



Impact Report

Celebrating the progress we made in 2025 and the future we're building.

HEAD START
W E S T

Elevating the Head Start Community™

A Word From Our Executive Director

It is my pleasure to share with you a snapshot of the work we accomplished this past year. Our work is guided by our Manifesto, Strategic Plan, the insight and leadership of our Board of Directors and the passions of our small but mighty staff! Most importantly, this Impact report shows the capacity of our association and desire to elevate the Head Start Community.

We are passionate about the possibility of giving all families and children from birth to 5, an opportunity to succeed in school, and in life. This is our purpose. The Head Start Community is our inspiration, and we wish to foster inclusivity, kindness, knowledge, leadership, courage, and innovation. It is our duty to elevate the Head Start Community by offering insightful, innovative, and pertinent programs and services via our conferences, networks, events, and advocacy.

We are determined to bring certainty in times of uncertainty, to nurture positivity in times of stress, and to be steadfast in elevating the hope that Head Start has brought to local communities for the past 60 years.



Edward Condon
Executive Director, Head Start WEST

Our Strategic Plan



Strong Families, Strong Futures

Deepening the impact of Head Start programs on family economic stability, child development, and access to supportive services.



Community Building

Strengthening collaborations and expanding partnerships. Building a network of support that bridges enhanced resources for both Head Start programs and the families they serve.



Innovations

Integrating fresh approaches, technologies, and best practices into program delivery, operations, and service models to transform, elevate and improve efficiency as well as program effectiveness.



Sustainability

Strengthening the operational infrastructure of the Association, diversifying its funding sources, and advocating for policies that will promote continued growth and financial stability.

Our Leadership

The Head Start WEST Board of Directors is comprised of representatives of four states – Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada – and individuals seated on the board as friends. The board meets regularly, often attached to conferences and institutes.

Board of Directors - Executive Committee

William Donaldson, Chairperson

Mindful Insurance

Mattie Mendez, Vice-Chairperson

Communication Action Partnership of
Madera County

Natalie Alvarez, Treasurer

Greater Phoenix Urban League

Yolanda Gonzales, Secretary

Community Action Partnership of Kern

Wassy Tesfa, Ex-Officio

Pacific Clinics Head Start



Board of Directors - Members

Cheri Moring

Head Start of Northeastern Nevada

Ben Naki

Parents and Children Together

Megan Nielsen

Wealthspire

Charity Russell

Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc.

