



## Annual Report

Program Year 2019-2020



# The Head Start Advantage



**Head Start is the national commitment to give every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, an opportunity to succeed in school and in life.** Head Start programs across Idaho serve the educational, socio-emotional, health, and nutrition needs of nearly 5,000 children in safe, nurturing environments.

*"I've seen families' lives completely changed through Head Start. It's a program that gives us the strength and the tools to be who we want to be and have a better quality of life."*

*- Emily, parent*



## HEAD START NEVER STOPS WORKING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In the months since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Head Start staff have been working in overdrive. They've adapted their teaching strategies, adjusted class schedules and classroom layouts, made necessary health-related adjustments to facilities, and provided access to quality online and other remote learning opportunities for children and families from at-risk backgrounds.

*"Since the start of COVID-19, Head Start programs have pivoted in countless innovative ways—doing everything physically and financially possible to ensure children and families living on the margins aren't pushed further to the edge. Head Start never stopped working."*

*– Yasmina Vinci, National Head Start Association Director*

# Idaho Impact - Counties Served

## 13 HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS

### **BEAR RIVER HEAD START**

Serving Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida and Southern Bannock Counties  
(435) 755- 0081

### **COEUR D' ALENE TRIBE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER**

Serving the Coeur d' Alene Tribe in Kootenai and Benewah Counties  
(208) 686- 8506

### **COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO HEAD START**

Serving Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Power and Twin Falls Counties  
(208) 736- 0741

### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF IDAHO - MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START**

Serving Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Families in

Ada, Bingham, Bonneville, Canyon, Cassia, Clark, Elmore, Fremont, Gem, Gooding, Jefferson, Jerome, Lincoln, Madison, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Power, Twin Falls and Washington Counties  
(208) 454- 1652

### **EASTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP HEAD START**

Serving Bingham, Bonneville, Lemhi, Madison and Teton Counties  
(208) 522- 5391

### **FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Serving Ada and Elmore Counties  
(208) 344- 9187

### **LEWIS - CLARK EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM**

Serving Clearwater, Idaho,

Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties in Idaho and Asotin County in Washington State  
(208) 743- 6573

### **MOUNTAIN STATES EARLY HEAD START**

Serving children birth to 3 and pregnant women in Bonner, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties  
(208) 765- 6955

### **NEZ PERCE TRIBE MAMÁY 'ASNIM HITÉEMENWEES**

Serving the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho, Lewis, Nez Perce and Clearwater Counties  
(208) 843- 7330

### **NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE HEAD START**

Serving Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties  
(208) 666- 6755

### **POCATELLO/CHUBBUCK SCHOOL DISTRICT #25 HEAD START**

Serving Bannock County  
(208) 233- 6606

### **SHOSHONE- BANNOCK TRIBES HEAD START**

Serving the Shoshone- Bannock Tribes in Bannock, Bingham and Power Counties  
(208) 239- 4500

### **WESTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP HEAD START**

Serving Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley and Washington Counties  
(208) 642- 9086




# School Readiness



**Head Start is Idaho's most successful school readiness program.** That means Head Start children are ready for school, Head Start families are ready to support their children's learning, and elementary schools are ready for Head Start children. Physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development are essential parts of school readiness. Head Start children possess the skills, knowledge, and attitudes they need to succeed in school and life.

Head Start respects parents as their children's primary nurturers, teachers, and advocates. Programs are required to consult with parents in establishing school readiness goals. As children transition to kindergarten, Head Start works to promote school readiness and engage families.

