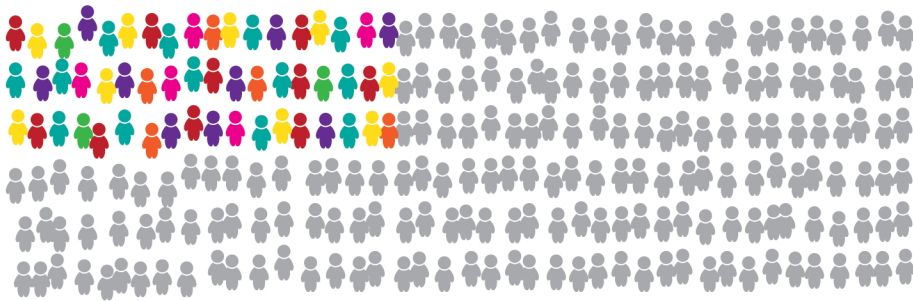


HEAD START FACT SHEET:

NATIONAL 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.



57,265³ fewer children will be able to participate in Head Start programs next year.



946,011²

children served
2011-2012



51,299³

fewer children with
access next year



167,517²

children served
2011-2012



5,966³

fewer children with
access next year



1,342,015³ For children remaining in the program, services will be reduced by 1,342,015 days next year and reductions in school days will mean a loss of 18,000 hours of education and care.

and more than

18,000

staff members have suffered pay cuts or lost their jobs.

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.

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.