

# Not on Our Watch



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# Connecting the Dots

- ▶ January 28<sup>th</sup> - Federal Funding Freeze
- ▶ Executive Orders - Funding, DEI, Immigration, etc.
- ▶ Termination of federal staff - OHS/Childcare
- ▶ Dismantling of DOE
- ▶ Closure of Regional Offices
- ▶ DOGE/Defend the Spend Notices/Extra Scrutiny
- ▶ Funding Delays/Unusual Activity
- ▶ Head Start eliminated in FY26 Pres. Budget
- ▶ Funding lags/AP Article
- ▶ Conflict between OMB/White House and Sec. Kennedy/HHS
- ▶ Project 2025 - Cites concerns over alleged financial mismanagement and child safety incidents within the program as justifications for its elimination
- ▶ Required certification of not **during the term of this financial assistance award, operate any programs** that advance or promote DEI, DEIA, or discriminatory equity ideology in violation of Federal anti-discrimination laws



# Washington Post/April 16, 2025

## Internal budget document reveals extent of Trump's proposed health cuts

**“HHS would be asked to absorb a \$40 billion cut, about one-third of its discretionary budget”.**

**“Money for the Head Start program, which provides early child care and education for low-income families and is funded by HHS’s Administration for Children and Families, would be eliminated. “The federal government should not be in the business of mandating curriculum, locations and performance standards for any form of education,” the document says”.**

**[Washington Post Article](#)**



# Katie Hamm, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of ACF for Early Childhood Development

During a Continuing Resolution, grantees typically receive part of their funds, with the remainder to follow when Congress passes a full year spending bill.

It's been over a month since Congress passed the full-year appropriations bill, and most programs that received partial awards have not received their full year funding. At least one program pressed the Office of Head Start (OHS) for funding and received another small award instead of the full amount. Funding awards are labor intensive, and OHS is at half capacity by my estimate. A partial award makes very little sense because more staff time is required to award subsequent funds. Full funding should have been awarded in late March, before half of the regional offices closed.

I do know that the Head Start funding process is not functioning normally and should be watched very, very carefully in the coming weeks. And the early childhood community needs to be ready to act if funds are not forthcoming soon.

# Khari Garvin, Former Director of the Office of Head Start

The current Administration has taken several steps to hinder, and ultimately gut, the Head Start program – including

1. Abruptly closing five federal regional offices and firing the dedicated ACF professionals working there, including those with oversight of Head Start agencies serving 45% of all Head Start children in the nation in almost 25 of the 50 States
2. Restricting (and withholding) funding to programs already approved in the current federal budget and, most recently,
3. Proposing to completely eliminate the Head Start program in next year's budget

# Current Articles/Information

Center for American Progress - [5 Things to Know about Head Start](#)

Education Next - [Is Head Start Worth Saving](#)

Trump Admin Withholding Nearly \$1 Billion in Funding for Head Start—Crunching Centers Nationwide and Forcing Devastating Closures [Senate Approps Reports](#)



## Navigation



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# Program Map

## Where are Head Start programs located?

The program map below shows where there are physical locations of centers in Illinois, however, all counties are served.

[Click Here to See Service Areas](#)

[Zoom in on Cook County](#)