# Birth to Five

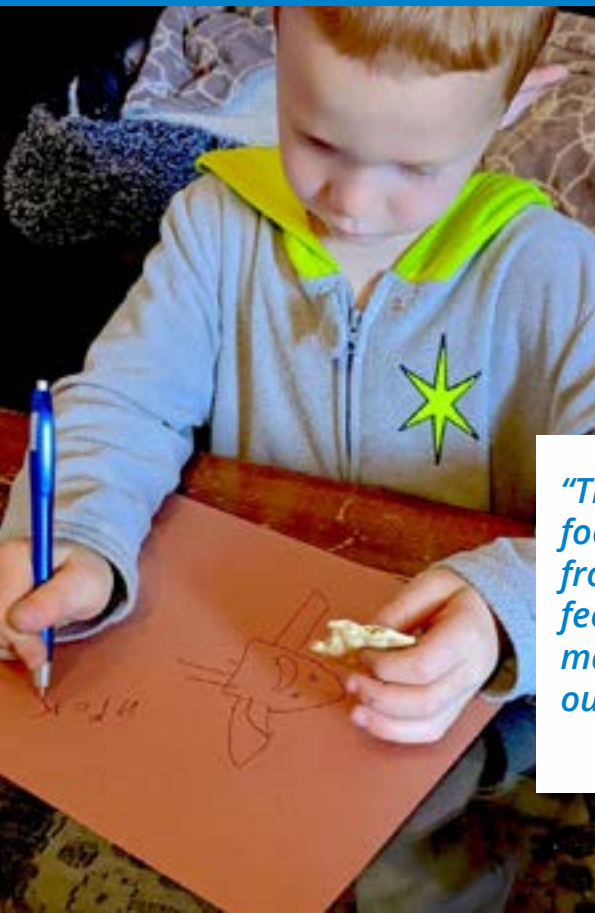


*“Early childhood education is all about relationships, making sure the children feel loved and happy. If a child feels loved, they’ll learn.”*  
– Alice, Early Head Start coach

**Head Start and Early Head Start are early education programs for children age 0-5 from at-risk backgrounds.** Children are learning from the moment they are born. Brain growth, approaches to life and learning, and language skills are shaped by what does - or does not - happen in a child’s first days, months and years. Investment in the early years prevents children from falling behind and decreases the need for expensive remedial education.

Head Start recognizes the critical role of parents and teaches parents how to support their children’s learning. Head Start also helps parents overcome the challenges of poverty that can stand in the way of their children’s success.

# COVID-19



When Covid-19 forced the closure of Head Start classrooms across Idaho, the staff continued to provide learning opportunities for children, interactive activities for families and at-home learning exercises. For parents, Head Start continued to provide parenting classes and activities, resources for mental and physical health, and assistance with food, clothing, housing, and finances.

*"This pandemic has exacerbated the families' ability to obtain food and feel secure about where their next meal will come from. We stayed in constant contact with families. The positive feedback we received from families was overwhelming with many stating they didn't think they would have made it without our support."*

*- Lisa, Head Start Director*

# Children's Health and Welfare

## HEAD START SUPPORTS CHILD HEALTH AND WELFARE

Poverty too often goes together with poor health. **For more than 55 years, Head Start has integrated health care access, immunizations, vision and hearing screenings, and developmental supports into the comprehensive services they offer.** Early identification and intervention, especially in the case of developmental delays, can have lasting positive impacts. Screening early matters, and this is what Head Start does best.



Idaho's youngest generation faces many health challenges stemming from COVID-19, including lost opportunities for critical vaccines and early intervention. Without access to doctors for routine check-ups and specialists to identify and treat disabilities or delays, children could suffer unnecessarily for years, ultimately undermining their full potential. Head Start's comprehensive health services address critical needs and contribute to the success of children and families.

- Immunizations and well child check ups
- Mental health services
- Food
- Unemployment assistance
- Connection to community services



*"I am grateful for the continued support that Head Start is providing. From the phone calls, making sure that I have the things that my boys and I need, to the Facebook page, posting lessons, stories, delivering packets, essential materials and supplies on our front porch. Or just having someone to talk to, support and encouragement."*

*- Ashley, parent*

*"Entering the program is one of the best things I could have done for my child. His social and emotional well-being improved, as did his motor skills. It's a safe, fun and loving environment."*

*- Alecia, parent*



# Advocacy

## INVEST NOW TO SERVE MORE CHILDREN

Head Start's federal funding is not enough to serve all the Idaho families that qualify. More than 2,000 children are on Head Start waiting lists across the state. The Idaho Head Start Association urges state lawmakers to make a \$1 million investment in Head Start to enroll 100 more children. This is a cost-effective step toward improving school readiness, literacy rates and future success. This cost could be more than offset with savings in remedial education, corrections, foster care and Medicaid.



*“With higher rates of unemployment and decreased childcare options, the high-quality comprehensive program offered by Head Start is more important than ever to Idaho’s at-risk children.”*

*– Bill Foxcroft, Director Idaho Head Start Association*

# Parent Leadership

Parents oversee Policy Councils for each program, making important decisions about staffing, curriculum and program operations. This experience helps them develop leadership skills and self-confidence. They become better advocates for their children and more engaged citizens.

*"It all helped me see the value in being a better father. Without realizing it, three years went by, and I realized, I haven't been in jail for a while!" - William, parent*

Dozens of parents visited with local legislators at the Idaho Statehouse in 2020. They told their powerful stories and encouraged legislators to provide funding to increase access to Head Start.





## Idaho Head Start Association

223 N. 6th Street, Suite 435  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
(208) 345-1182  
[idahohsa.org](http://idahohsa.org)

**Bill Foxcroft**  
Executive Director  
[bfoxcroft@idahohsa.org](mailto:bfoxcroft@idahohsa.org)

For a full listing of programs,  
data and research findings,  
and Head Start news, please  
visit [idahohsa.org](http://idahohsa.org)

