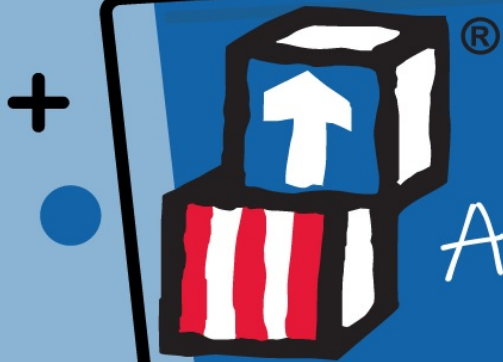




OCTOBER IS  
HEAD START AWARENESS  
MONTH!!!

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# HAPPY



## HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH



### **Donnis Pace, GHSA President**

Greetings and Happy Head Start Awareness Month!

Head Start programs all throughout Georgia have planned so many fun events. For almost 60 years, we have promoted school readiness for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, while providing support in children's growth through services such as early learning and development, health, and family well-being.

What makes Head Start special to me, is the fact that I attended a Head Start program as a preschool child. As the President of the Georgia Head Start Association and the Head Start Director for Tallatoona Community Action Partnership Inc., my

story is Head Start! Please join us in celebrating this month as we continue to give children and families a HEAD START!

[Visit our Website](#)

## **Khari M. Garvin, Office of Head Start Director**

In this video, Office of Head Start Director Khari M. Garvin highlights the resources available to help spread the word about the comprehensive services Head Start programs offer. He also shares a preview of the Head Start Awareness Month plans OHS has for you! To learn more, click here: [Tool Kit](#)



[Video](#)

“Head Start is more than a classroom—it’s a community. By investing in children from an early age, we are investing in the future of our country,” said NHSA Executive Director Yasmina Vinci. “Now more than ever, we need to ensure that every child, regardless of their circumstances, has access to the opportunities that Head Start provides.”

## **Words from the Georgia State Head Start Collaboration Office**



### **Allison Setterlind, State Head Start Collaboration Director**

#### **Happy Head Start Awareness Month!**

I am so honored to have served the Head Start agencies in Region IV for 20 years now, with 8 years in my current role as your State Head Start Collaboration Office (HSCO) Director in Georgia. I am always proud to share the many comprehensive services and community contributions your agencies make every day for the children and families in our program. Your resiliency and commitment to quality are greatly appreciated this time of year, and always!

## HEAD START PROGRAMS

are preparing children to thrive in school and in life.

1. EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
2. FAMILY WELL-BEING
3. HEALTH AND WELLNESS
4. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



## What do Head Start programs do?

- 1 Head Start programs promote the school readiness of infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from diverse backgrounds.
- 2 Head Start services are provided in a variety of settings including centers, family child care, and children's own home.
- 3 Head Start programs build relationships with parents or other key family members, supporting program leadership and family well-being.



# Pink Pinwheels Over Georgia

Breast Cancer Awareness Month, also referred to in America as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. The campaign also offers information and support... [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

- Date: October
- Mission: Provide help and inspire hope to those affected by breast cancer through early detection, education, and support services.

**This month Head Start and Early Head Start children across Georgia will be planting and harvesting "pink pinwheels" in honor of breast cancer awareness month. It's happening NOW!! Check out the photos below!**

Breast Cancer Awareness Month





Head Start Children at the Worth County Child Development Center (HS/EHS) in south west Georgia are busy planting pinwheels commemorating Breast Cancer awareness.



Children at Lee County Head Start in south west Georgia are busy too planting their pinwheels and observing the fruits of their labor.



## By The Governor of the State of Georgia

### A PROCLAMATION HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH

Therefore: I, Brian P. Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2024 as HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

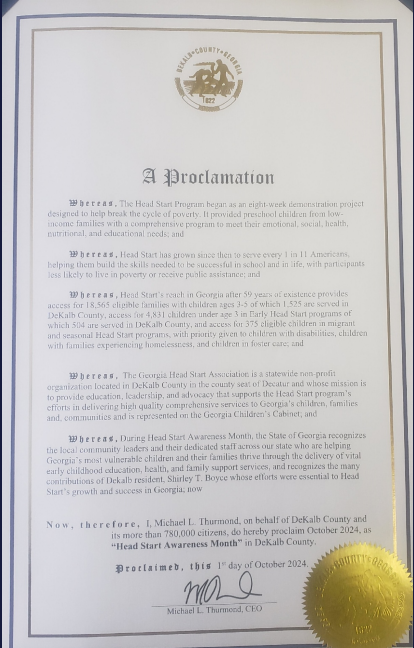
[Georgia.Gov](http://Georgia.Gov)

## By Michael L. Thurmond, DeKalb County CEO

### A PROCLAMATION

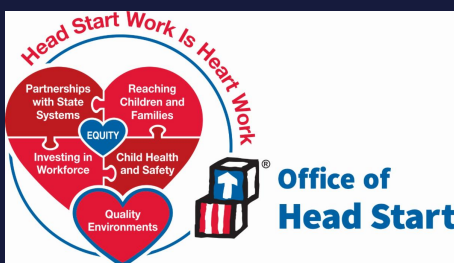
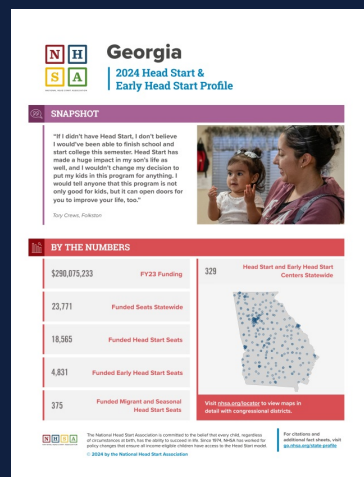
Now, therefore, I, Michael L. Thurmond, on behalf of DeKalb County and its more than 780,000 citizens, do hereby proclaim October 2024, as "Head Start Awareness Month" in Dekalb County.

