



# Impact Report

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

HEAD START



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

**Jessee Myers**  
Little People’s Head Start



*\*board member term of service ended in 2025*



# Our Staff



## Edward Condon

*Executive Director*

[econdon@headstartwest.org](mailto:econdon@headstartwest.org)

p: 916-259-0971 ext. 101

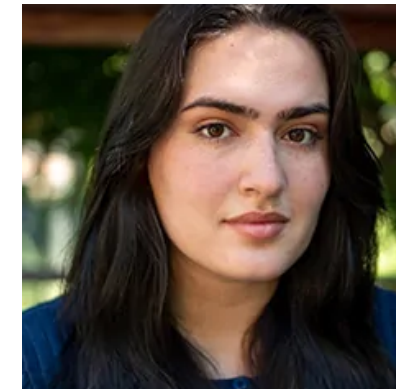


## Melissa Sahagun

*Program Manager, Events and Training*

[msahagun@headstartwest.org](mailto:msahagun@headstartwest.org)

p: 916-259-0971 ext. 103



## Danya Torp

*Program Manager, Membership Engagement and Communications*

[dtorp@headstartwest.org](mailto:dtorp@headstartwest.org)

p: 916-259-0971 ext. 102

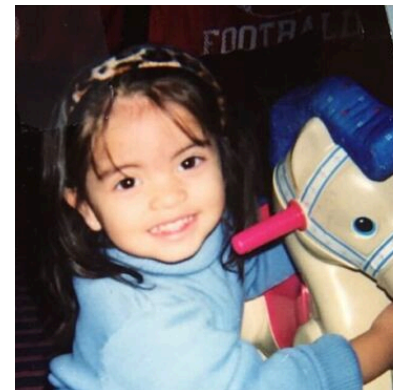


## Alex Gaytan

*Office Manager & Finance Coordinator*

[agaytan@headstartwest.org](mailto:agaytan@headstartwest.org)

p: 916-259-0971 ext. 104



## Nancy Gonzalez

*Program Associate*

[ngonzalez@headstartwest.org](mailto:ngonzalez@headstartwest.org)

p: 916-259-0971 ext. 105



2035 Hurley Way Suite 250  
Sacramento, Ca 95825



[www.headstartwest.org](http://www.headstartwest.org)



[headstartr9@rheadstartwest.org](mailto:headstartr9@rheadstartwest.org)