Jolene Sablan

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Yvette Sanchez-Fuentes

Start Early

Dave Scahill

The Discovery Source

Silvia Sharrar

Parents and Children Together

Kelvin Thomas

Acelero Learning Head Start

Suzie Uyeda

Honolulu Community Action Program

Tiffany Alston

Sunrise Children's Foundation

Joshua Alvarez

Kaplan

Stacy Brown

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Denyse Cardoza

KidZCommunity

Alex Elliot

Tulare County Office of Education

Patrice Gardner

Nevada Department of Education

Karen Griffith

Sacramento Employment and Training Agency

Tameka Henry

Acelero Clark County Head Start

Michael Jenkins

KidZCommunity

Patricia Kirkland*

City of Phoenix Head Start

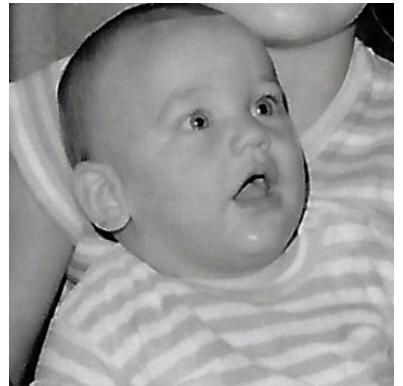
Nadia Gonzalez

Southwest Human Development

Jesee Myers

Little People's Head Start

Our Staff



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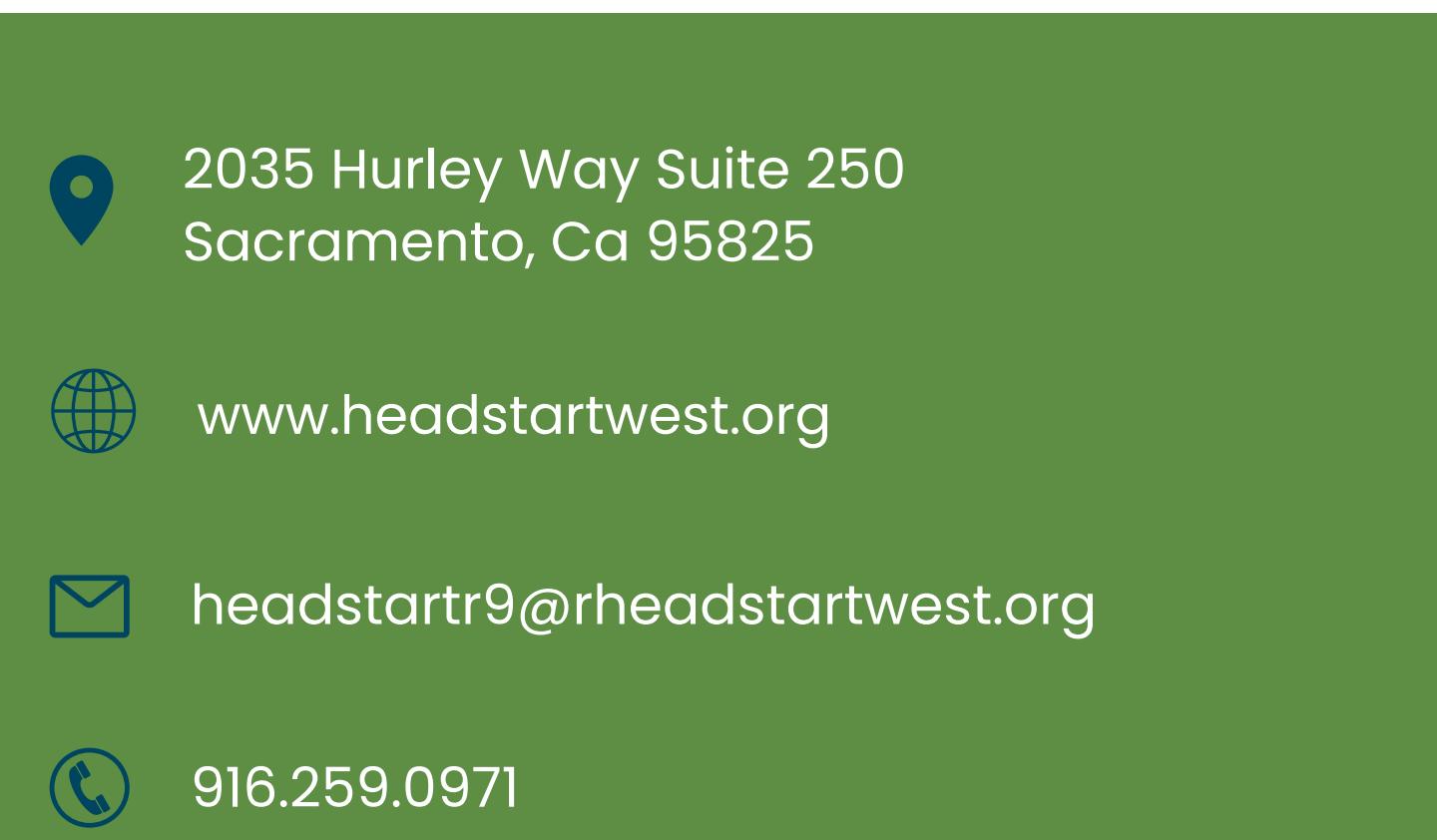
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Our Cornerstones



Learning

At Head Start WEST, we believe professional learning should be dynamic, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse needs of every Head Start professional—regardless of role or experience.



Belonging

For more than 60 years, Head Start—here in the WEST and across the nation—has been more than a place to learn and work. From millions of alumni and thousands of staff to countless allies and community partners, Head Start stands as a transformational force in local communities and a proud national movement.



Elevating

Head Start's work is both enduring and ever-evolving. At Head Start WEST, we elevate our members through products, services, and initiatives that strengthen staff and leadership.

Head Start WEST by the numbers in 2025

140
member agencies



489,000
engagements
through email
communications

900
board and
committee hours
invested

2,413
Head Start
professionals engaged
through conferences,
trainings, networks,
and webinars

