

California Head Start Association

MARCH 2008 UPDATE

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Funding: It's All about Priorities

The FY08 cut to Head Start has refocused and sharpened advocates resolve as we balance the "billion broken promises" (cumulative under-funding of Head Start 2002 - 2008) and seek additional funding to meet the mandates articulated in the 2007 Reauthorization Act. CHSA is working in concert with our National Association and other allies to request an FY09 funding level of \$7.7b (\$880m increase). We strongly encourage programs to take a number of steps to support this funding request campaign.

1) Invite Congressional Member & staff for site visit - **March 17 - 28, May 26 - 30**, District work period. **2)** Develop Statements on Funding 2002-2008 - Highlight Cost Increases (wages, benefits, fuel, food, etc..) **3)** Provide Two Family Stories - one on who has been served, one on a child we have been unable to provide services to. Who's In/Who's Left Out!

Washington Post Editorial on February 20, 2008 offered an excellent, clarifying argument. *"The \$6.9 billion for Head Start represents a \$10.6 million decrease from last year. Not only isn't it enough to pay for the hundreds of costly new requirements, it's not enough to pay for current operations". "Through enrollment in Head Start and Early Head Start, children acquire the social and learning skills that prepare them for school and that increase their chances of doing better in life. As they prosper, so does society. Congress should follow through on its support for the reauthorization and provide adequate funding to a government program that works."*

NHSA 35th Annual Training Conference

April 20-24, 2008, Nashville, Tennessee



NHSA's Annual Training Conferences offer sessions for every level of local, state and federal Head Start staff as well as other early care and education practitioners. All NHSA Professional Development training is designed to support the understanding and implementation of the Head Start Performance Standards, Head Start Core Values, NCATE standards, and important trends in the field of early care and education. Immerse yourself in professional development by choosing from more than 150 educational sessions, a list of special tracks and plenary

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High Reach Learning



sessions. Visit the NSHA [web site](#) to view the list of workshops being offered.

Reauthorization - Understanding the Framework Governing Head Start Programs

With the new act in place, local programs, state associations, regional networks and national partners are all in motion decoding and debating the intent of Congress and the new direction envisioned for Head Start. CHSA has developed a presentation titled [Head Start in California Today - New Directions - Limited Resources](#). This presentation covers the major elements of the legislation and offers some collateral references. In addition, CHSA is sponsoring, an **Executive Symposium on Reauthorization**, April 15, 2008 in San Diego, CA at the Marriott Mission Valley. This one-day event will serve to present a common framework, highlight the dramatic changes confronting our program leadership and build and agenda for CHSA at the state level to build new resources. A preliminary agenda for the one - day event is underdevelopment. Head Start Grantee Directors, Governing Board and Policy Council Members, as well as selected allies, will be invited to review and reflect on the opportunities and challenges presented in our new legislation.

State Early Childhood Systems

In the midst of a historic budget crisis (see CDPI.net or CBP.org), advocates for state child development services are working in a number of coalitions to protect our current system's funding level and advance legislative discussions in the areas of systems reform related to Title 5 programs, data systems and facility bonds. Specifically, Assemblyman Jones' bill will look at consolidating and simplifying existing Title 5 child development programs. Senator Steinberg's bill will establish a commission to create a statewide Early Learning Quality Improvement System. Furthermore, CHSA is pleased to see the planning and advocacy to be inclusive of a Birth - to - Five framework, with understanding that public preschool is the natural point to build out a system of services. We believe this will result in a high quality, education focused, family friendly design and investment strategy. To learn more about the current state systems read the [Rand Corporation's California Preschool Report](#) - Parts 1 and 2 are on the web. Parts 3 & 4 will be distributed in the spring of 2008.

Understanding the CA Budget - Go to CA Legislative Analysis Office (<http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/Analysis.aspx?year=2008&chap=0&toc=0>)

California Preschool Learning Foundations - On January 22, 2008, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell formally released the California Preschool Learning Foundations. Superintendent O'Connell stated that these foundations offer our early childhood educators a clear understanding of what our youngest learners should know before entering kindergarten. Go to the cde.ca.gov web site to learn more and download your copy of the PLF.

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I Am Head Start

[View photos from CHSA's 2008 Conference](#)



February's Featured Jobs:

[Administrator, Child Development](#)

Sacramento City Unified School District

[Head Start Program Coordinator](#)

City of Oakland Head Start

Application Deadline - March 7

[Family and Community](#)

[Partnerships/ERSEA Manager](#)

San Francisco Head Start/Early Head Start Program

Consultant in the Spotlight:

Jerry Gomez



Jerry Gomez is a management consultant with over 30 years Federal and private experience in administering and developing Head Start programs. As the former associate director for Head Start in ACF Region 9, Jerry has in-depth knowledge in Head Start's numerous rules, regulations and interpretations and now assists numerous agencies to achieve sustainable, program compliance.

[Visit the Consultant's Page to Read more >>](#)

CHSA's jobsatheadstart.org web site acts as a venue for employers to post job opportunities and candidates to post resumes and does not screen or censor the listings offered. CHSA provides a referral service and makes no particular recommendation regarding consultants and no representation or guarantee about performance.

Voter Registration

Head Start 2007 Reauthorization states "nothing in this subchapter prohibits the availability of Head Start facilities during hours of operations for the use of any nonpartisan organizations to increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote in elections for Federal office". This change presents an excellent opportunity for Head Start Parent Leaders, Local Friends of Head Start and collaborators such as the League of Women Voters to band together. (The [CA League of Women Voters](http://ca.lwv.org) is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government - to learn more about the CA League of Women Voters in your area go to <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/aboutlwvc/lldir.html>).

EVERY CHILD matters
education fund



Campaigning for Kids
National Training
Institute

CHSA recommends Head Start parent leaders attend the [Every Child Matters Voter Registration Institute in Denver, CO. April 9 & 10](#). This training provides a step-by-step process for creating a non-partisan, public education campaign directed at candidates, the media, the public, and those who work at child and family serving sites. Veteran campaigners and other experts will provide the concrete information and tools to help you spotlight the needs of children and families using 501(c) 3-allowable tactics and strategies.

New Report on Workforce Development

Center for the Study of Child Care Employment (CSCCE) releases their latest research report: ***Partnering for Preschool: A Study of Center Directors in New Jersey's Mixed-Delivery Abbott Program***. The full report, an eight-page Executive Summary, and a two-page Research Highlights, are all available at the center's web site: <http://www.irl.berkeley.edu/cscce/>.

With many counties in California, and states and communities throughout the country, now planning or implementing publicly funded preschool systems-most often through a mixed delivery model CSCCE was interested in learning from practitioners themselves how well New Jersey's ambitious preschool partnership has worked. CSCCE interviewed 98 private child care and Head Start directors in 2007 to collect their firsthand accounts of implementing the Abbott Preschool Program, and their suggestions for improving it.

California WIC Association Spring Conference

May 6 - 8, 2008 (Preconference - May 5) San Diego, CA

The California WIC Association invites you to attend its [16th Annual Conference](#). This year we will celebrate the healthy new WIC food packages and kick off a multi-year campaign entitled WIconnect, designed to strengthen and unify our WIC work by linking three themes: **Better Food - Clear Messages - Healthy Outcomes!** The workshops and trade show will emphasize the importance of really embracing healthy eating and active living, starting with WIC employees, and then reaching out to WIC families and communities. We continue in our efforts to join forces with key partners including Head Start, First 5, Child Care Providers, hospitals, healthcare providers and policy makers.