



# **The History of Head Start**

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**25<sup>th</sup> Annual NHSA Parent Training Conference**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**December 16, 2008**



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# The Birth of Project Head Start – 1965

- Heightened Awareness of Poverty in the United States
  - John F. Kennedy’s Campaign for President
  - President Lyndon Baines Johnson’s Background
- Sargent Shriver and the Kennedy’s Family Interest in Mental Retardation



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# The Birth of Project Head Start – 1965 (Continued)

- Interdisciplinary Planning Committee Convened
- Pediatricians, Psychologists, and Early Childhood Specialists Stressed the Strong Role Played by Parents in Guiding and Motivating Their Parents.
- James Coleman's Research Held that Parental Involvement Is a Supplement to a Child's Learning in the Classroom.



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# The Birth of Project Head Start – 1965 (Continued)

- Shriver's Office of Economic Opportunity Distributed Grants to Organizations in Local Communities to Operate Summer Programs that Served 561,000 Children.
- Civil Rights Movement:
  - Maximum Feasible Participation from the Poor in Program Governance
  - Funds Bypass State Governments



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# The Birth of Project Head Start – 1965 (Continued)

- The Summer Head Start Programs Become School Year Programs in 1966.
- During that year, 733,000 Children Were Enrolled.



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# The Birth of Early Head Start

- Twenty Years after Head Start's Birth, Federal Lawmakers Created the Early Head Start Program.



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## The Birth of Early Head Start (Continued)

- Three Major Reasons Motivated Lawmakers To Create Early Head Start. They Were:
  - 1) A Quiet Crisis Existed for Infants and Toddlers and Their Families.
  - 2) Recent Scientific Research Showed that the Prenatal Period and the First Three Years of a Child's Life Play a Critical Role in a Child's Later Development and Growth.
  - 3) Research Indicated that an Early Intervention Program Can Improve the Development of Children and Their Families.



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## **The Birth of Early Head Start (Continued)**

- Taking These Reasons into Account, the Advisory Committee on Head Start Quality and Expansion in December 1993 Recommended a New Initiative that Would Expand Head Start Services to Infants and Toddlers.
- Federal Lawmakers Gave Birth to the Early Head Start Program by Approving the Head Start Authorization Act of 1994, and This New Program Began Serving Children and Families in 1996.





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## Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

- On December 12, 2007, the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007* Became Law.
- This Act Reauthorized Head Start and Early Head Start for Five More Years and Maintained the Federal-to-Local Funding Stream, Comprehensive Services, the Quality of These Programs, and to a Large Extent Parent Involvement.



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# Head Start and Early Head Start Programs in Fiscal Year 2008

- Funding: \$6.88 billion
- Estimated Total Enrollment: 894,000
  - Head Start Enrollment: 833,000
  - Early Head Start Enrollment: 61,000



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## Head Start and Early Head Start Provide Favorable Impacts

- Head Start Is a Quality Program.
  - Head Start Quality Has Been Consistently Been Observed to Be Consistently Good Over Time (Family and Child Experiences Survey, 2000).
  - Head Start Programs Are Rated as “Good” Using the ECERS-R (Head Start Impact Study, 2005).



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## Head Start and Early Head Start Provide Favorable Impacts (Continued)

- A Meta-Analysis of Reliable Studies Revealed that Head Start Children Have Increased
  - Achievement Test Scores and
  - Favorable Long-Term Effects on Grade Repetition, Special Education, and High School Graduation Rates (Barnett, 2002; Ludwig and Miller, 2007).



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## Head Start and Early Head Start Provide Favorable Impacts (Continued)

- David Deming (2008) at Harvard University Has Recently Written a Working Paper that Finds Significant Long-Term Impact on the Non-Cognitive Skill Development of Adults Aged 19 Years or Older Who Had Attended Head Start.



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## **Head Start and Early Head Start Provide Favorable Impacts (Continued)**

- Head Start Reduced Mortality Rates for Children Aged 5- to-9-Years-Old from Causes that Could Have Been Affected by Their Participation in Head Start When They Were 3- and 4-Years-old (Ludwig and Miller, 2007).
- Head Start Benefits its Children and Society-at-Large by Reducing Crime and Its Costs to Crime Victims (Fight Crime Invest In Kids, 2004; Garces, Thomas, and Curries, 2002).



## Head Start and Early Head Start Provide Favorable Impacts (Continued)

- Ludwig and Phillips (2007) Conclude that, “...Impact Estimates Taken at Face Value Would Suggest That Head Start as It Operated in the 1960s through the 1980s Generated Benefits in Excess of Program Costs, with a Benefit-Cost Ratio that Might Be at Least as Large as the 7-to-1 Figure Often Cited for Model Early Childhood Programs such as Perry Preschool.”



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## **Head Start and Early Head Start Provide Favorable Impacts (Continued)**

- Early Head Start Children at Age 3 Had Larger Vocabularies and a Higher Level of Social-Emotional Development than Their Peers Did (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2002).
- Children Attending Head Start Have Increased Access to Dental Care and Have Higher Immunizations Rates than non-Head Start Children Do (Currie and Thomas, 1995).





