



THE NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

INCLUSION OF HEAD START IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE

HELP US HELP YOU! - Monday January 12th, 2009

*Head Start Staff: Do you need a salary increase? Has your wage kept pace with inflation?
Including Head Start in the Economic Recovery Package would help to ensure you get one.*

*Head Start Directors: Do you need funds to improve the quality of your programs?
Including Head Start in the Economic Recovery Package would help to ensure quality
funds flow to your program.*

*Head Start Parents: Do you want more staff to work in your children's classroom?
Including Head Start funds in the Economic Recovery Package would help to ensure that
this could occur.*

**The time is now to request additional funding for Head Start!
We need your help. We have limited time to act.**

ACT NOW!

If we miss this unique opportunity, programs may continue to suffer the hardships you have faced over the past several years. In January, Congress hopes to pass an economic recovery (“stimulus”) package and NHSA, along with State and Regional Head Start Associations, is working hard to ensure that Head Start is included. This is a top priority for the Obama Administration. It needs to be our top priority too.

We are requesting \$4.3 billion dollars in the Economic Recovery Package and will be lucky to see any of it included, given how many requests Congress has received. Help us help you: Please ask your Head Start community to flood the House of Representatives and the Senate with emails from the www.saveheadstart.org website. We are planning a final push day of action on **Monday January 12th, 2009. Flood Congress with emails then, but if you can't make it that day, do it before then!**

We appreciate the calls and emails to date, but we can do MUCH better. **We need at least 10,000 emails to get to the Hill. Can you help us?** This funding will help you and may be our last real chance for a long time.

When you email via the www.saveheadstart.org website, please let Congress know:

- **Head Start needs to be included in the Economic Recovery Package.**

- Head Start is an economic engine in local communities across America, creating jobs, making local expenditures for food, gas, supplies and services, as well as developing and maintaining facilities.
- If Congress is starting to weed out which programs will receive funding, Head Start needs to stay in the package by making a strong case that we are an essential community strategy for economic recovery.
- NHSA and State and Regional Associations are requesting **\$4.3 billion dollars** for the Head Start program.
- \$4.3 billion for Head Start **will create more and better jobs.**
- \$4.3 billion for Head Start will **fix buildings, buses and playgrounds.**
- \$4.3 billion for Head Start **will help more families get back to work**, by ensuring that their children have safe, high-quality programs to attend during the work day.

For further information on the action steps we need you to take, please join us on a conference call:

- Thursday January 8, 2009
- Choose either 6 pm Eastern Time or 8 pm Eastern Time (whichever you can make)
- Dial 1-888-809-4012, passcode 954372.

**Don't let Head Start down! Help us help you.
We need to seize this moment and try to make a difference!**

The National Head Start Association (www.nhsa.org) is a private not-for-profit membership organization dedicated exclusively to meeting the needs of Head Start children and their families. It represents more than 1 million children, 200,000 staff and nearly 2,600 Head Start programs in the United States. The Association provides support for the entire Head Start community by advocating for policies that strengthen services to Head Start children and their families; by providing extensive training and professional development to Head Start staff; and by developing and disseminating research, information, and resources that enrich Head Start program delivery.