

## The Facts on Head Start

*Head Start is a cornerstone of our nation's commitment to give every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, an opportunity to succeed in school and in life. Children who have been through Head Start and Early Head Start are healthier, more academically accomplished, more likely to be employed, commit fewer crimes, and contribute more to society. **Simply put: Head Start works. It's been proven.***

### **Head Start benefits last a lifetime.**

Head Start produces measurable, long-term results such as school-readiness, increased high school graduation rates, and reduced needs for special education. As a result, 27 million Head Start alumni are successful members of our communities serving as corporate executives, elected officials, teachers, students, lawyers, doctors, small business owners, entrepreneurs, police, military personnel, and even a few movie and sports stars.

### **Head Start delivers an incredible return on our investment.**

It is a smart investment – one of the smartest and most effective we make. Study after study has demonstrated that Head Start has yielded a benefit-cost ratio as large as \$7 to \$1.

### **Head Start makes our communities safer.**

There is a reason that police and other law enforcement leaders across America support Head Start. Research has shown that Head Start reduces the likelihood of at-risk children being booked or charged with committing a crime by 12%.

### **Head Start makes our families healthier.**

That starts immediately: Head Start parents lower Medicaid costs by \$198 per family. Head Start has reduced mortality rates for 5-to 9-year olds by as much as 50%. Head Start children are more likely to have had their immunizations, and Head Start reduces childhood obesity. Participation in Head Start even reduces smoking in adults.

### **Head Start is accountable and efficient.**

Head Start has one of the most relentless monitoring and accountability structures around. That is in part because at least 20% of every Head Start program's resources are local resources, with local communities willing and able to hold programs accountable. Head Start programs engage parents, form partnerships with local businesses and churches, and involve more than 1.3 million local volunteers.

***Head Start is an investment, a commitment, and a promise. Head Start works!***

Contact: Tommy Sheridan, 703-739-7560 or [tsheridan@nhsa.org](mailto:tsheridan@nhsa.org) for more information.