



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

## Basic Head Start Facts

**Overview:** Head Start is the nation's leading investment in early childhood care and education. Head Start provides a range of comprehensive education, health, nutrition, parent involvement, and family support services and has primarily served at-risk children and their families since 1965. Head Start actually consists of two programs: Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS). HS is a comprehensive early childhood development program primarily serving at-risk preschool-age children and their families. Established during the 1994 Reauthorization of HS, EHS is a comprehensive early childhood program serving primarily at-risk children prenatal to age three, pregnant women, and their families. Funding for these programs goes directly from the federal government to local grantees. The federal government provides 80 percent of the yearly cost to operate HS and EHS programs, and the remaining 20 percent must come from "local match" or "in-kind" contributions, which may be in the form of monetary contributions, donations of goods or services, or volunteer hours. HS and EHS programs serve children in families earning income at or below the federal poverty level, which for a family of four in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia is \$22,350 during 2011.<sup>1</sup>

**Grantees and Delegate Agencies:** There are 2,873 grantees and delegate agencies that have 56,492 classrooms. Grantees and delegate agencies include community action agencies, public/private school systems, private/public non-profits including churches and non-profit hospitals, private/public for-profits, including for-profit hospitals, government agencies, tribal governments or consortia.<sup>5</sup>

**Children and Pregnant Women Served:** 1,117,687 children and pregnant women were served in HS and EHS programs during the 2009-2010 program year:

- 983,809 in HS and 133,878 in EHS<sup>2</sup>

### **Race:**

- White (40%)
- Black or African American (29%)
- Bi-Racial or Multi-Racial (8%)
- American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (6%)
- Unspecified Race (6%)
- Other (11%)<sup>3</sup>

### **Ethnicity:**

- Hispanic or Latino Origin (36%)
- Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino Origin (64%)<sup>4</sup>

**Funding:** Head Start and Early Head Start programs received approximately \$7.2 billion in regular appropriations during Fiscal Year 2010, and \$2.1 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding which can be spent in FYs 2009 and 2010.

**Staff and Volunteers:** There are 242,782 paid HS and EHS staff and contractors and 1,335,620 volunteers. Of those volunteers, 881,092 are HS or EHS parents.<sup>6</sup>

### **Average Teacher Salaries:**

- \$22,300 with a CDA
- \$26,000 with an Associate Degree
- \$29,300 with a Baccalaureate Degree (Average Kindergarten Teacher Salary is \$48,874)<sup>7</sup>

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The National Head Start Association, an independent membership organization, advocates on behalf of the entire Head Start community and provides training and resources to Head Start programs nationwide.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2011). The 2011 HHS Poverty Guidelines.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2011). Head Start Program Information Report for the 2009-2010 Program Year, National Level Survey Summary Report.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2011). Head Start Program Information Report for the 2009-2010 Program Year, National Level Survey Summary Report; Average kindergarten teacher salary with baccalaureate degree. Available at [http://swz.salary.com/salarywizard/layouthtmls/swzl\\_compresult\\_nationalEDO3000009.html#bottom](http://swz.salary.com/salarywizard/layouthtmls/swzl_compresult_nationalEDO3000009.html#bottom) on January 26, 2008.