145,880
children enrolled in
HS, EHS, and Migrant
HS in the West



23
states with Head
Start Gear Zone
customers

227
hours of
professional
learning facilitated

\$34,000
awarded in
scholarship funds

17,243
staff serving HS, EHS,
and Migrant HS in the
West

Professional Learning



Early Childhood STEM Institute

March 31st - April 2nd, 2025
Red Rock Casino Resort and Spa | Las Vegas, NV

Theme: STEM Starts With Curiosity



First 1,000 Days Conference

June 9th - 12th, 2025
Hyatt Regency Sonoma Wine Country | Santa Rosa, CA

Theme: Cultivating Wellbeing, Nurturing Our
Tomorrows



ELEVATE: Family Engagement Conference

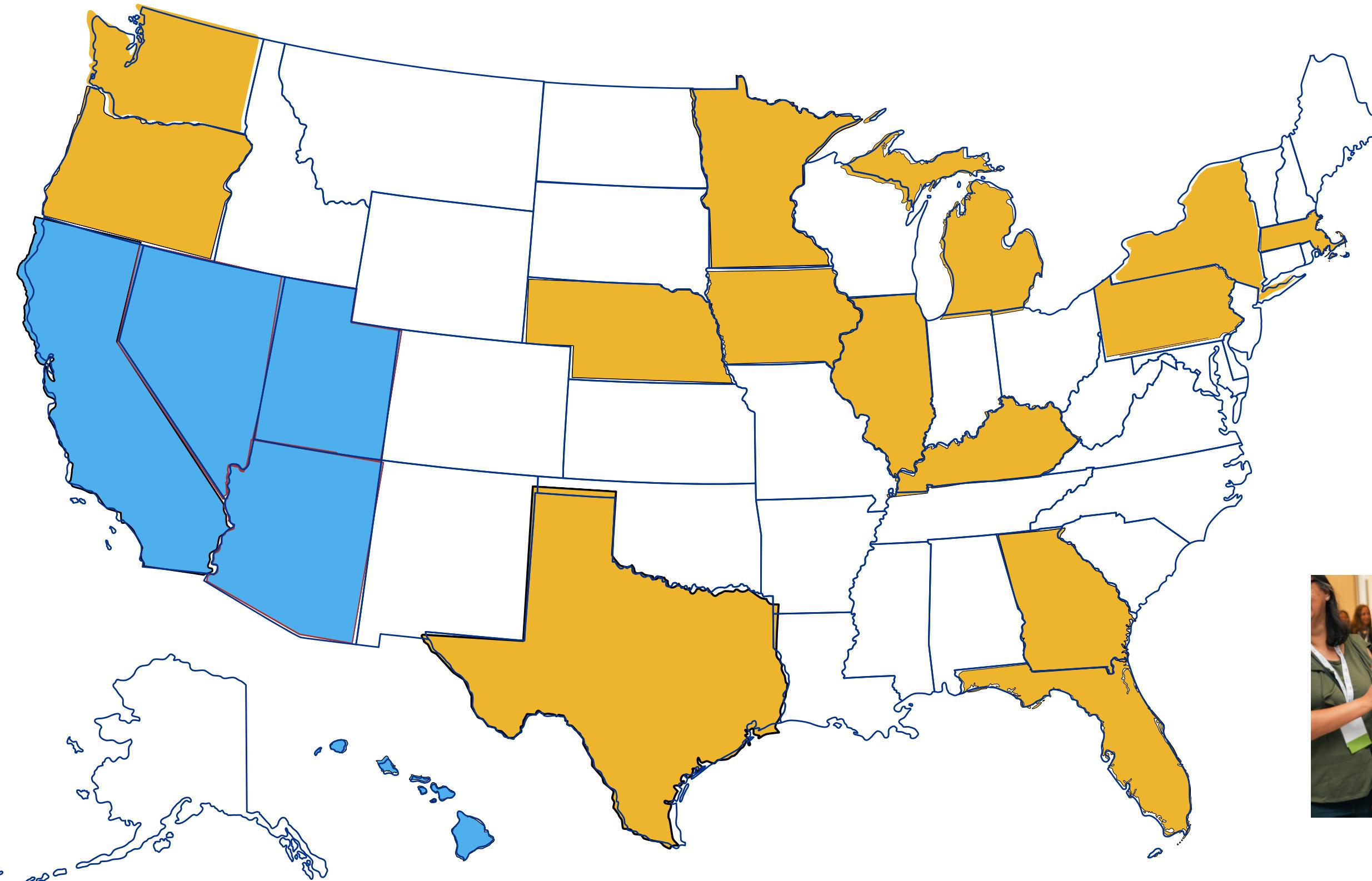
October 13th - 17th, 2025
Sheraton Maui Resort and Spa | Maui, HI

Theme: Healthy Families, Healthy Futures

Topics Explored



Engagement



Hawai'i and Outer Pacific (Guam, American Samoa, Palau, Northern Mariana Islands)

Member Engagement

States with HSW Member Programs participating in events and services

Local Program Engagement

States with programs participating in HSW events and services from across the U.S.

