

What is Head Start?



Since 1965, Head Start has successfully *prepared children* living in poverty for school.

Head Start requires *parent involvement*.

Head Start *refers parents* to other social service organizations that can meet their existing needs.

53% of Illinois Community Action Agencies administer the Head Start program at the local level.

Illinois community action
association

www.icaanet.org
217-789-0125

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What are Community Action Agencies?



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Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are created by their local governments as public or private entities to serve two primary *purposes*:

- 1) to provide essential antipoverty programs; and
- 2) to advocate for the needs of the poor in their communities.

A CAA's *board of directors is unique*, comprised of an equal number of local elected officials, private sector representatives and representatives of the low-income population.

Examples of programs administered locally by CAAs include Anti-Drug Abuse, Economic Development, Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Foster Grandparents, Head Start, Homeless Assistance, Housing, Job Counseling & Training, Literacy Training and Basic Education, Outreach & Referral, Senior Assistance, Surplus Food Distribution, Transportation, Weatherization, & Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

Why is there a need for Head Start?



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Numerous studies prove Head Start *works*.

The *affects of poverty* create unique problems for pre-school children that are not sufficiently addressed in the general pre-school system.

Due to restricted funds, only *20%* of the eligible children are currently served by Head Start & Early Head Start.

What has Head Start & Early Head Start accomplished in Illinois in 04-05?



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45,710 families were served.

73% of the families served had one or more parents employed.

76% of the classrooms had at least one teacher with an Associates degree or higher.

8,878 individuals were employed by HS/EHS Programs.

50,008 individuals volunteered time.

5,106 children were served by the HS/EHS mental health professional(s).

93% of the children determined to have a disability received special education & related services.

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The number of *children* who received treatment for the following conditions:

Anemia - 1,583

Asthma - 2,403

Hearing Difficulties - 594

Overweight - 2,716

Vision Problems - 918

High Lead Levels - 706

Diabetes - 22

The number of *families* who received treatment for the following conditions:

Emergency Crisis

Intervention - 6,235

*(addressing immediate need
for food, clothing or shelter)*

Housing Assistance - 6,867

(subsidies, utilities, repairs)

Transportation

Assistance - 3,592

Mental Health

Services - 3,794

English as a Second

Language Classes - 3,119

Adult Education - 5,369

Job Training - 3,986

**Substance Abuse Prevention
& Treatment - 1,221**

**Child Abuse & Neglect
Services - 1,994**

**Domestic Violence
Services - 1,325**

**Child Support
Assistance - 1,730**

Health Education - 10,894

(including prenatal education)

**Assistance to Families of
Incarcerated Individuals - 637**

Parenting Education - 13,197

**Marriage Education
Services - 660**

Priorities for Head Start Reauthorization & Appropriations



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ICCA opposes the *re-competition language*.

ICAA opposes requiring Head Start teachers to acquire a *Bachelor's Degree* without including additional funds to pay them a fair wage.

ICAA opposes changing the *direct federal relationship* with Head Start Programs.

ICAA is opposed to allowing religious grantees to make agency decisions based on an *individual's religious affiliation*.

ICAA supports *level funding* for Head Start, at a minimum.

ICAA supports *maintaining the parent involvement* and oversight provided through the Policy Advisory Council.