916.259.0971



# 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

900

board and committee hours invested



23

states with Head Start Gear Zone customers



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

227

hours of professional learning facilitated

489,000

engagements through email communications



\$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

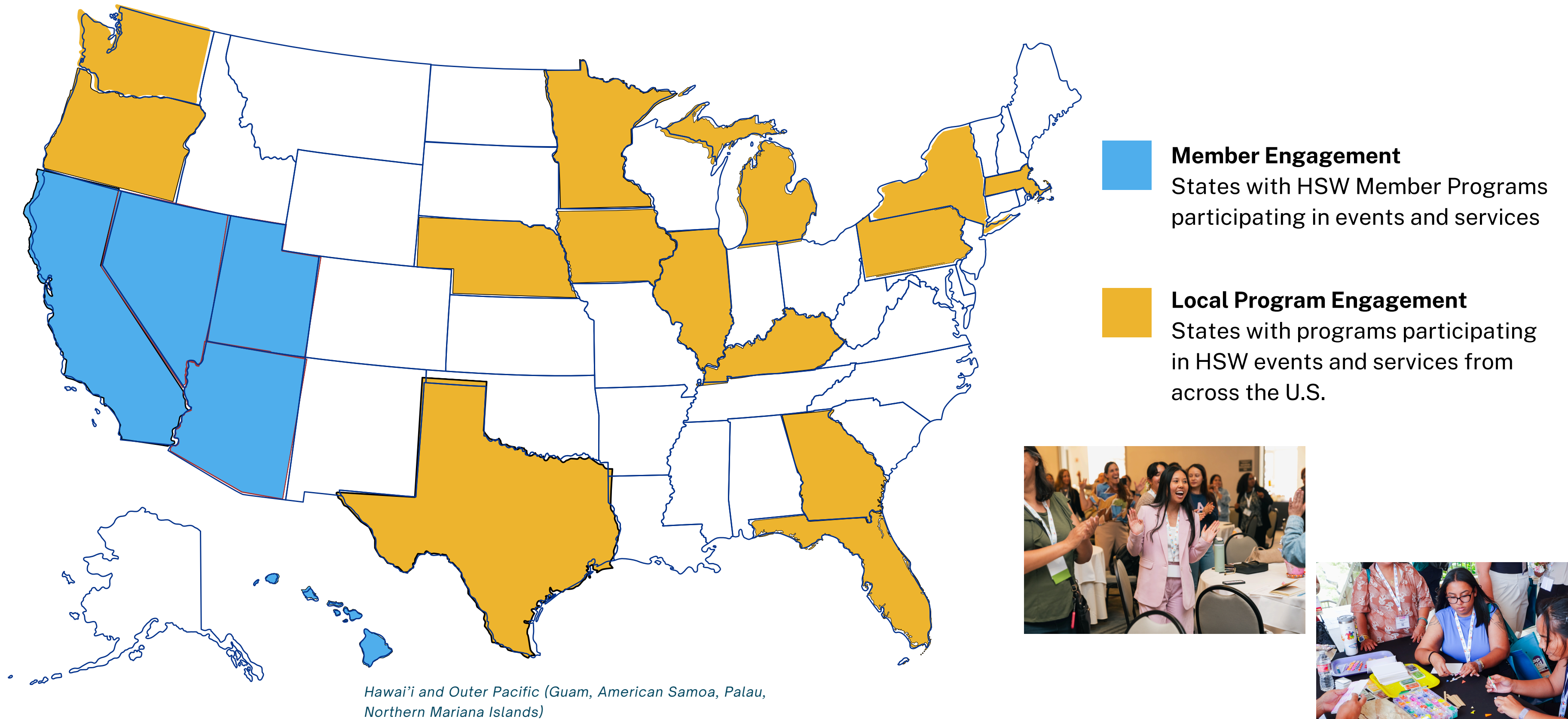


Training West

Conferences and Institutes



# Engagement





# 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

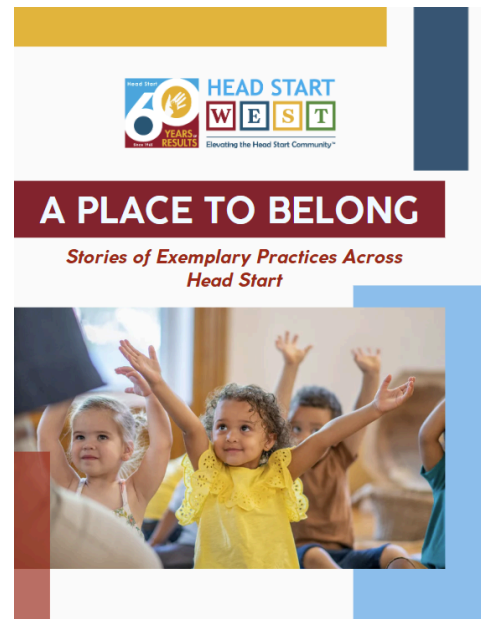
Health Specialists

Home Visitors

Teachers

Coaches

Leaders



## 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](mailto: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](#)



Every Breath Matters™  
866-206-5230  
www.cleanairdynamics.com



DETERMINE. EDUCATE. & CHANGE.



# Looking Forward



Conferences and Institutes



Networks



Training West



Other

## January

Governance Training

## February

New and Emerging Director's Community of Practice

HR Network

Fiscal Network

## March

Innovate: EC STEM Institute

EC STEM Week (23rd-27th)

Director's Exchange Network

Horizon Spring 2026

## April

Fiscal Network

## May

HR Network

The Leadership Challenge

Director's Exchange Network

## June

Celebrate: First 1,000 Days!

Fiscal Network

Horizon Summer 2026

## July

Executive Leadership Council

Workforce Summit

Director's Exchange Network

## August

HR Network

Fiscal Network

## September

Director's Exchange Network

Horizon Fall 2026

## October

Elevate: Family Engagement

## November

HR Network

Director's Exchange Network

## December

Horizon Winter 2026



