



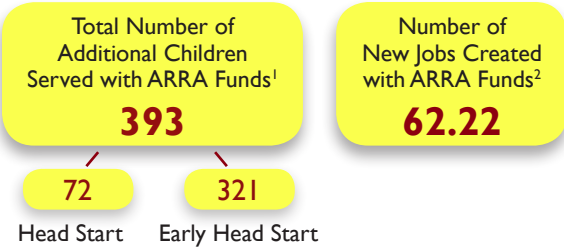
# American Recovery & Reinvestment Act — Head Start and Early Head Start Impact



## Serving Children and Families — Building Communities

Head Start and Early Head Start programs serve children ages birth to 5 and their vulnerable families with a range of educational, health, nutrition, and family support services to help put them on a pathway to success in life. In the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, federal lawmakers appropriated \$2.1 billion to be spent during Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 to serve 60,000 more eligible children annually and enhance the quality of these programs.

### Nebraska Impact — Head Start and Early Head Start Investment



#### Making Investments to Meet Community Needs — Examples of Significant Quality Improvement Projects Funded by ARRA<sup>3</sup>

The Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties (formerly the Lincoln Action Program Inc.) expanded HS enrollment by 36 slots and EHS enrollment by 78 slots and hired two HS staff members and 11 EHS staff members. The EHS staff consists of eight family advocates, a program assistant, a health services specialist with a practical nurse license, and a data clerk. HS expansion also resulted in five new educational services jobs with the Lincoln Public Schools, a delegate agency of the Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties. In Loup City the Central Nebraska Community Services Inc. expanded its EHS services to 34 infants, toddlers, pregnant women, and their families; hired two teachers (a bilingual center assistant and one co-teacher for the EHS Infant Toddler Center in Columbus); an EHS family consultant for the home-based program service option in Schuyler, and began work on a major facility renovation.

#### Call to Action — Funding Needed to Prevent Enrollment Cuts and Job Losses in Communities

ARRA investments in Nebraska have expanded Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment by 393 more slots annually and have created more than 62 jobs in at-risk and high unemployment neighborhoods. To ensure that Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Nebraska and other states can maintain their current enrollment and prevent job losses, we urge you to support an \$8.2 billion appropriation for Head Start and Early Head Start in FY 2011.

If this appropriation is not approved and there is Continuing Resolution (CR) this month, Head Start and Early Head Start children and their families will fall off a funding cliff in September 2011. Because ARRA-funded expansion programs only received funding through September 15 or September 29, 2011, we could have a funding gap in which 62 teachers and staff will lose their jobs and 393 children will lose their services in Nebraska if a CR does not address this end-of-year gap. We urge you to not allow this to happen — **please vote for \$8.2 billion in FY 2011 funding for Head Start and Early Head Start very soon.**

Sources: 1. Office of Head Start, 2. Recovery.gov, and 3. Recovery.gov

For more information, contact Ben Allen, Ph.D., Public Policy & Research Director, at [ballen@nhsa.org](mailto:ballen@nhsa.org).