

# Head Start

## Nevada

Nevada Head Start served 2,951 children and their families.<sup>1</sup> However, only 23 percent of the children who were economically eligible for Head Start received services.<sup>2</sup> Nevada received \$20,987,340 from the federal government to fund Head Start programs.<sup>3</sup> Eight grantees in Nevada received funding in 2002: Community Services Agency Head Start; Economic Opportunity Board; Head Start of Northeastern Nevada; Inter-Tribal Council Head Start; Little People’s Head Start; Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; University of Nevada Reno–Early Head Start; and Washoe Tribe Head Start.<sup>4</sup> Head Start serves children and families in Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Humboldt, Lyon, Pershing, Storey, Washoe, and White Pine counties.<sup>5</sup>

## Significant Factors

Head Start, established in 1965, aims to increase the school readiness of young children in low-income families.<sup>6</sup> The criterion for enrollment in Head Start is family income, which must be at or below the federal poverty level.<sup>7</sup> There is also an overincome qualifying category reserved for children with disabilities. Head Start, which serves children ages three to five; and Early Head Start, which serves children ages zero to three, deliver services in the areas of education, health, parental involvement and education, child and family development, nutrition, and social services.<sup>8,9</sup>

Nationwide, grants were awarded to 1,570 organizations/agencies—18,865 Head Start centers served 912,345 children in FY 2002.<sup>10</sup> The average cost per child was \$6,934.<sup>11</sup>

## Definition

*“Head Start is a national program which provides comprehensive developmental services for America’s low-income, pre-school children ages three to five and social services for their families.”<sup>12</sup>*

## Percentage of U.S. Children Enrolled in Head Start by Race/Ethnicity: FY 2002

<i>Racial/Ethnic Composition</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Black (African American)</b>	<b>32.6</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>29.8</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>28.4</b>
<b>Native American</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Multiple/Other</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source:* U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, “Head Start Fact Sheet FY 2002,” available online at: <<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/2003.htm>> as of 6/17/03.

# Head Start Continued

## Head Start and Early Head Start in Nevada: 2002

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Number</i>
<b>Program figures</b>		<b>Children with</b>	
Funded enrollment	2,500	Health insurance at enrollment	1,646
Actual served	2,951	Health insurance at end of year	2,255
Total number of centers	49	Regular medical care at enrollment	1,061
Total staff	548	Regular medical care at end of year	2,645
Staff previously Head Start parents	173	Up-to-date health exams	2,706
Total program volunteers	5,136	<b>Children</b>	
<b>Children with</b>		Needing medical treatment	672
IEPs (special needs population)	330	Receiving medical treatment	597
2-parent families	1,399	Immunizations up-to-date at enrollment	2,405
1-parent families	1,395	Immunizations up-to-date at end of year	2,886
Number of homeless families	79	Regular dental care at enrollment	888
Number of homeless families acquiring housing while in Head Start	34	Regular dental care at end of year	2,511
<b>Primary languages in the home</b>		<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
English	1,937	Hispanic or Latino	1,326
Spanish	986	White	545
Mid Eastern	11	Black/African American	417
Far Eastern	4	Native American	303
Pacific Islander	2	Multiracial	272
Other	1	Asian	67
		Pacific Islander	11

Source: Nevada Head Start State Collaboration Office, *Nevada Head Start 2002*.