

Unbounded Thinking

Creating Solutions
and Possibilities



2009 Annual Report



Our Mission

- Advocate for the needs of Head Start children and their families.
- Act as a liaison with other public and private agencies that support the educational, health, and social service needs of young children and their families.
- Provide a forum for discussing statewide, regional, and national issues.
- Develop statewide collaborative efforts that help strengthen the delivery of services to children and their families.
- Provide a communication link and a unified voice to statewide, regional, and national stakeholders.

The National Head Start Program

As the nation's school readiness program, Head Start provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition and parent involvement services to poverty-level children and their families. Local grantees receive federal funding for Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs that together serve children from birth through preschool.

Arizona Head Start Association

Head Start grantees and delegates in Arizona have the opportunity to join the Arizona Head Start Association (AHSAs), a statewide forum that unifies and empowers its member agencies in far-reaching ways. Led by an Executive Director and a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors, AHSAs integrates service delivery through five standing committees: Early Care and Education, Health and Disabilities, Research and Evaluation, Professional Development, and Family/Community Partnerships.

AHSAs reaches out beyond its membership to the statewide Early Childhood community, supporting ongoing efforts, creating collaborative opportunities, and catalyzing positive change. Along with membership dues, funding for AHSAs studies, projects and forums are provided by the Arizona Head Start State Collaboration Office through a grant from the Administration for Children and Families.

Head Start in Arizona

The network of organizations that administer Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs in Arizona include Indian Tribal governments, local governments and municipalities, non-profit organizations and local school districts. Federal funds are granted to these community-based agencies through the Office of Head Start, a division of the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. National administration of Head Start grants is divided into regions, with the San Francisco Region IX Office overseeing Arizona regional grantees. The Arizona Indian and Migrant programs are administered through different branches of the Office of Head Start. This Annual Report includes a statistical overview of Arizona Head Start from the 2008-09 Program Information Report covering Regional, American Indian, and Migrant programs.



Positive Statewide Impact

- Approximately 22,000 Arizona children are enrolled in Head Start programs
- Federal Head Start grants bring more than \$140 million into Arizona's economy
- Head Start agencies generate more than \$35 million in local community in-kind contributions
- Arizona Head Start programs employ nearly 4,300 individuals

Improving the Lives of Children and Families

The public and private agencies that make up Arizona's Head Start community work tirelessly to deliver the national school readiness program to low-income children and their families. Today, the positive impact of Head Start reaches far beyond the classroom. Head Start programs in Arizona provide a wide range of services to enrolled children and their families under the general categories of education, health, nutrition, and social development. Early Head Start (EHS) intensifies the focus on children from birth to age three, addressing concerns like prenatal care and family functioning in addition to healthy development of infants and toddlers. Many EHS children are served in home-based settings or benefit from "kith and kin" programs.

Head Start and EHS parents can access ever-widening opportunities to learn and grow, from parenting classes to GED certification and higher education. Family services meet urgent needs like food and shelter but also support parents in making progress toward their own educational, literacy, and employment goals. These services facilitate family goal setting, encourage the involvement of fathers, and more fully engage parents in their children's learning. AHSa is proud of the accomplishments of our member agencies across the state, and the difference that their programs are making in the lives of more than 21,000 families.

Learning and Growing Professionally—Together

The 3rd Annual Mental Health Conference

Developed, organized, and hosted by AHSa, the 2009 Mental Health Conference brought together more than 170 participants from Arizona's early care and education communities. Held on October 22-23, 2009, the event drew a wide circle of attendees to the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

Two full days of program choices relating to the theme "Practices that Support Social and Emotional Development" encouraged participants to tailor sessions around their specific needs. Members of the Head Start network were able to learn and share along with professionals from the public school system, Tribal social services, community health organizations, family support agencies, social/human service programs, and behavioral health systems.



