

Head Start program design

Target Group

Head Start is intended to reach children from birth to six years (and their families).

Linkages

Head Start funds are meant to be integrated with existing services. Therefore it is important to collaborate with existing community programs, target Head Start funds to address gap areas, and build on what is already working well.

Outreach

Reaching out to children and families is central to Head Start philosophy. Ideally the program should offer home visiting and outreach programming to families who are not accessing centre-based services.

Flexibility

Head Start projects are intended to be flexible and responsive to community needs. All Head Start sites should work from their own unique vision, continually evaluating and reviewing community needs, asking “Is our programming working for us?”



choices

Communities make different choices about how to best use their Head Start funds, taking into account community size, numbers of children, existing services and capacity, isolation factors and transportation challenges, as well as family and community needs and priorities, and availability of qualified staff.

Some communities use Head Start funds to supplement and enhance existing programs and services, while others create programs where none existed before.

delivery models

How each community delivers their program is unique to the needs and capacity within the community. What is most important is that programs deliver all six components and reach the full target group of children from birth to six. Here are some examples of how communities are delivering Head Start.

Outreach & Family Services

Head Start funds focus on home visiting services supplemented by regularly scheduled family activities such as language nests, parent-tot drop-in programs, and parenting programs.

Daycare and Preschool Enhancement

Head Start funds enhance existing centre-based services, targeting gap areas and ensuring all six Head Start components are included in programming. Funds might be used to deliver outreach, or to provide extra ECE or cultural staff, nutritious lunches, culture/language activities, programs targeting younger children and parents, parent workshops, etc.

Stand-Alone

Head Start funds are used to create centre-based programming that delivers all six Head Start components to children from birth to six—unconnected to any pre-existing program or source of funds.



We are proud of our program because we see the difference it makes for children and parents.

Mary Ann Joseph, Tlatzt'en Head Start

www.bcfnhs.org

Resources including *Funding Policies, Guidelines for Models of Delivery, Monitoring Policies and Procedures, Needs Assessment Tool* and *Directory of Program Resources* are available on the BCFNHS program website.