



**NHSA Advocacy Lunch &  
Learn Series:**  
***Program Visits: You Can  
Do Them, Too!***

December 10, 2024

# Member Program Visits

## ...why, when, and how?

# WHY Are Member Visits Important?

- Tangible, memory-making experiences
- Opportunity to meet with staff, parents, and policy council while interacting with children
- In person knowledge of what you are doing with your OHS grant and why you need increased funds
- Media opportunity for both your program and the Member



# WHEN Should You Invite Members?



- During a Congressional recess
- During session, on a Monday morning or Friday afternoon
- Whenever NHSA is engaged in a specific advocacy/visit activity
- Every time you contact the Members office



# HOW Should You Make the Invite?

- Call the Members office (directly or via the Capitol switchboard) to get the names and email addresses of the Washington- and district-based schedulers
- Send an open-ended email invitation to both at the beginning of every year
- Send specific, detailed invites with dates. If possible have meeting include ribbon cutting, Policy Council meetings, graduation, etc.



# The Bottom Line on Member Visits?



- The most powerful way to illustrate the value of Head Start to Members.
- Allows you to show Members the innovative, unique services you provide.
- Educates Members about Head Start's comprehensive, multi-generational, and community-based model.
- Gives Members memorable experiences to keep in mind when they are making funding decisions.

# Member Visits Program Benefits



- Opportunity for staff and parents to show off their program and what it does.
- Chance to grow program's staff and parents understanding advocacy and its importance to the future of Head Start.
- Places program as a bright light, early childhood leader.

# Need Help Planning a Visit?



<https://nhsa.org/resource/program-visit-toolkit/>



# Thank You!

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