Head Start Staff

- Arizona employs more than 900 Head Start teachers
- Nearly 29,000 volunteers serve Arizona's Head Start programs statewide
- 30% of HS staff are former/current Head Start parents (23% EHS)
- 98% of HS classroom teachers meet current degree/credential requirements
- 78% of HS classroom teachers meet degree/credential requirements effective 2011
- 87% of EHS classroom teachers meet degree/credential requirements effective 2010

One of the magnets to the conference was the volunteer panel of experts who served as presenters, including a child psychiatrist, a clinical social worker, entrepreneurs, state and national non-profit agency leaders, governmental representatives, and professionals in the public education system. Head Start was well-represented on state and national levels. Amy Hunter from the Early Head Start National Resource Center in Washington, D.C., led a session that explored *The role of a mental health professional in Head Start and Early Head Start*. Christine Stanton from Arizona's Head Start Training and Technical Assistance office presented a full-day institute on *Partnering with parents when the going gets tough*.

Conference chairman Jonah Gillooly gave credit to the exceptional caliber of volunteer presenters and the outstanding organizational effort that made the event such a resounding success. AHSA team members included Anne Andrade, Judy Bell, Bonnie Groth, Cynthia Jones, David Leard, Sonya Montoya, Jane Meier, Raquel Munoz-Aguirre, Christy Stanton, and Juan Carlos Tarango. Overall conference participation increased by 30 percent over the previous year, with a significant number of attendees coming from non-Head Start programs. The many opportunities to network with presenters and with each other gave participants a chance to walk away with new contacts, new associations, and new possibilities for collaboration.

High Marks for Mental Health Conference

The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly affirming, with 88 percent saying that they would definitely return next year. Most participants took the time to answer the question, "What did you like best about the conference?"

- Dynamic presenters; entertaining and competent
- Good topic variety and time to meet with other agency staff
- Excellent information that will be useful in my everyday work
- Liked the day-long institutes for in-depth coverage
- The *father* workshops were outstanding
- Great topics relating to 0-3 children and loved the hands-on activities
- Inspired me to focus on areas where I have been weak in the past
- Loved the variety of short sessions and interactive learning
- Highly qualified speakers who talked about applying the information



www.azheadstart.org

AHSA Quarterly Meetings

The enthusiastic turnout for AHSA's quarterly meetings, which are open to all Head Start agencies, attests to the value of the educational and networking opportunities they provide. Following the membership meeting, attendees receive a federal-level update from the Head Start Region IX Office and learn about its impact on Arizona. Speakers from the Arizona Head Start State Collaboration Office as well as other state agencies like First Things First are on hand with statewide news. Members of AHSA's five major committees then have an opportunity to meet for breakout work and updates on specific projects. Community members often join AHSA committees when their work intersects with AHSA projects. The second day of the quarterly meeting brings together AHSA's volunteer Board of Directors for overriding business updates, discussion, decision-making, and planning. At the culmination of the meeting, AHSA posts the minutes online at www.azheadstart.org.

New Quarterly Training Sessions

The combination of a ready, willing audience and assistance from the state-based Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Office has created a new opportunity for professional growth. AHSA-sponsored Quarterly Training Sessions are available on the day prior to an AHSA quarterly meeting, taking advantage of the fact that attendees are already clearing their schedules and making travel plans for specific dates. The new quarterly training sessions cover timely topics that promise to further the effectiveness of Head Start program delivery, such as Parent Involvement or Family Literacy. Other sessions focus on administrative skills and knowledge, such as the Program Information Report training by the Head Start Region IX Office.

AHSA and the Individual

Membership in AHSA dramatically expands the opportunities for networking, partnering, personal growth, and professional leadership. Committee chairs have the opportunity to direct programs and develop their management skills. AHSA meetings and trainings give members a platform in which to address important issues, expand their knowledge base, encourage creative thinking, and strengthen skill sets that carry over to daily work environments.

Head Start Education

- 19 children in the average HS classroom (7 in EHS classroom)
- 9 children per HS teacher/teaching assistants (3 in EHS classroom)
- 99% of HS children with a disability received special services
- 13% of preschool children had an Individualized Education Plan to respond to their disabilities
- 17% of EHS children had an Individualized Family Service Plan to respond to their disabilities



Encouraging Parent Leadership and Advocacy—Together

Parent Leadership Institute

With a goal to inform, involve, and empower families within the Early Childhood community, Arizona's Head Start State Collaboration Office contracted AHSA to organize and implement a Parent Leadership Institute. In addition to the tasks associated with facilitating the institute, AHSA's collaborative planning committee conducted outreach activities to draw attendees from the community who did not represent Head Start. Among them were parenting and family support groups, private child care providers, preschool through kindergarten public school personnel, kith and kin providers, and child care home providers.

