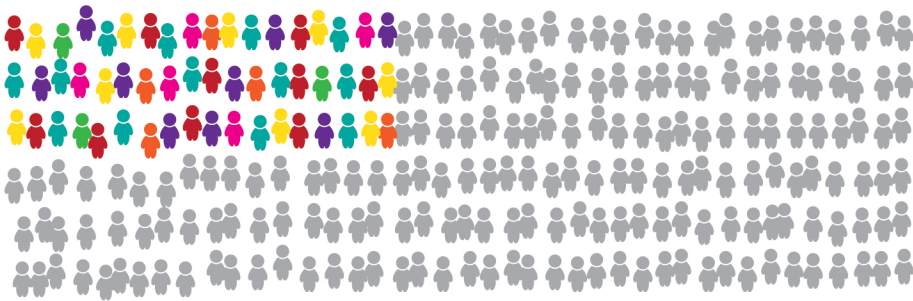


WEST VIRGINIA FACT SHEET:

HEAD START SEQUESTRATION IMPACT

Head Start has been a national commitment to comprehensive services for poor children since 1965, but the deep cuts caused by sequestration are closing that window of opportunity. Head Start, Early Head Start and Migrant/Seasonal Head Start programs have had flexibility to implement the **5.27%** cut - which amounts to nearly **\$405,000,000¹** nationally - but all programs were faced with very difficult decisions about cutting services to children, families, and communities.

In 2012, more than **six million** children under six lived in poverty in America. Head Start served **1,146,468²** children and pregnant women.



Last year, West Virginia served 9,583 children in Head Start and Early Head Start.

461³ fewer children will be served this year.



Nationally, **57,265 children** will lose services and more than **18,000 staff** will suffer job losses or pay cuts.³

"In our area of Southern West Virginia, we are seeing a significant increase in mental disorders and developmental disorders. It is my opinion that this is due to the high number of children born addicted or affected by drugs in our area. Our area needs Head Start and Early Head Start more than ever."

- Susan Stafford, HS & EHS Director, MountainHeart Community Services, Inc

SOURCES

1. \$405,000,000 represents the cut to program budgets. The cut to Head Start overall is approximately \$427,000,000.
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2013, August 2). *2011-2012 Head Start Program Information Report*.
3. Data provided by the Administration for Children and Families and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

ALL families feel the cuts:

Many programs have cut transportation, which limits access for the most at-risk families.



Centers and classrooms have closed their doors across the country.

And the most basic materials for learning are being cut back.



If the sequester is allowed to continue...

Head Start programs face even deeper cuts in 2014, and thousands more families will be faced with hard choices about finding safe, healthy learning environments for their young children.