

Connecting With and Supporting Kansas Families through Head Start

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What is Head Start?

Head Start is an Early Childhood Education Program for Children and Families

- ❖ **Head Start** - Children and Families of children ages 3-5
- ❖ **Early Head Start** - Children and Families of children pre-natal through age 3
- ❖ **Service models:**
 - ✓ Home-Based
 - ✓ Center-Based
 - ✓ Child Care Partnership

Focus of Head Start

- ▶ **Kindergarten Readiness** - enhancing cognitive, social and emotional development
- ▶ **Holistic services** - health, education, nutrition, social and other services base on family needs assessments
- ▶ **Family Engagement** - family well-being and children's learning and development

Head Start History

- ▶ President Johnson declared the War on Poverty in State of the Union Address, January 8, 1964
- ▶ Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 included first Head Start funds
- ▶ First Head Start grants - 8 week demonstration program 1965
- ▶ First Early Head Start grants - September, 1995
- ▶ Over 32 million children served so far
- ▶ Kansas Head Start Association established November, 1997 - 501(c)(3)
- ▶ 28 Grantees in Kansas 2017-18 program year
- ▶ 7710 HS, EHS and KEHS funded seats 2017-2018; 2246 on waiting lists

Head Start Outcomes

- ▶ Long Term Outcomes - Children who were in Head Start
 - ▶ Positive Parenting - Invested more time in their own children
 - ▶ Educational Attainment - Increased likelihood of enrolling in and completing higher education and post-secondary degree, license or certification
 - ▶ Positive Behaviors - Self-control, self-esteem

Head Start Connection to Homeless Services

- ▶ Top priority for Head Start services:
 - ▶ Family income at or below poverty level;
 - ▶ Family would be eligible for public assistance
 - ▶ **Child is homeless**
 - ▶ Child is in foster care

Who is considered “homeless” in Head Start?

McKinney-Vento Act:

1) Children and Youth who:

- ▶ Share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- ▶ Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
- ▶ Are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
- ▶ Are abandoned in hospitals.

McKinney-Vento Act Definition of Homeless

2) Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

McKinney-Vento Act Definition of Homeless

- ▶ 3) Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

McKinney-Vento Act Definition of Homeless

- ▶ 4) Children of migrant or seasonal workers who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in the first three categories.

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Panel

Q & A

Thank you being with us today



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