



Head Start and Early Head Start in Alaska

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What Head Start and Early Head Start programs do

- ▶ Goal: school readiness for children who live in poverty or who may experience other significant risk factors to their healthy growth and development
- ▶ Provide comprehensive child development services using a center based or home based model
- ▶ Use a “two generation approach”

Education Services

- ▶ Center based services, minimum of 3.5 hours per day; minimum of 160 days of service per year (Head Start) or 1,080 hours (Early Head Start)
- ▶ Home based services—annual minimum of 46 homes visits lasting at least 1.5 hours and at least 22 group socialization activities
- ▶ Must use a research based curriculum and ensure that teachers/home visitors use the curriculum as intended
- ▶ Must assess children at least 3 times a year using a valid and reliable assessment tool that measures children's progress in 5 developmental domains (Teaching Strategies Gold)

Health Services

- ▶ Provide health, dental, mental health and developmental screenings for the early identification and treatment of health or developmental problems
- ▶ Provide daily meals that meet at least 50% of children's minimum daily requirements (center-based)

Family Engagement Services

- ▶ Involve parents as volunteers, adult learners and leaders who plan and implement activities and provide program oversight
- ▶ Build relationships with parents to strengthen them as the primary nurturers of their children and to promote self-sufficiency

Who Head Start & Early Head Start Serves

5

Region X Head Start grantees

10

American Indian Alaska Native
Head Start grantees

4

Region X Early Head Start grantees

7

American Indian Alaska Native Early
Head Start grantees

Center based and home based
program enrollment (2016)

2,947

Head Start: children 3-5 years old

98% in center based programs

858

Early Head Start: pregnant women
and children birth to 3 years old

63% in home based programs

Who Head Start & Early Head Start serve (total enrollment=3,779)

411

had a disability

155

were in foster care

340

were homeless

125

were referred by OCS

2,335

met federal poverty guidelines

Impact and ROI: Services for the whole child & family

Prevention and Early Intervention

342 children
received dental treatment

463 children
supported by mental health
consultation

408 children
received treatment for chronic medical conditions like anemia,
asthma, or hearing/vision problems

Impact and ROI: Services for the whole child & family

School Readiness

Positive Teaching Strategies Gold assessment results—significant gains for children across the state in language, literacy, mathematics and cognition and physical development

Life-changing family services

575 families received emergency intervention services that met basic needs for food, clothing or shelter

193 parents received job training services

105 parents received services that addressed child abuse, domestic violence or substance abuse

Impact of Reduced Funding

- ▶ Funding cuts would reduce leverage for federal funds
- ▶ Likely result is reduced enrollment

What is unique about Head Start/Early Head Start

- ▶ Comprehensive services—not duplicative
- ▶ State-wide valid and reliable child outcomes assessment system (Teaching Strategies Gold)
- ▶ Professional support for children who have experienced trauma and the staff who work with them through mental health consultation
- ▶ Do not expel children with challenging behaviors

What is unique about Head Start/Early Head Start

- ▶ High level of parent involvement: over 3,600 volunteers statewide last year, most of them parents
- ▶ Statewide presence – nearly 100 communities in the state: in many Head Start is the only early childhood provider, and is a major employer providing over 1,000 jobs state-wide

What is unique about Head Start/Early Head Start

- ▶ High program standards (federal, state and local)
- ▶ Credentialing requirements for teachers, assistant teachers and specialists
- ▶ CLASS—research based system for observing and assessing teaching practices and interactions
- ▶ Robust, independent evaluation by reviewers who assess key quality factors

Collaborations

- ▶ Tribal organizations
- ▶ OCS
- ▶ LEA including Child in Transition
- ▶ Health providers including pediatricians and dentists
- ▶ Statewide partners like thread and Best Beginnings