**Total Number of Head  
Start Grantees**

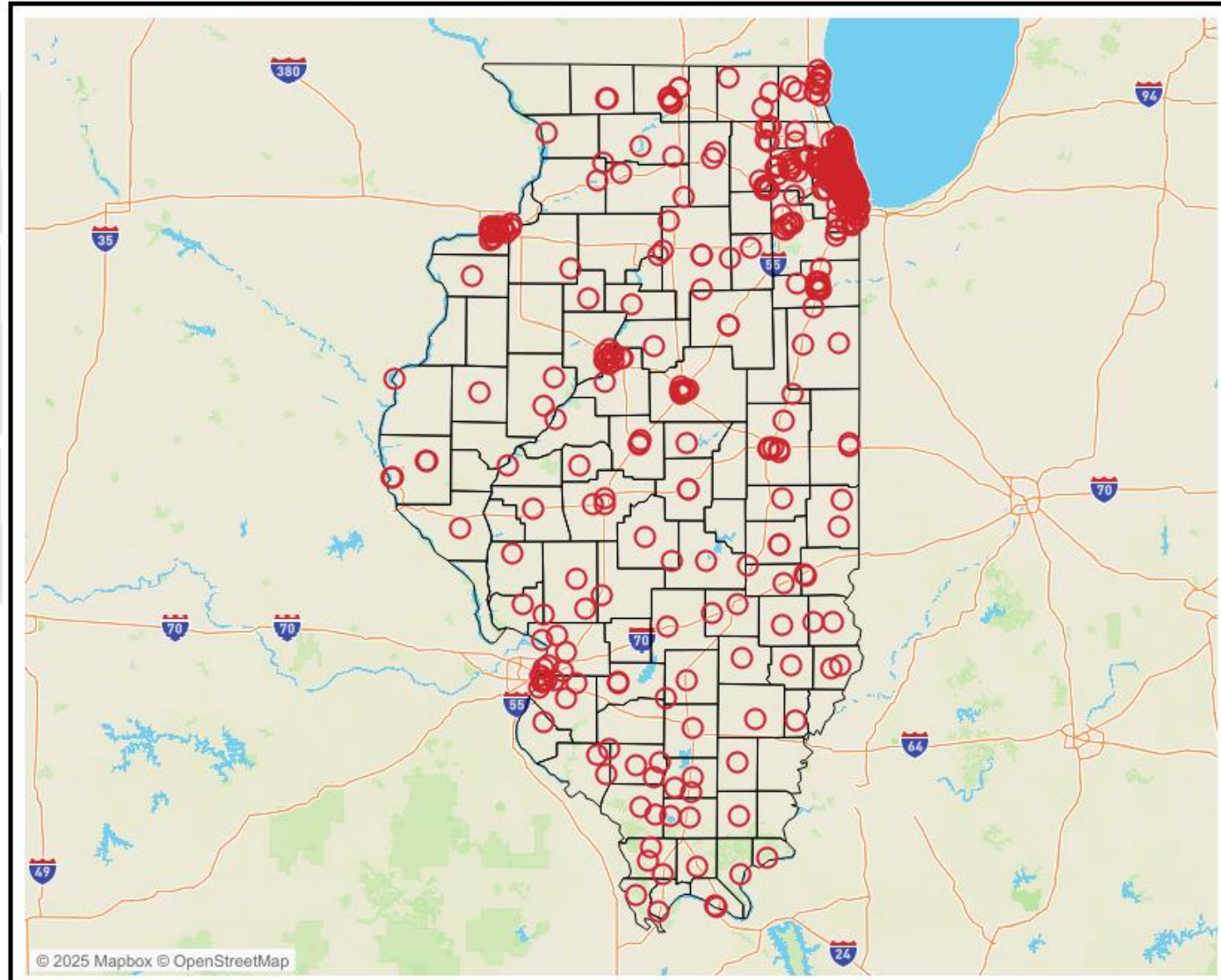
**51**

**Total Number of Head  
Start Sites**

**513**

**Number of Counties  
Served**

**102**



# Strategies

- ▶ First 5 Years Fund Toolkit - [Toolkit](#)
- ▶ Work with statewide Parent Policy Councils
  - ▶ Parent Fliers
  - ▶ PPT
- ▶ IHSA Allies (alumni, parents, retired staff, etc.)
- ▶ Children Postcard Project
- ▶ Rally/Chicago
- ▶ Communication
  - ▶ Social Media
  - ▶ Print, TV, Radio, Op Eds, Letter to Editor, etc.
  - ▶ Yard Signs/Window Signs
- ▶ Focus on Rep. LaHood, Rep. Bost, Rep. Miller
  - ▶ Rally/Activities at District Offices
  - ▶ Development of informational data (# of children/families, workforce, federal funding, etc.) and talking points based on values and priorities
  - ▶ Meetings scheduled with both DC and IL offices



# Q & A Thoughts Discussion Next Steps

