



THE ARC OF VIRGINIA  
2021 VIRTUAL CONVENTION  
WITHIN OUR POWER  
AUGUST 12, 2021

# HEAD START 101

SUPPORTING EARLY LEARNING, HEALTH,  
AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

DAWN AULT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
VIRGINIA HEAD START ASSOCIATION



What you KNOW	What you WANT to know	What you LEARNED

KWL CHART ABOUT HEAD START

## WHILE THINKING OF KWL, ENJOY FATHERHOOD ENGAGEMENT VIDEOS

- Dad & son conversation, language development
  - Dad & daughter social-emotional connection with music & movement
  - Dad & son fun learning interaction, engaging
- Lots to unpack here!  
Social-emotional connections, early childhood development. parent as first teacher, language development, cognition, physical movement to music, one-on-one interactions, laughter, love....You name it!

# OBJECTIVES

Participants will learn:

- History and structure of Head Start
- Understand federal to local funding
- Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, Attendance
- School Readiness goals
- Comprehensive services with two-generation approach
- How to find a Head Start program in VA

# HEAD START OVERVIEW

- Federal Program
- Comprehensive early childhood development services to low-income children and their families since 1965
- Comprehensive services include educational, health, nutritional, and family services
- Services intended to prepare children to enter kindergarten and to improve the conditions necessary for their success in later school and life
- 1994 – Creation of EHS, establishing services for pregnant women, infants and toddlers.

Head Start serves over a million children and their families each year in urban and rural areas in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories, including American Indian, Alaskan Native and Migrant/Seasonal communities.





- There are a total of 10 Regions:
- 10 geographical regions, Region X serves American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) and Region XI serves migrant and seasonal farmworker children and their families.



- The 2 squares represent early childhood by suggesting building blocks.
- The arrangement of the blocks represent stairs by which this can be accomplished.
- The vertical stripes represent the child and parent.
- The arrow pointing upward represents the direction out of poverty and on to the future.
- The colors, red, white and blue represent the United States and the many opportunities it provides for its citizens.

- **HEAD START  
HISTORY**

- Summer program “Project Head Start” began in 1965 as part of the War on Poverty.
- Head Start was designed to help break the cycle of poverty, providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs.



# HEAD START HISTORY

- In 1977, under the Carter administration, Head Start began bilingual and bicultural programs in about 21 states.



# HEAD START HISTORY

- In 1994, under the Clinton administration, the first Early Head Start grants were awarded.



# FEDERAL TO LOCAL DOLLARS

- The Virginia network of organizations that administer HS and EHS programs include
  - community action agencies
  - non-profit agencies
  - school districts
- Federal funds are granted to these community-based programs through the Office of Head Start (OHS), a division of the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

## WHAT EXACTLY IS HEAD START?

- Early Head Start and Head Start video - 3 minutes

# ERSEA

- ERSEA stands for the **Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance** of children in early childhood education programs
- ERSEA governs how programs select and enroll children into their program and is one of the most important tasks to be performed in successful Head Start programs.

# ERSEA

- ERSEA governs how programs determine eligibility, enroll children, and track attendance. Discover resources to help programs assess the needs of their communities and recruit the children and families most in need.
- <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/eligibility-ersea>
- The pandemic has caused a lot of changes to our enrollment.

# SCHOOL READINESS

- School Readiness is a comprehensive term describing those capabilities of children, their families, schools and communities that best promote student success in kindergarten and the later grades.
- “Ready Children” are prepared socially, personally, physically, and intellectually within a variety of domains (literacy, mathematics, science, history and social science, physical and motor development) and personal/social development.

# DISABILITIES

- Early Head Start/Head Start serves children with disabilities. At least 10% of enrolled students must be children with a disability. Through Head Start, we are able to identify and provided needed early intervention services for many children.
- Health, Hearing, Speech, and / or Vision impairment
- Autism
- Developmental delay
- Learning disabilities
- Emotional /behavioral disorder
- Orthopedic impairment
- Multiple disabilities

# HEALTH PROGRAM SERVICES

- A major hallmark of Head Start's comprehensive services is the attention to the health and well-being of pregnant women and children enrolled in the program.
- EHS/HS programs work with their community health resources to ensure that the children enrolled in the program are able to access a source of continuous, affordable health care, and obtain up-to-date immunizations and physical exams.
- EHS/HS programs help enrolled children, secure continuous oral health care
- EHS/HS programs help support mental health services for children and families

# PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- Parent and Family Engagement in EHS/HS refers to building relationships with families that support family well-being, supporting strong relationships between parents and their children, and nurturing ongoing learning and development for both parents and children.
- These goal-directed relationships are part of the two-generational approach of working with children and adult family members which distinguishes EHS/HS from other early childhood initiatives.