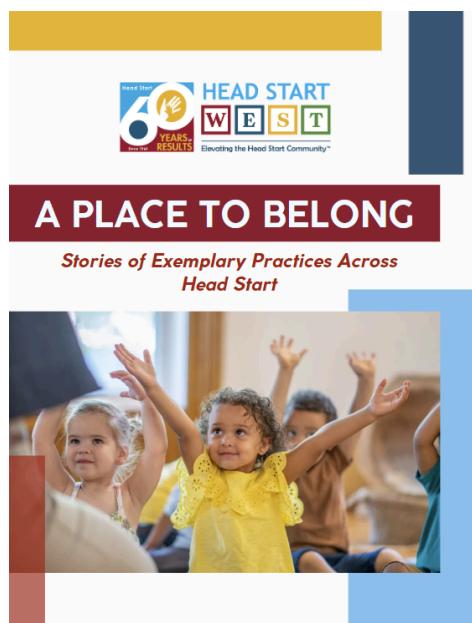


Keeping Our Community Informed

11,292 e-mail contacts engaged across five focus areas:

- Heads Up! Weekly Newsletter
- Leadership
- Professional Development and Trainings
- Advocacy
- Speakers, Exhibitors, and Partnership Opportunities

A snapshot of roles and professions represented among individuals connected to Head Start WEST through our mailing list



Celebrating 60 Years of Head Start Through Stories of Excellence

In honor of Head Start's 60th anniversary, Head Start WEST gathered stories of exemplary practice from programs across the country for A Place to Belong — a publication that lifts up the dedication, innovation, and heart of the Head Start community. Developed through months of research, interviews, writing, and collaboration, the project reflects the collective expertise of educators, leaders, families, and partners who live this work every day.

Exemplary Practices Highlighted:
Family Engagement | School Readiness | Community Engagement |
Health and Wellness | Local Governance and Leadership



Horizon: Connecting and Inspiring Our Community

Our quarterly newsletter, *Horizon*, is more than just news — it's a window into the work we do and the people we serve. Each issue highlights stories of impact, shares resources, and celebrates the creativity and dedication of our community. *Horizon* keeps readers informed and engaged, fostering connection across every corner of our network. Check out the latest issue [here](#) and see how we're building bridges and inspiring action together.

2025 Legacy Scholarship

Our scholarship program recognizes the dedication of Head Start educators, parents, and staff who are investing in their own education while serving children and families every day. These awards affirm their commitment to growth and leadership, while helping offset the cost of tuition, books, and required materials.

Each year, funds are distributed based on available resources and demonstrated need, supporting recipients across multiple states and programs. By investing in those who serve, we strengthen the Head Start workforce and expand opportunity throughout our communities.



17
scholarships
awarded in
2025



\$34,000
awarded in
scholarship
funds



[Find the full list of 2025 winners and more information about our Legacy Scholarship here.](#)

Head Start Gear Zone

[Visit The Head Start Gear Zone Website](#)



**2,045
Products Sold
in 2025**



Head Start Gear Zone (HSGZ) was established with one very specific goal in mind – to elevate the Head Start community.

To lift our pride, to affirm our values, to offer unique products to our members and to have a bit of fun celebrating this unique, colorful, and diverse community.

The net proceeds from HSGZ fuels the advocacy, communications, and selected efforts.

Interested in a custom order for your organization? Contact Nancy at ngonzalez@headstartwest.org.

Head Start WEST Annual Partners

Our partnerships are an essential extension of our mission. Head Start WEST works closely with organizations at the forefront of early childhood education, professional development, and advocacy to bring timely, high-quality resources to our members and the broader Head Start community.

Together, these collaborations allow us to respond to emerging needs and advance outcomes for children, families, and the professionals who serve them.

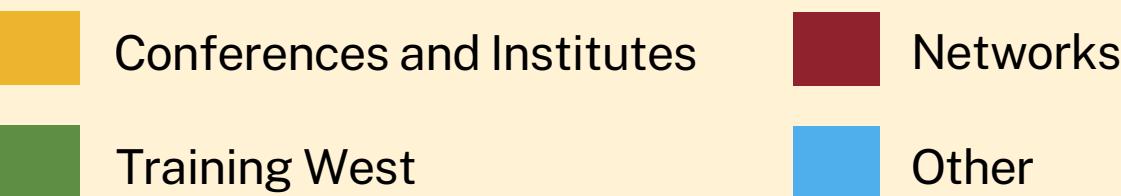
[Find Our Partnership Directory Here](#)



Food & Supply Source
By Buyers Edge Platform



Looking Forward



Visit our event calendar for a closer look at what we have planned for 2026

HEAD START

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