



PENNSYLVANIA HEAD START ASSOCIATION

PARENTS, STAFF, ADMINISTRATORS AND FRIENDS AFFILIATED FOR CHILDREN

Wendy King - Board President

Blair Hyatt - Executive

PHSA Public Policy Agenda for 2021

Federal Funding FY 2022

Secure Federal Head Start Funding:

Work with NHSA to ensure funding for Head Start / Early Head Start in fiscal year (FY) 2022 of 12.1 B and build on those investments in FY 2023 to: a) maintain services to currently enrolled children and families, b) increase quality c) and expand access:

- Dedicate funding to Head Start / Early Head Start for quality improvement, including staff salary and benefits, trauma-informed care, and extending the duration of in-class time offered by center-based Head Start preschool programs, including supporting children's needs with additional staffing.
- Mitigate the growing workforce crisis through including substantial funding for local programs to improve salaries, support retention efforts, and work toward parity with the K-12 workforce.
- Include funding to expand access to eligible, unserved children, especially for infants and toddlers through Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.
- Include one-time funding for Head Start / Early Head Start infrastructure improvement, repair, and replacement in any broader budgetary agreement.
- Ensure that any COVID-19 relief signed into law includes the funding necessary for Head Start and Early Head Start programs to address the costs acutely attributable to COVID-19 (20% of program funding since March 2020).
- Increase funding to provide transportation services to children as needed.

National Policy

Work with NHSA to address nation-wide Early Care and Education professional workforce shortage.

Work with NHSA to address eligibility issues as they impact on Head Start /Early Head Start program's ability to serve children.

Work with NHSA to address wage issues as they impact Head Start/Early Head Start program's ability to pay and retain staff.

Reauthorization: Continue working with NHSA to develop a plan for Head Start/ Early Head Start reauthorization.



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State Funding

Increase funding to provide opportunity to all eligible Head Start/ Early Head Start children and families to a) maintain services to currently enrolled children and families, b) increase quality c) and expand access.

Work with the three ELPA campaigns (Pre K for PA, Start Strong and Childhood Begins at Home) to advocate for funding needs in the FY 21-21 PA budget.

Support:

- a) The Pre K of PA Campaign's request for 9M in quality money for Pre K along with The Governor's ask for 30M (25M for PreK and 5M for HSSAP).
- b) The Childhood Begins at Home budget ask.
- c) The Start Strong Campaign's asks:
Level-fund the Child Care Services and Child Care Assistance state line items;
 - i) Use federal funds to:
 - 1) Serve at least 3,000 new infants and toddlers in high-quality contracted slots to get more parents back to work and move towards providing more stable funding for programs. (Estimated \$48 million)
 - 2) Increase child care subsidy base rates to provide more sustainable funding to child care programs and begin moving toward reimbursement for the actual cost. (\$87.2 million)

State Policy

Integrating Early Head Start into any/all state initiatives for service to low income pregnant women, infants, toddlers and their families.

Expand Early Head Start opportunities by exploring developing state supplemental funds.

Support United Way of Pennsylvania's Advocacy for State Funding of an EITC for Alice Families.

Work at the state level to ensure workforce strategies support continued program quality and expansion of Early Head Start/Head Start programs.