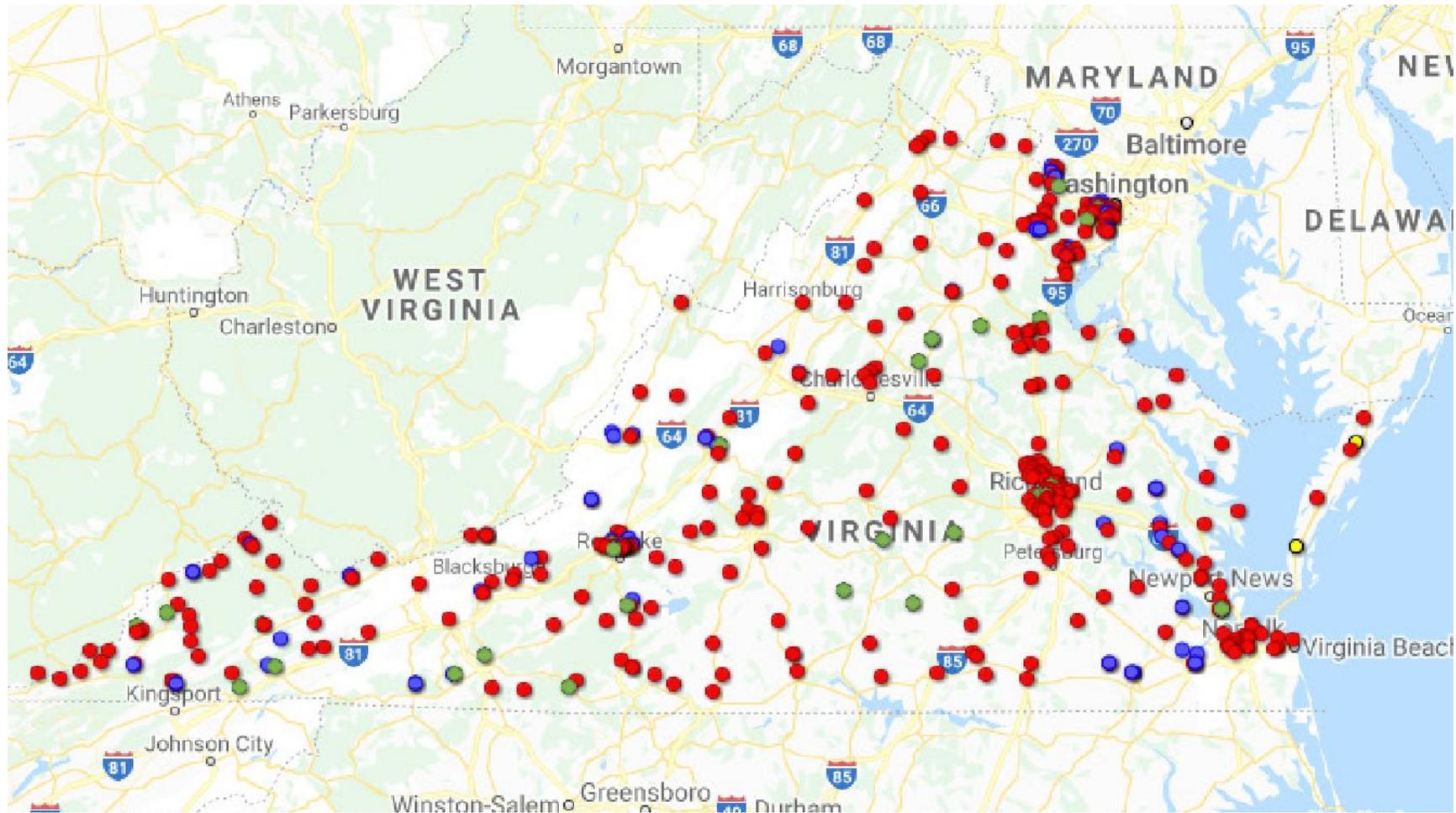
# EXAMPLES OF FAMILY SUPPORT TRAINING

- Emergency/crisis intervention such food, clothing, or shelter
- Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.
- Mental health services
- English as a Second Language (ESL) training
- Adult education such as GED programs and college selection
- Job training, career counseling
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Child abuse and neglect services
- Domestic violence services
- Health education
- Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals
- Parenting Education
- Relationship/marriage education
- Asset building services (such as financial education, debt counseling)
- Family assessment and goal setting

## FAMILIES ARE POWERFUL PARTNERS – ENGAGE THEM!

- The Policy Council is a group of Head Start and Early Head Start parents and community members who help lead and make decisions about their program. Required 51% or more Head Start parents as composition of council.
- Policy Council members are elected by the parents of children enrolled in the program. Parents often join the Policy Council after serving on a parent committee.
- Members can serve for one year at a time, and for up to five years. They work closely with the program's management team and Governing Body to provide overall direction for the program.
- [Leading the Way video](#)

# VIRGINIA HEAD START PROGRAM LOCATIONS



# VIRGINIA HEAD START ASSOCIATION

■ The Virginia Head Start Association (VAHSA) is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to provide education, leadership and advocacy to support Head Start programs' efforts in delivering high quality comprehensive services to Virginia's children, families and communities.