The Parent Leadership Institute first debuted in Phoenix, Arizona, on January 22, 2009, and provided free training for up to 60 attendees. Parents were able to attend one of three possible sessions, all of which had advocacy and leadership as the core message. Simultaneous translation via headphones was available to Spanish-speaking participants.

Session 1, *Governance, Leadership, Advocacy in Head Start/Early Head Start*, was presented by veteran staff member LaTrisha Centers-Broom from City of Phoenix Head Start. The program covered a variety of ways for parents to become engaged in the decision-making process of their local programs, adding specific examples and encouraging a lively flow of conversation.

Session 2, *Parents as Advocates for Children with Special Needs*, featured Jill Castle of the Parent Information Network. As a parent of a child with special needs, Castle was dynamic and knowledgeable in presenting the ways that parents can advocate for their own children, specifically those with disabilities. Time allotted for questions and answers enriched the formal program.

Session 3, *Community Advocacy*, introduced parents to Brenda Aguirre of Children's Action Alliance, who focused on the state legislative process and understanding the budget. Her practical examples included tools that parents could begin using immediately, becoming more involved in the process and contributing to discussions that will affect Arizona's future.



Arizona Head Start Association Officers

Melanie O'Neil,
President;
Linda Yuguchi,
Vice President;
Mindy Zapata,
Treasurer; and
Lisa Eversole,
Secretary

AHSA Members and Friends,

Looking back over 2009, AHSA member agencies and our dedicated Board of Directors can point to proud moments of leadership, advocacy, and collaboration. We have continued to dissolve the lines of separation between organizations and people who share the same passions and vision. The very heart of our organization is embodied in the words "working together." AHSA was founded to help Arizona build and support a stronger network of public and private organizations that are dedicated to the welfare of our children.

Today, more than ever before in our history, AHSA is catalyzing positive change across the landscape of Arizona's Early Childhood community. We are responding to needs and challenges by amplifying our collective voice and more effectively applying our resources. We are reaching out to form influential relationships and powerful partnerships on every level—from statewide to local. This Annual Report highlights some of these successes, from the 3rd Annual Mental Health Conference to the Parent Leadership Institute, Environmental Awareness programs, and the breakthrough collaborative advocacy for Arizona's homeless population.

In proudly recognizing the achievements of our member agencies in 2009, we also extend our appreciation to the statewide service community. AHSA is looking forward to another year of working together, hand in hand, to improve the lives of Arizona's most vulnerable children and their families.

Melanie O'Neil, President
Arizona Head Start Association

A Message from AHSA Executive Director Bonnie Groth

The benefits of AHSA advocacy and leadership continue to expand, and the calendar year of 2009 was no exception. AHSA representatives are now sitting at all the tables on the state level and our positive presence is increasingly felt throughout Arizona's Early Childhood community. After years of flat funding, we have been fortunate in securing the means to expand some of our current programs and launch others. I want to personally recognize the accomplishments of our hard-working AHSA committees, whose members came together and joined hands with others—in their own communities and across the state—to achieve our mutual goals. Cuts in the state budget have made the past year particularly challenging for Head Start children and their families. At the same time, our programs are more important than ever before. The need to collaborate, cooperate, and build connections with each other in the face of budgetary constraints has never been more crucial. Support from the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) has been invaluable to AHSA and the entire Head Start community. As HSSCO transitions from the Office of the Governor to the Arizona Department of Education, we look forward to continuing effective partnerships and forming dynamic new relationships. Bringing together our finest resources and our brightest minds, we can find the right solutions today and create the possibility of an even brighter tomorrow.



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Raising Awareness of Environmental Dangers

AHSA quarterly meetings and peer-sharing activities serve as fertile ground for seeds of change and improvement. One recurring concern was the need to raise awareness among staff members and parents about the environmental dangers to pregnant women and children. AHSA agreed to drive these educational initiatives, securing project funding and directing the research and organizational work needed to build two comprehensive tool kits.

