



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

Making the Case for Dollar per Child

go.nhsa.org/DPC

- **The goal of Dollar per Child is securing Head Start's future by ensuring that NHSA is able to be that unified voice on behalf of all Head Start children** – in order to do so, we need to raise one dollar for each of the one million children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start programs across the nation.
- **Dollar per Child funding enables NHSA to support work in every statehouse and represent Head Start in Congress and with the White House.**
- NHSA is the **only** national nonprofit organization advocating exclusively for all Head Start children and their families.
- **Dollar per Child is the only source of funding for NHSA's national advocacy efforts** - not a single membership dollar is used to support this mission critical work.
- **Where do Dollar per Child contributions go?** Some of the activities they support – enabling NHSA to provide a unified voice for the million children enrolled each year – include:
 - » Organization of field-wide advocacy activities – like 2013's hugely successful Empty Seats campaign, which demonstrated on a national scale the harmful effects of sequestration.
 - » Representation on Capitol Hill (aka lobbyists) to ensure Head Start is able to meet with key Congressional offices on behalf of the unique needs of Head Start children.
 - » Professional public relations support to bolster NHSA's media efforts – news pieces, letters to the editor and op-eds.
 - » Convenings of discussions with Head Start practitioners, academics, think tanks, and policy makers to inform future Head Start authorizations.
- **Head Start staff are allowed to fundraise** – by volunteering their time outside of their work hours and not using Head Start program resources.
 - » Many programs reach out to local high schools and universities for additional volunteers or to sponsor fundraising events.
 - » A noted exception to the no Head Start resources "rule" is the de minimus use of office equipment to tabulate, record and track the donations by staff during non-working hours.
 - » Programs should keep track of the funds acquired by their Dollar per Child activities in an unrestricted budget account and ensured they are sent to NHSA as contributions for advocacy. They may not be co-mingled with restricted federal funds.
- Some programs enjoy holding car washes and bake sales while others, like those in Region IX, participate in "feed the pig." You can engage parents in fundraising activities.

