



Region VII Head Start Association (R7HSA)

STRATEGIC PLAN

2024—2026



Region VII Head Start Association

IOWA | KANSAS | MISSOURI | NEBRASKA



Board Approved 08.08.24

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Seated 03/2020

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Seated 06/2024

Secretary
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CHARTING THE COURSE

THE MISSION of the Region VII Head Start Association is to ensure quality services for children and families by promoting and supporting the effectiveness of State Head Start Associations, Local Head Start Programs, and members.

Historical Perspective

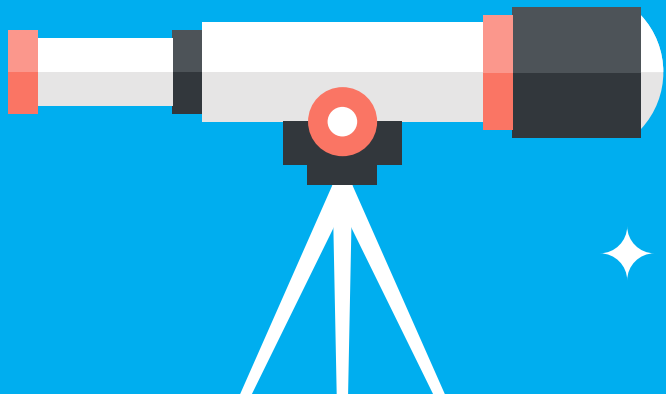
Since 1995 when the Region VII Steering Committee came together to begin looking at the possibility of establishing a Regional Head Start Association, dedicated committees, board members, the Regional Office, Training and Technical Assistance Offices, and Head Start stakeholders strive to ensure that the Region VII Head Start Association (R7HSA) is strong and viable. The Association was launched in 1997 at the Annual Leadership Conference and has since become a 501 (c) 3 organization that is financially solvent and provides a link to the four state associations and the National Head Start Association.

The 2005 RVII Board of Directors continued the tradition of thoughtful and strategic planning to move the association forward in an effort to continue the hard work of so many that came before. The then current Board of Directors which included Ex-officio members met on May 9, 2005 to review past work in the organizational

planning process, and identified new strategies, goals and steps needed to continue the work of the Association in meeting and delivering on established Board Outcomes.

The core of the strategic plan is based on the mission of the Head Start Association. The Region VII Board of Directors is committed to meeting the needs and challenges of the membership and stakeholders of the organization. Established committees as well as an executive office oversee the continued work of the association and look to the strategic plan as a guide in moving the association forward.

The collective commitment of R7HSA is to continue to look to the future, meet the challenges ahead, focus on excellence, and make a positive difference in the lives of children and families.



Our Vision

Region VII State Head Start Associations and affiliated local Head Start Programs will be the highest quality in the nation.

Our Stakeholders

State Association Members, Head Start State Collaboration Offices, Region 7 Office of Head Start (R7OHS), Regional Training & Technical Assistance (T/TA) System, National Head Start Association (NHSA), Community Partners.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

The Region VII Head Start Association Mission and Vision will be best carried out by focusing on the following strategic areas:

EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

INTENTIONAL MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

FOCUS 1 EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Outcome: Professional development throughout Region VII is effective in increasing the knowledge, skills and abilities of Head Start members and quality of Head Start programs.

GOAL 1

Provide *new* directors and program leadership with specialized training and ongoing support.

Strategies Ecosystem

- Re-establish a resource list of qualified consultants who specialize in assisting programs across the entire spectrum of program management systems
- Utilize the *Region 7 Management Acceleration Program (MAP)* to support new directors and staff in their continuum of learning and capacity building as a Head Start leader
- Provide a session at the Annual Conference and Head Start Caucus for New Head Start /Early Head Start leadership
- Utilize the *Coordinated Training Think Tank* as a conduit to exchange state, regional and national training opportunities designed to further support new program leadership
- Engage in ongoing communication and collaboration with Region 7 Office of Head Start (R7OHS) to ensure training supports the needs of program staff

GOAL 2

Support and provide continuing opportunities for the development, implementation and showcasing of innovative practices.

