What is Head Start?

Since 1965, Head Start has successfully prepared children living in poverty for school.

Head Start requires parent involvement.

Head Start refers parents to other social service organizations that can meet their existing needs.

53% of Illinois Community Action Agencies administer the Head Start program at the local level.
Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are created by their local governments as public or private entities to serve two primary purposes:

1) to provide essential antipoverty programs; and

2) to advocate for the needs of the poor in their communities.

A CAA's board of directors is unique, comprised of an equal number of local elected officials, private sector representatives and representatives of the low-income population.

Examples of programs administered locally by CAAs include Anti-Drug Abuse, Economic Development, Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Foster Grandparents, Head Start, Homeless Assistance, Housing, Job Counseling & Training, Literacy Training and Basic Education, Outreach & Referral, Senior Assistance, Surplus Food Distribution, Transportation, Weatherization, & Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
Numerous studies prove Head Start *works*.

The *affects of poverty* create unique problems for pre-school children that are not sufficiently addressed in the general pre-school system.

Due to restricted funds, only 20% of the eligible children are currently served by Head Start & Early Head Start.
What has Head Start & Early Head Start accomplished in Illinois in 04-05?

45,710 families were served.

73% of the families served had one or more parents employed.

76% of the classrooms had at least one teacher with an Associates degree or higher.

8,878 individuals were employed by HS/EHS Programs.

50,008 individuals volunteered time.

5,106 children were served by the HS/EHS mental health professional(s).

93% of the children determined to have a disability received special education & related services.
What has Head Start & Early Head Start accomplished in Illinois in 04-05?

The number of *children* who received treatment for the following conditions:

- **Anemia** - 1,583
- **Vision Problems** - 918
- **Asthma** - 2,403
- **High Lead Levels** - 706
- **Hearing Difficulties** - 594
- **Diabetes** - 22
- **Overweight** - 2,716

The number of *families* who received treatment for the following conditions:

- **Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment** - 1,221
- **Child Abuse & Neglect Services** - 1,994
- **Domestic Violence Services** - 1,325
- **Child Support Assistance** - 1,730
- **Health Education** - 10,894
  (including prenatal education)
- **Assistance to Families of incarcerated individuals** - 637
- **Parenting Education** - 13,197
- **Marriage Education Services** - 660
- **Emergency Crisis Intervention** - 6,235
  (addressing immediate need for food, clothing or shelter)
- **Housing Assistance** - 6,867
  (subsidies, utilities, repairs)
- **Transportation Assistance** - 3,592
- **Mental Health Services** - 3,794
- **English as a Second Language Classes** - 3,119
- **Adult Education** - 5,369
- **Job Training** - 3,986
ICCA opposes the re-compeition language.

ICAA opposes requiring Head Start teachers to acquire a Bachelor’s Degree without including additional funds to pay them a fair wage.

ICAA opposes changing the direct federal relationship with Head Start Programs.

ICAA is opposed to allowing religious grantees to make agency decisions based on an individual’s religious affiliation.

ICAA supports level funding for Head Start, at a minimum.

ICAA supports maintaining the parent involvement and oversight provided through the Policy Advisory Council.