarborough, Board President of Head Start California. “We appreciate the federal commitment to Head Start. California must do the same.”

“To truly have a California comeback, our families need childcare options that are flexible and convenient to meet their needs. Traditional TK programs are geared towards higher-income families that do not have the unique needs of Head Start families. The expansion of TK alone does not address what at-risk children and families need most. TK is a one-size fits all approach to a very diverse challenge of caring for our most vulnerable and at-risk children,” said Jamie Mauhay, Director, External & Governmental Affairs at Head Start California. “Head Start has the experience and expertise to serve our families with the resources and support they need to thrive and be successful.”

Head Start California launched the [Roar Back with Head Start](#) campaign this week to urge state lawmakers to support their funding request. The requested \$50 million appropriation will be provided to Head Start agencies in the form of agency grants that may be used to: 1) Support the 20% funding match required by the federal grant to build agency capacity, recruit and retain a growing workforce, and identify more Head Start eligible families; and/or 2) Expand services to serve more children in families and provide expanded, non-traditional hours of care.

***Head Start California** is the premier advocacy organization for Head Start agencies throughout California. Head Start California advocates for its members at the federal, state and local county level ensuring that members speak with a unified voice about the challenges facing California’s most vulnerable families, and the Head Start community that serves them. By communicating with members, and creating opportunities for learning and connecting, members are increasingly engaged, unified and supported as they work to better serve their clients and communities.*

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Learn more at www.headstartca.org. **Media Contact:** Jamie Mauhay, 916-505-7450, jamie@headstartca.org.



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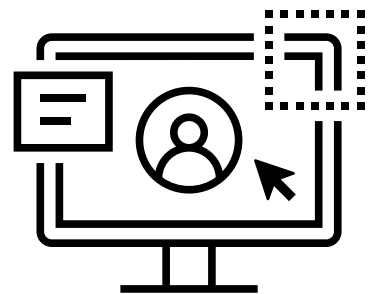
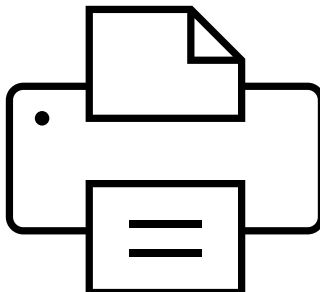
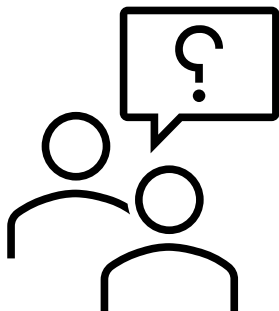
Information Technology Department

How to submit a HelpDesk Request.

The I. T. Department would like to remind everyone to ensure utilizing the helpdesk request process when experiencing any computer issues and requesting technical support by following the steps below:

1. Send an email to helpdesk@childstartinc.org with a brief description of the issue or problem you are experiencing.
2. If you are unable to utilize email, please call 707-252-8931 x 4357 (HELP) and leave a brief message of the issue, your name, and a number you can be reach.

Following this process will ensure prompt attention to attempt to resolve the issues you are experiencing in the most effective way.



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This Week Early Childhood Education Facts



Did You Know?

According to research presented recently by the Children's Home of Cincinnati and Central Clinic:

- **An estimated 33 percent of children entering kindergarten are 1.5 years behind their peers. Yet children who are enrolled in high-quality preschool and daycare programs begin kindergarten emotionally and socially more competent.**



▶ *Submit your inquiry about content by sending an email to:
lpineda@childstartinc.org*

"Laurence Houseman once said, 'A saint is one who makes goodness attractive.'

Surely a great teacher does the same thing for education."

- John Trimble -



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