



2005 Head Start Facts

Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded, comprehensive child development programs for low-income families with children from birth to age five, pregnant women, and children with disabilities. Only three out of every five children eligible for Head Start receive those services.

Purpose: To promote school readiness and enhance social and cognitive development through the provision of health, educational, nutritional, social, and other necessary services.

Results: Longitudinal studies and evaluations reveal that children demonstrate improved skills in vocabulary, writing skills, and social competence after completing Head Start programs. Also, children in Early Head Start programs perform better in cognitive and language development.

Maryland Head Start and Early Head Start preliminary data for 2004-2005:

- ❖ 11,783 children and 156 pregnant women served
- ❖ Approximately \$77,000,000 in Federal Funding for direct services to children and their families and for quality improvements to programs
- ❖ \$3 million State Head Start and Early Head Start Supplemental Funding for program expansion and quality improvement resulted in full-day, full-year services in many jurisdictions
- ❖ 18 Head Start Grantees and Early Head Start Grantees operate over 250 program sites throughout Maryland. Grantees and delegate agencies, where applicable, include two school systems, local governments, community action agencies, and other non-profit agencies.

*Maryland State Department of Education
Head Start State Collaboration Project*