



May 27, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
 Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
 State Capitol, Room 5019  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting  
 Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
 State Capitol, Room 6026  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird  
 Chair, Senate budget Subcommittee #1  
 State Capitol, Room 4040  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kevin McCarty  
 Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
 State Capitol, Room 2036  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: May Revision Budget Request Proposal to support Head Start agencies in TK transition**

Dear Senator Skinner, Assemblymember Ting, Senator Laird and Assemblymember McCarty:

We, the undersigned, write on behalf of the nearly 150 Head Start grantees in California, serving over 100,000 children annually and their families, employing over 25,000 teachers and staff statewide. Head Start programs in California operate over 1,700 sites across the state and serve the most at-risk children and families with early learning and wrap around services. We respectfully request support for a \$50 million appropriation in the 2021-22 budget for grants to ensure these local programs can continue and reach more children in Early Head Start, Head Start, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, and American Indian Head Start.

The expansion of Transitional Kindergarten to serve all four-year olds has serious implications for Head Start programs: four-year olds constitute nearly 60% of Head Start funding in California. Without additional fiscal support that is equitable to the support provided to other parts of the mixed-delivery system, the ability of Head Start programs to accommodate this change will be jeopardized. Head Start programs are nationally recognized for high quality, whole-child, whole-family approach, and a foundation of increasing racial and economic equity.

This request is consistent with the CA Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission Report on Early Childhood Education, which specifically recognizes the critical role of Head Start in California’s mixed delivery system and recommends state investment in Head Start.

Head Start programs cannot easily shift their funding to serve more 0-3 year-olds; It involves a re-application of Early Head Start grant funding and an approval process by the federal Office of Head Start.

**Our proposal for state grants proposes the following structure:**

- Agencies with one or more Office of Head Start (OHS) grants (including Head Start, Early Head Start, American Indian/Alaskan Native and Migrant & Seasonal grants) would be eligible to participate.
- Families with income less than 200% of the federal poverty level for their family size, *or* who would qualify for WIC, SNAP, CalWorks, SSI, or Free/Reduced Meals could be funded by the state grant;
- Grants may be used to:
  - 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
  - Expand services to serve more children in families and provide expanded, non-traditional hours of care.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact our legislative advocates - Jamie Mauhay at [jamie@headstartca.org](mailto:jamie@headstartca.org) and Andrea Ball [andrea@ballfrostgroup.com](mailto:andrea@ballfrostgroup.com) for additional information.

Sincerely,

**Statewide Organizations/Associations**

California Federation of Teachers  
California Teachers Association  
California Alternative Payment Program Assistance  
Child Care Law Center  
Children Now  
First 5 California  
First 5 Association of California  
Head Start California  
KidANGO  
Low Income Investment Fund  
Parent Voices  
Region 9 Head Start Association  
Service Employees International Union State Council  
United Domestic Workers 3930  
Unite LA

**Local Organizations**

Build Up California  
Catholic Council for the Spanish Speaking  
Central California Child Development Services, Inc.  
Child 360  
Child and Family Services Stanislaus County Office of Education  
Child Care Resource Center  
Child Development Resources of Ventura County  
Children's Institute  
Children's Services (Community)

City of Oakland Head Start  
Community Action Marin  
Community Action Partnership of Kern County  
Community Action Partnership of Madera County  
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County  
Community Action Partnership of Sonoma  
Crystal Stairs  
E Center  
Easter Seals Southern California  
Encompass Community Services- Head Start  
Foundation for Early Childhood Education  
Kai Ming  
Kidango  
Kidz Community  
Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee  
Mission Neighborhood Centers  
Monterey County Office of Ed  
Neighborhood House Association  
North Coast Opportunities Head Start Child Development Program  
Northern CA Child Development Inc  
Orange County Head Start  
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment  
Palo Verde Head Start  
Para los ninos  
Shasta County Head Start Child Development, Inc.  
Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities  
Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership  
Wu Yee Children's Services  
YMCA of the East Bay-Early Childhood Impact