Approximately 1,525 DeKalb county children are served by Head Start and 504 approximately are served by Early Head Start.



## 2024 Georgia Head Start and Early Head Start Facts

\$290,075,233.00 FY 23 Funding  
 23,771 Funded Seats  
 18,565 Head Start Funded Seats  
 4,831 Early Head Start Funded Seats  
 375 Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Funded Seats  
 329 Centers  
 1,535 Classrooms  
 6,443 Head Start and Early Head Start Staff  
 873 Homeless families served  
 14,553 Parents employed, in school or job training.



## The Office of Head Start Announces the Final Rule Supporting the Head Start Workforce

The Office of Head Start (OHS) has updated the Head Start Program Performance Standards (the Performance Standards) to respond to concerns affecting the sustainability of Head Start programs. The changes are designed to stabilize the Head Start workforce and improve the quality of the comprehensive services that Head Start families count on. The final rule regarding the Performance Standards can be viewed in the Federal Register and was published on Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024.

The final rule contains many aspirational goals that Head Start and Early Head Start support. It intends to allow programs to continue to do what they do best: provide a safe, healthy, and well-rounded classroom experience to young children while offering support and resources to their families.

# 5 ways Head Start programs help families

1

**Provide parenting support and strategies**

2

**Support parental health and links to community services during pregnancy**

3

**Connect families to community and federal assistance**



4

**Assist families in identifying and reaching their goals and dreams**

5

**Provide a career pathway in early care and education**



## **Fulfill the Promise of Head Start!**

Urge Congress to support the funding levels for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) proposed in the Senate bill, which provides a \$700M increase in Head Start and Early Head Start funding.

Also urge them to prioritize making a \$251 million “down payment” necessary to implement the recent rule, exactly the amount the rule says implementation will cost in FY25.

NOTE: Table I2, page 67799 of the Federal Register



Georgia US Senator Jon Ossoff holds a Fulfill the Promise sign and poses for a photo with Georgia Head Start representatives during a visit to the Nation's Capitol.



Georgia US Senator Raphael Warnock holds a Fulfill the Promise sign and poses for a photo with Georgia Head Start representatives during a visit to the Nation's Capitol.



## Words from GHSA Executive Officer

I proudly stand between the images of President Lyndon Johnson and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King- two men that help pioneer and wage the War on Poverty in our nation- a movement that gave birth to Head Start in 1965. In 2025, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of Head Start in our country- a program that had a significant impact on me personally and on my family as well as many families in America. Head Start instilled in me a love of life learning and while it is not a one size fits all program, it does what it was intended- it gives a child an opportunity to have a head start in life.

The war on poverty is the unofficial name for legislation first introduced by United States President Lyndon B. Johnson during his State of the Union Address on January 8, 1964. This legislation was proposed by Johnson in response to a national poverty rate of around nineteen percent. The speech led the United States Congress to pass the Economic Opportunity Act. Source: wikipedia

Cecil W. Stoughton, Photographer  
Juanita Yancey, GHSA Executive Officer

### War On Poverty

## Georgia Head Start Programs Impacted by Hurricane Helene

Several Georgia Head Start and Early Head Start Programs from Valdosta to Middle Georgia were severely impacted by Hurricane Helene and some





closed during the aftermath of the storm. Head Start and Early Head Start programs and families are still without power and water in certain areas.

We thank Helping Mamas.org, GA Department of Public Health, and GEEARS for their relief efforts.

Please notify the Association of any resources and support available to assist Program recovery efforts by calling our office at (678)420-5599. Thank you!

Georgia Crisis Clean Up Hotline- (844)965-1386

Made with PosterMyWall.com



## Head Start Awareness Celebration and GHSA Ribbon Cutting: October 15, 2024 in Decatur Square

After many years in Clarkston, GA, the Georgia Head Start Association has moved its office to the City of Decatur. The new office located at One West Court Square has awesome views of Decatur Square and the monument of the late Congressman John Lewis of Georgia. The monument was recently erected in front of the old DeKalb county courthouse.

Please join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony and the observance of Head Start Awareness Month at 11:30 am. in Downtown Decatur Square.

[More About Decatur](#)



## October is Farm to School Month

GHSA is a proud and official partner with Georgia Organics and ParSLAY the Day during Farm to School Month in October. To learn more about this delicious event, click on the link below.

[ParSLAY the Day](#)

## Georgia Head Start Association Annual Fall Leadership Conference

The Fall Conference will be held November 20-22, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza located at 201 Aberdeen



Parkway in Peachtree City, GA.

The Conference theme is "Head Start Is Heart Work"!

This Conference is an annual professional development, training, and networking event. To learn more about the Conference visit our website at [www.georgiaheadstart.org](http://www.georgiaheadstart.org). To register for the Conference, click on the link below.

[Register](#)



## Election Day is November 6, 2024

Learn More

[Register-Vote](#)



## GHSA Board of Directors

Thank you for reading this special edition of our "The Voice" newsletter where we bring awareness to Head Start's impact in Georgia and across the Nation. Please join us as we celebrate Head Start in Georgia!

[Visit our Website](#)



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