

# EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START IN GA



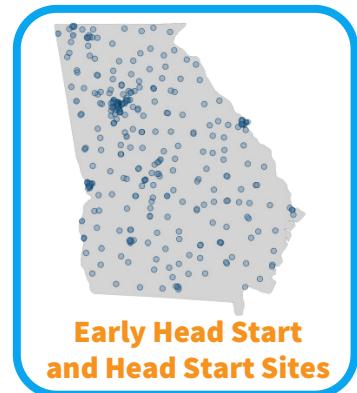
**Head Start and Early Head Start, which are federally funded and locally implemented, provide comprehensive services for children from families who meet certain eligibility requirements**, including household income at or below the federal poverty level. These services include: early care and education; physical, mental, and oral health screenings and referrals; nutrition; early intervention; and wraparound support for families, such as job training and help finding employment. Since its inception in 1965, the program has served more than 40 million children and families nationally<sup>1</sup> and received broad bipartisan support.

Early Head Start serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers up to age three, while Head Start serves children ages three to five and their families.



## Head Start Serves Children and Families in Communities Across the State

From Brunswick to Dalton, Head Start and Early Head Start provide children and families with high-quality early education and wraparound services, allowing parents to go to work or attend school or training programs.



### Head Start and Early Head Start Slots by Congressional District<sup>5</sup>

GA-1	GA-2	GA-3	GA-4	GA-5	GA-6	GA-7	GA-8	GA-9	GA-10	GA-11	GA-12	GA-13	GA-14
1,668	3,582	1,158	852	2,730	1,063	437	2,103	982	1,800	622	2,336	473	1,019

## Head Start is an Economic Engine

In some rural counties, Head Start is the *only* child care provider and one of the major employers.



1 in 4 child care slots in rural Georgia are in Head Start<sup>6</sup>

## Head Start More than Pays for Itself

The government earns 5-9 percent more per year than it spends on Head Start. This savings comes from Head Start graduates' reduced need for future public assistance.

### Head Start graduates are:



less likely to live in poverty as adults<sup>7</sup>



less likely to receive public assistance as adults<sup>8</sup>



more likely to complete college<sup>9</sup>

“Our families need the assurance of high-quality child care, nutrition, special education services, health, mental health, and social emotional education that is provided through Head Start.”