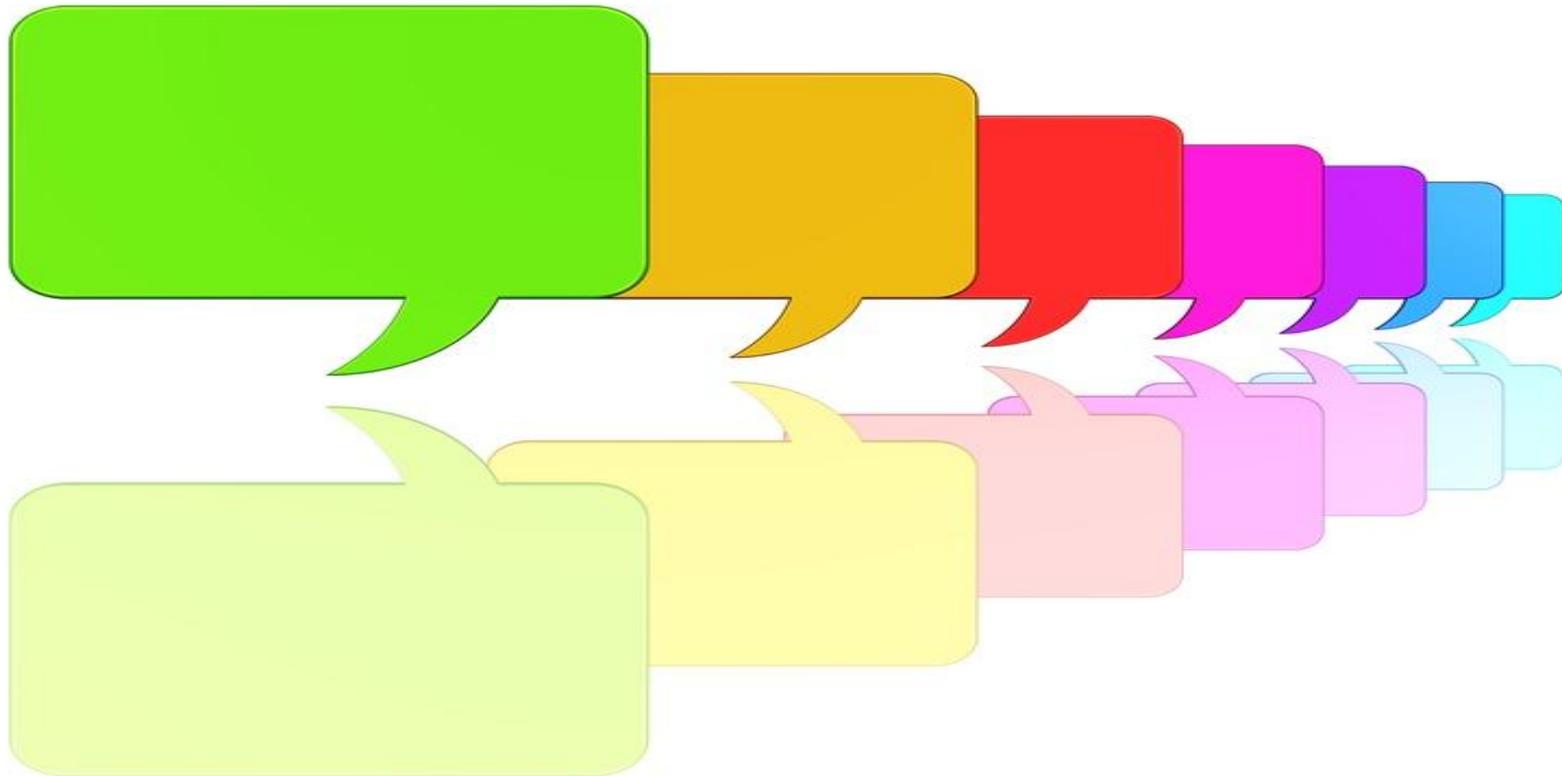


<https://www.headstartva.org>

# WWW.HEADSTARTVA.ORG

- For Families Tab: How to Register my Child?
- For Families Tab: VA Head Start Program Locator
- For Families Tab: Parent Ambassador Program
- For Families Tab: Success Stories
- Resources Tab: Fact Sheets

QUESTIONS?  
COMMENTS?



What you KNOW	What you WANT to know	What you LEARNED

KWL CHART ABOUT HEAD START

## WHILE THINKING OF HEAD START KWL, VIEW THIS VIDEO

- The head start race in life video – 4 minutes
- Head Start Advantage – encourage you to search You Tube for this, 18 minutes

