**Suggested Events to celebrate Head Start’s Diamond Jubilee**

This is a list of potential events you could plan and execute to help celebrate your program’s Head Start Diamond Jubilee. These events could be combined. From the perspective of a year-long campaign, a series of events that build over time and continue to reinforce your core messages can be effective in communicating and cementing the important ideas about who you are and what you do. So think about how to sequence these events to build momentum. Set a goal to do one event a month, or one every other month, or events aligned to key times during your program year schedule leading up to May.

1. Throw a “birthday” **party** on or near the May 18, 2025, anniversary.
2. Get your mayor or county officials to sign a **proclamation** honoring your local Head Start program on the auspicious occasion of its Diamond Jubilee. Invite guests to the signing ceremony or have it at one of your sites.
3. Host a **panel display** of Head Start history. See more about the Panel Display **[Link]** about a that will be available to state associations and local programs. You can also develop special local panels that tell your story with pictures. Start combing those archives now!
4. Organize **a lobby day** to target legislators in coordination with state associations or
5. Hold an **awards or recognition** celebration of alumni and staff. You could honor those who served the longest, those who served the most children or families. Honor alumni who have gone on to academic, professional or business success. You could acknowledge community partners who have been loyal and long-time supporters and advocates
6. Do a **fundraiser** or even a capital fund campaign announcing your legacy and inviting people to invest in a program that has a demonstrated record of a return on that investment.
7. Piggyback onto other **community events**. What are the big events in your community? Make sure you are there. A Labor Day Parade—make sure you are in it. A December holiday event—get a booth. A farmer’s market—what kind of give-away or activity could you provide that would give you exposure. Whatever community event attracts a lot of people, make sure you are there.
8. Offer **seminars or classes** on child development and parenting that are open to the general public or your target audiences.
9. Host a **community partner recognition** event.
10. Organize **your own community event** that showcases the businesses where your families work: restaurants, hair or nail salons, factories, lawn care. Imagine a business fair of just businesses where your families are working.
11. Organize an **art exhibit or action.** If you have parents and staff that love to make art or do crafts. Maybe it is a special Head Start arts and craft sale. How about an art exhibition of children’s art? (If you think this is crazy, check this out: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/165833726937757>. Scroll down for “Young at Art” posts).
12. Revisit your **message platform** and see if you can embody or enact your message in some event. For example, in our Message Platform document **[link]**, our fourth message reads: *“Sixty Years of Head Start means more than half a century of being essential services in many cities and towns, rural and urban, across our service area.*” You could embody that message in a “progressive dinner” that started in one center or service delivery office and moved to others, each featuring a differing kind of setting and showcasing how Head Start programs can conform and be shaped by their community. Every geographical area creates its own unique expression of Head Start services and settings.