



## HEAD START PROGRAM

**Request:** Appropriate Head Start funding at a minimum of \$8.1 billion.

Redistribute Head Start slots from the designation renewal process to areas such as Phoenix to address inequities in the current slot allocation structure.

**Community Value:**

The city of Phoenix Head Start and Early Head Start programs serve approximately 3,400 children from low-income households through a directly operated home visiting program and classrooms operated by 10 delegate agencies comprised of non-profit organizations and school districts. Children receive a variety of individualized learning experiences to foster social, intellectual, physical and emotional growth. Every child receives a complete physical examination, including vision and hearing tests, immunizations, a dental exam and identification of disabling conditions. Parents also play an active role in all aspects of the program. Through their involvement and available training, parents are able to improve their skills in a variety of areas.

**Background:**

The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 gradually raised Authorization levels to \$7.9 billion in FFY 2011. In FFY 2012, this level was achieved and ensured that the expanded programs funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) would continue.

Federal Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2009	\$6,877,975,000
ARRA	\$1,046,577,000
2010	\$7,112,786,000
2011	\$7,574,783,000
2012	\$7,983,633,000
2013	TBD**

\*\* 2013 is currently funded under a Continuing Resolution (CR) with FFY 2012-level funding amounts. The CR is due to expire on March 27, 2013. This program also could be impacted by sequestration.

**Continued Full Funding:**

In the past, the city of Phoenix was able to keep operations balanced by requesting reductions in enrollment. This reduction in slots for children, coupled with inadequate funding, was offset temporarily with ARRA funding in 2009, including the establishment of a 300-slot Early Head Start program.

The combined annual appropriations and ARRA funding brought the FFY 2009 and 2010 funding levels to the amount authorized.

For FFY 2011, funding fell short of the amount authorized for that year, but the expanded programs were continued through partial funding by the Office of Head Start. Full funding was restored in FFY 2012, allowing Phoenix to continue serving low-income residents benefiting from the expanded programs. It is critical this funding be maintained in FFY 2014 and cost of living increases be awarded. With rising costs of operating Head Start and Early Head Start programs, level funding has the same effect as a decrease in funding.

**Reauthorization:**

The Head Start Act of 2007 expired on Sept. 30, 2012. Reauthorization will assure this vital program continues academic success for low-income families.

Head Start generates a Return On Investment (ROI) of \$7 to \$9 for every \$1 invested. James Heckman, a Nobel Laureate in Economics at the University of Chicago, recommended to the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Reform that "Early Head Start and Head Start are programs on which to build and improve – not to cut."

**Fair Share:**

According to 2010 United States Census data, Phoenix's poverty rate for children under age five is 51.7 percent, well above the national average of 33.4 percent. Future allocation reform is needed to address the inequities in the current slot allocation structure. Currently, Phoenix is only able to serve 30 percent of eligible Head Start children and 3 percent of eligible Early Head Start children. This compares to other locations that are able to serve many more. San Antonio serves 48 percent of eligible Head Start children, with West Virginia serving 60 percent, Oregon 67 percent, Washington state 46 percent and Rhode Island 40 percent. Nationally, it is estimated that 50 percent of eligible Head Start children and 5 percent of eligible Early Head Start children are being served (results.org).

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