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## Head Start and Early Head Start Provide Favorable Impacts (Continued)

- Head Start's Emphasis on Parental Involvement Contributes to Positive Growth and the Upward Mobility of Head Start Parents by Helping to Move Them Out of Poverty (Oyemade, Washington, and Gullo, 1989).
- The National Early Head Start Impact Study Found that Early Head Start Parents Were More Likely Than Control Group Parents to Ever Be Employed or Participate in an Education or Job Training Program (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004).



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## **Head Start and Early Head Start Provide Favorable Impacts (Continued)**

- Early Head Start Parents Were Also More Likely than Control Group Parents to Work More Hours Each Week and Participate in Any Education or Training Program (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004).



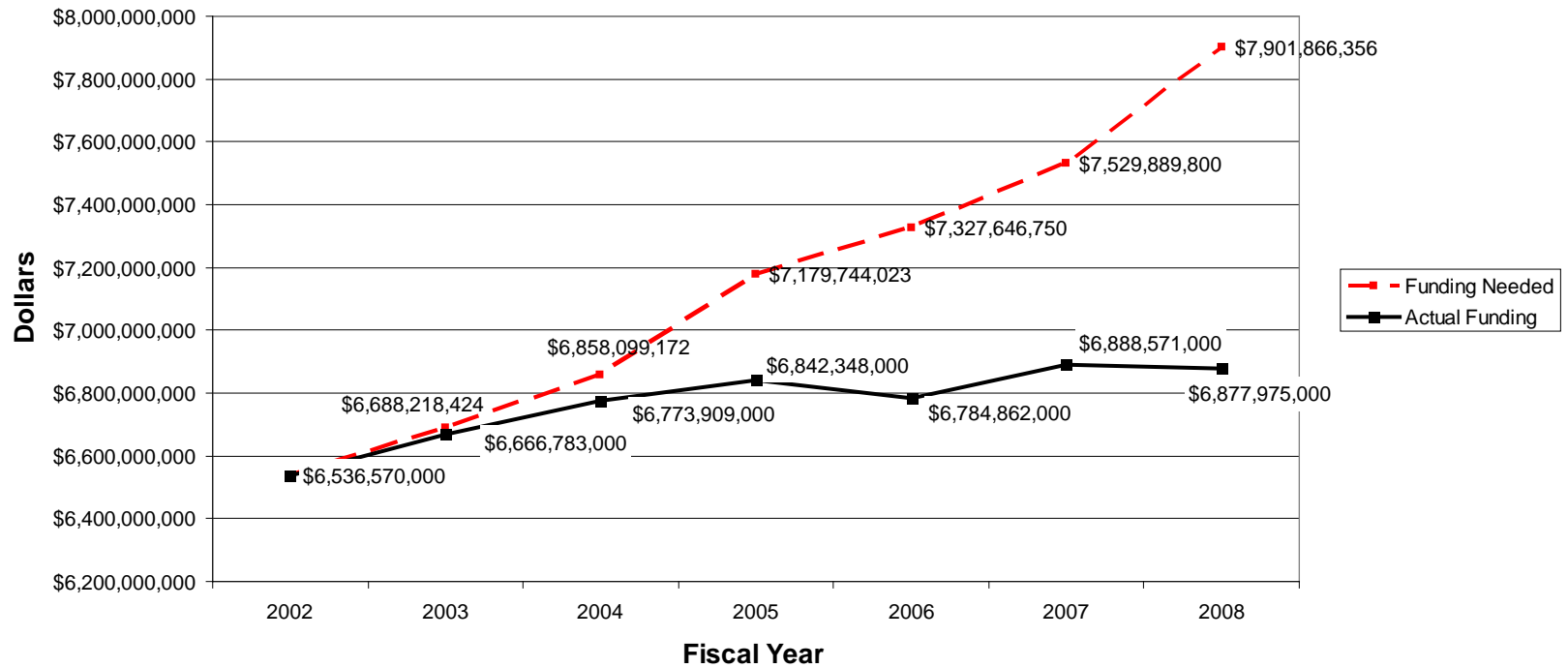
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## **Head Start's Mid-Life Crisis – Lack of Sufficient Federal Funding**

- Head Start and Early Head Start program Experienced a 13 Percent Real Cut in Federal Funding between Fiscal Years 2002 and 2008.



### Head Start and Early Head Start Programs Experienced a 13 Percent Real Cut in Federal Funding during Fiscal Years 2002-2008



Sources: Office of Head Start, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The estimated needed funding figures for Fiscal Years 2002 through 2008 were calculated by the NHTSA Research and Evaluation Department (RED) using actual Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers data from the BLS.



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## Head Start and Early Head Start's Future

- Research Shows that Head Start Is a Quality Program. However, Inadequate Funding Is Going to Affect Program Quality at Some Point.
- More Funding Is Needed to Maintain the Quality of the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs, Otherwise These Programs Might Become History in a Few Years.