The Prenatal Environmental Exposure Prevention & Awareness guidebook covers a wide range of topics including exposure to toxic chemicals, food safety, vitamins, eating disorders, immunizations, infections, diabetes care, lifestyle choices, and mental health. AHSA chairs Susan Fender and Carla Ramsey led the project team in gathering data from a variety of resources, including the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the Arizona Department of Health.

The Heat & Sun Exposure Prevention & Awareness guidebook covers critical topics for those living in Arizona—a place that ranks No. 2 in the world for skin cancer and far above the national average for heat-related deaths. Spearheaded by AHSA Director Bonnie Groth, the team pulled together up-to-date materials and resources from expert sources on state and national levels.

ARIZONA HEAD START PROGRAMS

For programs in Apache, Coconino, Navajo, & Yavapai Counties contact:

 Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG)
121 E. Aspen Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928) 774-9504

For programs in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, & Santa Cruz Counties contact:

 Child Parent Centers, Inc. (CPC)
602 E. 22nd Street
Tucson, AZ 85713
(520) 882-0100

For programs in Gila & Pinal Counties contact:

 Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (PGCCS)
1750 S. Arizona Blvd.
Coolidge, AZ 85228
(520) 723-5321

For programs in La Paz, Mohave, & Yuma Counties contact:

 Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG)
224 S. 3rd Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 782-1886

For programs in Maricopa County contact:

 Crisis Nursery
402 N 24th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602) 889-6165

 City of Phoenix Human Services Head Start
200 W. Washington
19th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003
(602) 262-4040



Provided in print and CD-ROM versions, these guides offer information for staff members and parents, tip sheets, applicable activities for children, and additional resources including Web sites. Both toolkits list opportunities for further training with institutions like the Environmental Protection Agency, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Arizona Health and Safety Manual for Child Care Centers.

The first distribution of the guides occurred at the February 2009 AHSA Quarterly Meeting, where nearly 80 Head Start grantees and delegate agency staff, including Tribal and Migrant, received training on their use. Circulation then widened to all Head Start programs across Arizona. The Prenatal Environmental Exposure Prevention & Awareness guidebook has also been introduced and well-received by the local community, where it has been welcomed by public high school counselors, pregnancy centers, and health departments as a new and valuable resource.

 Maricopa County Human Services Head Start
234 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 506-4841

 Alhambra School District Head Start
3802 W. Maryland
Phoenix, AZ 85019
(602) 246-5155

 Catholic Charities Westside Head Start
7400 W. Olive, Suite 10
Peoria, AZ 85345
(623) 486-9868

 Southwest Human Development Head Start
2850 N. 24th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602) 266-5976

 Booker T. Washington Child Development Center, Inc.
1519 E. Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85034-1123
(602) 252-4743

 Deer Valley Head Start
20402 North 15th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027
(602) 445-4991

 Fowler Head Start
6250 W. Durango
Phoenix, AZ 85043
(623) 474-7260



Working to Improve the Lives of Arizona's Children and Families—Together

Expanding Partnerships and Collaboration

AHSA plays a dynamic role in creating and advancing links of communication and cooperation among the many agencies and organizations that serve Arizona's poverty-level children and families. On a statewide level, AHSA works closely with Arizona's First Things First (FTF) initiative, designed to provide funding for quality early childhood development and health programs. AHSA maintains a Head Start presence on 20 of the 31 FTF regional partnership councils, providing support and championing the concerns and needs of the Head Start community.

AHSA ensures that the voice of Head Start is heard in meetings for influential groups like Arizona's Department of Economic Security's Child Care Administration, the Department of Health Services' Office of Child Care Licensing, the Department of Education, the Children's Action Alliance, and the Arizona Early Intervention Program.

d Golden Gate Head Start
1625 North 39th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009-2149
(602) 233-0043

d Roosevelt School District
#66 Head Start
6218 South 7th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85040-4294
(602) 243-2631

d Wilson Head Start
430 North 30th Place
Phoenix, AZ 85008-6139
(602) 231-0373

d Greater Phoenix Urban
League Head Start
1817 North 7th Street
Suite 219
Phoenix, AZ 85006
(602) 276-9305

d Washington Elementary
School District
8430 N. 39th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85051-4778
(602) 347-2206

