



## Maryland Head Start Association Early Head Start Policy Agenda

This agenda supports the alleviation of childcare deserts in the State of Maryland through partnership with the Early Head Start program.

### Early Head Start is a unique prenatal, infant and toddler model in that it:

- Prioritizes enrollment of children living in poverty, in foster care, experiencing homelessness and with special needs.
- Provides families with comprehensive child development services and family-centered care and support through center based and home visiting models.
- Specializes in partnering with families to increase their economic self-sufficiency and family well-being.

#### EARLY HEAD START IN MARYLAND FACTS & FIGURES

**1,807**  
EHS SLOTS IN MD

**212**  
EHS CLASSROOMS

**67**  
PREGNANT WOMEN  
ENROLLED IN EHS

**41,510**  
HOME VISITS CONDUCTED





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## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Expansion of EHS Programs throughout the State of Maryland

According to the Center for American Progress (Child Care Deserts in Maryland, n.d.), 51% of Maryland residents live in a Child Care desert. To help alleviate these Child Care deserts MHSA advocates for the following:

- Direct funding to expand the access to EHS programs
- Offer Start-Up costs with direct funding
- Increase of State Supplemental funding

### Increase EHS- Child Care Partnerships

- Training, promotion, and resource development on the benefits of EHS-Child Care Partnerships and around staffing, fiscal, and Head Start Standards
- Supportive layering/voucher or contract policies
- Support programs in finding affordable and licensable space
- Workforce Development: Alternative pathways for Teacher and CDA certification to support EHS and Child Care programs

### Equitable Pay for EHS, Child Care and Family Child Care Programs

Currently, EHS programs struggle to retain certified teachers and CDA certified staff because salaries are not competitive with public school salaries. MHSA advocates for funding to help EHS, Child Care, Family Child, etc. provide competitive salaries.

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