



Head Start Works for Ohio

Healthy Children. Working Parents. A Stronger Ohio.

Head Start serves

1 IN 3

Of Ohio's publicly supported
child care seats

Ohio's child care gap would grow

37%

without Head Start

Head Start provides services in all

88

Ohio counties

CORE CHILD CARE INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Head Start keeps Ohio's child care system running.** Without it, 26,000 Ohio children lose accessible care, straining a system with no capacity to absorb them elsewhere.

POWERS OHIO'S WORKFORCE

- **It keeps parents working and businesses staffed.** 21,000+ working parents rely on Head Start to stay on the job, and every \$1 invested returns \$7-10 in long-term economic benefit for Ohio's economy.

REACHES CHILDREN AND FAMILIES NO ONE ELSE REACHES

- **Reaches families no other program is built to serve.** Special needs, foster and kinship care (8% of enrolled families), homelessness, and deep financial insecurity - Head Start reaches children other providers cannot.
- **Not one option among many.** For these families, Head Start is often the only program built to serve them.

SERVES COMMUNITIES NO ONE ELSE REACHES

- **Every one of Ohio's 88 counties.** In rural communities, Head Start is often the only licensed child care option available - at any price.
- **No Head Start, no replacement.** Neither the public nor the private market can sustain care in the places that need it most.

HOW HEAD START DELIVERS

- **More than a classroom seat.** Health screenings, dental care, mental health consultation, nutrition, and family services - individualized for each child and family - are what make this impact possible.
- **The connective tissue of Ohio's early learning system.** Head Start is essential and foundational to Ohio's early care and education ecosystem.

PROTECT WHAT WORKS

79% of Ohio voters support Head Start, Republicans, Independents, and Democrats alike. Protecting full, sustained funding means keeping parents working, strengthening rural communities, and investing in Ohio's future workforce.