Strategies:

- Incorporate Head Start Program Performance Standard regulations in training initiatives
- Direct planning of Annual Head Start Caucus & Policy Summit
- Direct planning of Annual Head Start Conference
- Assist in planning Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) Observation training based on need in annual training plan
- Work in collaboration with the R7 Training and Technical Assistance System in supporting R7OHS' initiatives
- Support states' individual initiatives as requested, based on state-specific needs
- Utilize the R7HSA *Head Start Sand Box™* Magazine to “spotlight” innovation and best practices occurring

FOCUS 2 STRONG PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Outcome: Region VII Head Start is a collaborative network of internal and external partnerships, sharing and leveraging resources for maximum impact.

GOAL 1

Provide opportunities for members to build internal partnerships and leverage resources.

Strategies

- In the absence of a coordinated approach to share professional development opportunities across the region, re-establish the R7HSA Bi-Annual *Coordinated Training Think Tank*
- Offer State Associations Networking Meeting Opportunities at R7HSA in-person events
- Maintain an integrated region-wide calendar on the R7HSA website
- Promote the Shared Resource tab in the publication of the R7HSA *Head Start Sand Box™* Magazine
- Identify and utilize resources available through Service Organizations that serve at risk children and families

GOAL 2

Strengthen existing external partnerships and seek out potential new partners for increased collaboration.

Strategies

- Make efforts to foster existing partnerships with early childhood professionals and organizations that serve early childhood programs across the field
- Collaborate with external partners in promoting R7HSA professional development events
- Conduct ongoing efforts to recruit and sustain new partnerships designed to serve the needs of program grantee recipients

FOCUS 2 STRONG PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Outcome: Region VII Head Start is a collaborative network of internal and external partnerships, sharing and leveraging resources for maximum impact.



Kansans advocating for Head Start with Governor Laura Kelly.

GOAL 3

Evaluate and refine the State and Regional award and scholarship process.

Strategies

- Maintain a state-to-region-to national award process that is consistent and user friendly
- Market and share Region 7 award sponsorship opportunities
- Recognize Regional Award and Scholarship Recipients at the R7HSA Annual Head Start Conference
- Continue to seek award benefactors who have an interest in supporting the annual award & scholarship recognition ceremony

FOCUS 3 INTENTIONAL MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

Outcome: Partners, policy makers, and parents have an increased understanding of the long-term impact of Head Start services on children, families and the community.

GOAL 1

Increase awareness of R7HSA and Head Start impact through marketing/advertising venues.

Strategies

- Continue to promote, produce, and distribute the *R7HSA Head Start Sand Box™* magazine
- Maintain and update the regional website to reflect current and relevant content
- Increase social media activity at local, state, regional and national levels
- Collect and share child and family success stories
- Explore establishing a business membership opportunity that includes a subscription to the *R7HSA Head Start Sand Box™*, a program email directory, and other identified collateral
- Support the NHTSA Dollar Per Child Campaign through fundraising activities at R7HSA events

GOAL 2

Provide resources for partners, policy makers and parents to advocate for Head Start services in Region VII.

Strategies

- Disseminate NHTSA state fact sheets to Region VII Head Start Associations based on availability
- Utilize R7HSA branded pocket folders to promote Head Start awareness and support advocacy efforts
- Annually, collaborate with each State Association to assess internal needs in the development of marketing materials
- Utilize the R7HSA.com website, social media, and direct email in the delivery of relevant content to partners, policy makers and parents: ECLKC, nhtsa.org
- Connect with NHTSA in their outreach efforts to identify and connect with Region VII Head Start alumni
- Diamond Jubilee: the committee has been developing a *Celebration Toolkit* available at [R7HSA.com/diamond-jubilee](https://www.r7hsa.com/diamond-jubilee)