

Idaho Head Start Association



**(Draft) Strategic Plan
2004 - 2006**

INTRODUCTION

The Board of the Idaho Head Start Association (IHSA) with the input of its members has developed this Strategic Plan. Development of the plan began with the Association's general meeting in late October, 2003. During November and December of 2003, James Wilson, the Association's Director, researched past Idaho Head Start Association Strategic plans and the strategic plans of several other states' associations. IHSA also contracted with Carrie Wright, a graduate student from Boise State University's College of Health Sciences to develop an Environmental Scan." The Environmental Scan (a copy of which is attached) contains data about Idaho's economic climate, estimates of the number of low-income children in the state, population data by race and ethnicity, past participation levels in Head Start, population growth projections for children of Head Start age and a myriad of other data. It along with the information Mr. Wilson had obtained was used as a tool to assist members at a four hour planning session held during its January, 2004 general meeting. Out of that session came agreement on the Association's Core Values as well as the Vision and Mission Statements contained in this plan.

Three goals were also agreed upon, and, during its April 5, 2004 meeting, the Board, after having studied input from previous planning sessions, decided to add two additional goals, as well as strategies related to each of those goals.

This plan lays a foundation for the Idaho Head Start Association's future. It focuses on goals and strategies geared toward guiding the Association over the three years covering calendar years 2003 through 2006, but our expectation is that it will set a course which will guide us several years beyond that time frame.

Our Mission

*To advocate for the
children and families
of Idaho
by
promoting and
strengthening
all Head Start
Programs*

Our Vision

*We envision a society that nurtures
children,
recognizing them as its
first priority,
where people work together with
dignity and respect
to build healthy thriving communities.*

Our Core Values

- *Collaboration*
- *Dedication*
- *Communication*
- *Respect*
- *Compassion*
- *Accountability*
- *Trust*
- *Recognition and Celebration*
- *Quality*
- *Diversity*

Goals and Strategies

Goal #1 – Facilitate the education of staff, parents, directors and friends of Head Start. (lead – Personnel Committee)

Strategies:

- Seek grants and other funding which provide opportunities for staff, parents, directors and friends of Head Start to attend local and national skill building forums.***
- Devote a portion of each of the Association's general meetings to the education of staff, parents, directors and friends of Head Start.***
- Seek-out opportunities to coordinate the education of staff, parents, directors and friends of Head Start.***

Goal #2 – Provide a central base for the discovery and acquisition of funds in order to accomplish the Association’s mission and goals .(lead – IHSA Executive Director)

Strategies:

- ***Pursue “non-traditional” funding sources such as Medicaid, state income tax check-off contributions, and payroll deductions.***
- ***Become a repository of easily accessible information about public and private funds that are available to Head Start programs.***

Goal #3 – Strengthen the capacity of Head Start programs to influence decision makers. (lead – Legislative Committee).

Strategies:

- *Explore a partnership with a 501 (c) (4) organization to better influence Congress and the Idaho legislature.*
- *Develop a cordial working relationship with members of our Congressional delegation, the Governor's Office and their key staff.*
- *Form a working committee tasked to develop a specific plan for accomplishing this goal.*
- *Form a committee to develop an Idaho "Dollar per Child" program.*

Goal #4 – Increase collaboration among Idaho Head Start programs and their partners.(lead – Collaboration and Public Relations Committee)

Strategies:

- ***Be an active voice in the Head Start Collaboration Council! Support its efforts to create improvement in its eight priority areas;***
 - *Improving access to health care,*
 - *Improving the availability, accessibility and quality of child care,*
 - *Improving collaboration with welfare systems,*
 - *Expanding and improving education opportunities in early childhood programs,*
 - *Initiating interaction with AmeriCorps,*
 - *Improving access to family literacy services,*
 - *Improving opportunities for children with developmental disabilities,*
 - *Improving opportunities for the homeless*
- ***Pursue partnerships with advocates for the elderly and disabled, faith based communities and veterans advocacy groups.***
- ***Increase collaboration and communication with the TANF program administration and with TANF contractors***
- ***Play a leadership role in coordinating early childhood advocacy.***

Goal #5 – Be a proactive source of accurate and positive information about Head Start in Idaho and the Nation. (lead – Collaboration and Public Relations Committee).

Strategies:

- *Develop a list of Head Start Program graduates and parents. Publicize their accomplishments as productive citizens.*
- *Take advantage of free or low-cost public relations opportunities.*
- *Continue targeted public relations activities using the skills of a professional media person.*
- *Pursue partnerships with Idaho's business community and chambers of commerce .*
 - *Provide business information showing what is “in it for them” to support Head Start*