

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report January 2023



Federal Updates:

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Head Start Association (NHTA) celebrates the record investment of \$11.99 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget, which is now on its way to the President's desk. The FY23 budget includes a \$960 million increase over last year for Head Start and Early Head Start.

"We are grateful to both Congress and the Biden Administration for recognizing American families' need for high-quality, accessible early learning in order to rebuild and strengthen our economy," said NHTA Executive Director Yasmina Vinci. "We thank them for their meaningful work to maximize the role Head Start plays in supporting the most vulnerable children and their families."

Within the \$960 million increase, Congress provided a record-setting \$596 million for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), which translates to an approximately 5.4% adjustment for all Head Start staff, \$262 million for Quality Improvement Funding (QIF), and \$8 million for the Tribal Colleges and Universities-Head Start Partnership Program. The bill also includes an additional \$100 million to expand access to Head Start and Early Head Start.

"The combined COLA and the QIF should help ease the immediate burdens of inflation and help Head Start programs address the impacts of childhood trauma on our nation's young children. "Nevertheless, compensation for the early childhood workforce, including Head Start, ranks in the lowest 10% of professions—an enormous contributing factor to recent and [unprecedented staff turnover](#), which threatens the stability and ability of Head Start programs to properly serve a maximum number of children. NHTA is committed to working with the 118th Congress to address systemic workforce challenges so Head Start can continue to provide the high-quality services families depend upon."

- **Supplementary Information on Establishing an Evidence-based COVID-19 Mitigation Policy ACF-PI-HS-23-01** <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/pi/acf-pi-hs-23-01>
- **IM ACF-IM-HS-22-09 Enrollment Reductions and Conversion of Head Start Slots to Early Head Start Slots** <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-im-hs-22-09>

State Updates:

CLASS observations have been completed and entered into the Link B-5 Data base. We look forward to a virtual tour this month on the Birth to 5 Hub.

NRCA Program Updates:

- Attachments included this month:
 - Enrollment and Finance Dashboard reports.
 - 5 Year Goal -Midyear progress updates.
 - Eligibility and Selection criteria for 2023-2024.
- We will have another Professional Development Day January 4th where we will be exploring the topic of messaging. Telling a Powerful Head Start message as we move into recruitment season. There will also be a CLASS training and a PBIS Ambassador meeting. Classrooms will also participate in creating an Active Supervision plan for their classrooms.
- The annual Parent Survey will go out to parents during our next home visit cycle starting February 6th.
- Staff position openings- Christiansburg and Check CA, AT McHarg, Margaret Beeks, and First Baptist. We anticipate 2 new ATs starting in January.
- I will be working with Patrick, Michelle and Sarah on the 2023-2024 grant submission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services