For Migrant Program Services contact:

d Chicanos Por La Causa
Head Start
1112 E. Buckeye Road
Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602) 254-4827

d Murphy Head Start
2615 W. Buckeye Road
Phoenix, AZ 85009
(602) 353-5181



Healthy Children, Healthy Families

- 100% of HS children up-to-date on immunizations (100% EHS)
- 98% of HS children up-to-date on preventative/primary healthcare (89% EHS)
- 98% of HS children received medical treatment per diagnosed need (94% EHS)
- 95% of HS children had health insurance at end of enrollment year (96% EHS)
- 95% of HS children with a medical home at end of enrollment (98% EHS)
- 88% of preschool children completed professional dental exams
- 87% of preschool children received dental treatment per diagnosed need
- 87% of preschool children with a dental home at end of enrollment
- 72% of HS families received family services (53% EHS)

Moving more deeply into community involvement, AHSA partnered with Arizona's Head Start State Collaboration Office and the Department of Education's Early Childhood Unit to develop and present nine forums around the state. Drawing together a wide audience from the public school system and local preschools, as well as local Head Start programs, these community-based forums encouraged discussion on ways to improve service delivery and the development of local Memorandums of Understanding.

Intervention for Head Start's Homeless

Collaborating with the various agencies that support Arizona's homeless population is one of the most timely and critical of AHSA's joint projects. AHSA began by analyzing the scope of the issue and developing Head Start intervention strategies that could be used in conjunction with community partners. The resulting report provided Head Start and Early Head Start programs and community partners with contacts for Local Education Agency Homeless Liaisons and applicable agencies working outside the school district. AHSA then prepared and distributed a comprehensive Homelessness Tool Kit to all Head Start programs, including language from the McKinney-Vento Act as it relates to preschool children, eligibility, and definition.

For Tribal Program Services contact:

 Cocopah Head Start
County 15 and Avenue G
Somerton, AZ 85350
(928) 627-2811

 Colorado River Indian Tribes
Head Start
Route 1, Box 39X
Parker, AZ 85344
(928) 662-4311

 Gila River Head Start
P.O. Box A
Sacaton, AZ 85247
(520) 562- 3423

 Havasupai Head Start
P.O. Box 130
Supai, AZ 86435
(928) 448-2821

 Hopi Head Start
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039
(928) 734-2230

 Hualapai Tribe Head Start
P.O. Box 119
Peach Springs, AZ 86434
(928) 769-2522

 Navajo Nation Head Start
P.O. Box 3479
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-6902

 Pascua Yaqui Head Start
7474 S. Camino de Oeste
Tucson, AZ 85757
(520) 838-7151

Questions about ASHA?

Contact us at

480-557-960



In partnership with Frank Migali, state coordinator for homeless & refugee education at the Arizona Department of Education, AHSAsponsored a forum to assist Homeless School Liaisons & Head Start programs in Maricopa County with networking and information sharing on opportunities for future collaboration. With the help of Mattie McVey from Arizona's Department of Economic Security, Migali and AHSAs hope to facilitate similar opportunities in other areas of the state.

AHSA presented a display at the 2009 Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness Conference, exposing many other providers who work with the homeless population to the work of Head Start and Early Head Start in this area. Members of the AHSA Family & Community Partnerships Committee actively participated in the conference and returned to work closely with other AHSA committee members to expand information, strategies, and programming on the local level.

The wealth of experience gained through this collaboration is driving the joint development of new educational materials by AHSA and Arizona's Head Start Training & Technical Assistance providers. These materials further the understanding of requirements and opportunities that arise in partnerships with community programs and their integration with Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Eventually, this packet will be available for download from the AHSA Web site.

The Arizona Head Start Association has prepared this Annual Report. Development, production and distribution was supported by funds from the Arizona Head Start State Collaboration Office.

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P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366
(760) 572-0263

 Tohono O'odham
Head Start
P.O. Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634
(520) 383-8750

 Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Indian Community
10005 E. Osborn Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85256
(480) 850-7631

 White Mountain
Apache Head Start
P.O. Box 699
Whiteriver, AZ 85941
(928) 338-4938

 San Carlos Apache Tribe
Head Start
P.O. Box 278
San Carlos, AZ 85550
(928) 475-2740



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2525 S. Rural Road
Suite 4-S
Tempe, AZ 85282
480-557-9607 (office)
480-557-9614 (fax)
azheadstart.org