

# HSCO

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**Head Start  
Collaboration Office**

## **2024 Utah Head Start Collaboration Office**

## **Comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey**

## Needs Assessment Background And Purpose

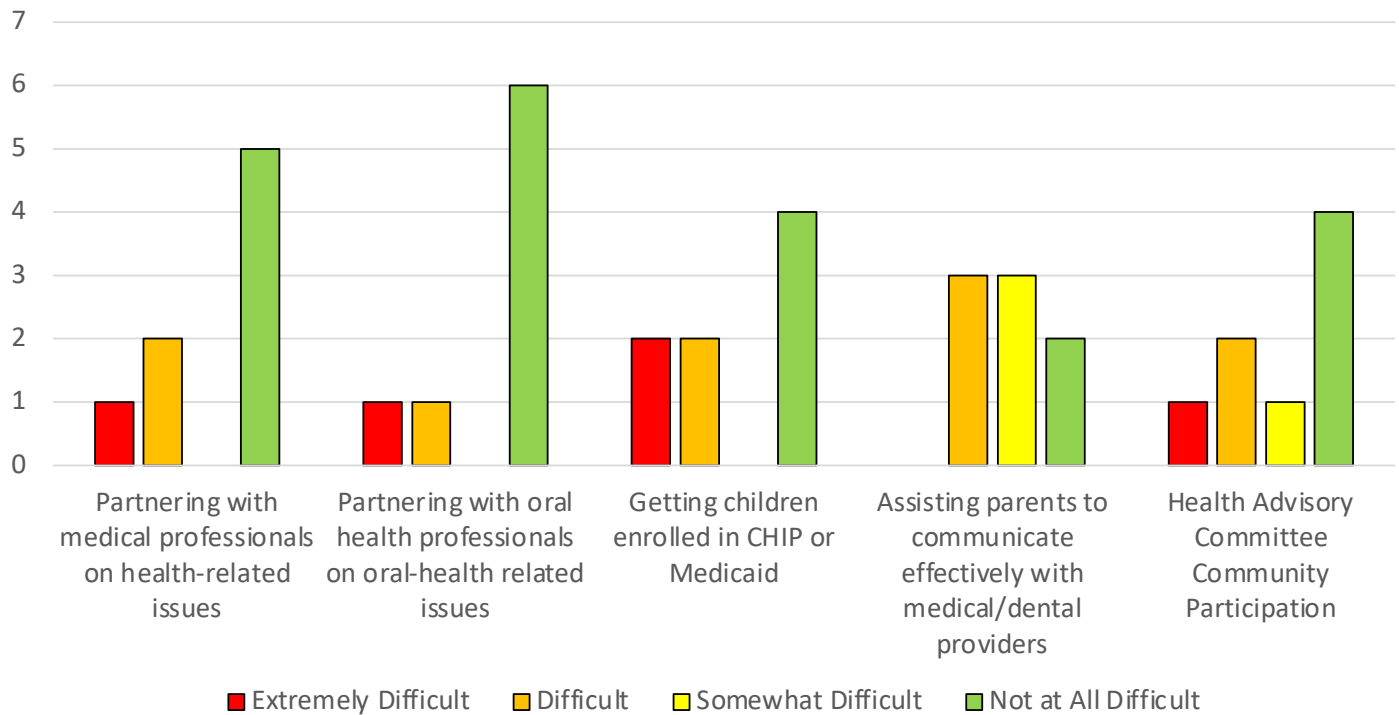
The Utah Head Start State Collaboration Office (UHSSCO) addresses the needs of Head Start with respect to collaboration, coordination and alignment of early childhood services and systems to ensure disadvantaged children, birth to school entry, and their families receive the supports needed to succeed. The Head Start Act of 2007 (Head Start Act) outlines the requirements for the UHSSCO grant, which was awarded to Utah to facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies and entities that carry out activities designed to benefit low-income children and their families.

As part of the requirements of the grant, the UHSSCO conducts a needs assessment to identify the systems and services that need alignment so disadvantaged children and their families experience a healthy, secure, and strong academic start. To complete this needs assessment for 2024, the UHSSCO gathered data from a variety of sources, including Head Start and Early Head Start programs, State Agencies, Early Childhood Educators, and stake holders. Methods used to obtain information were survey results, in-person interviews, and feedback sessions with the above named respondents. The survey data offered quantitative insight into prevailing trends and issues, while in-person interviews provided deeper understanding of individual and program/agency experiences and perspectives. By employing this multifaceted approach, the Collaboration Office was able to develop a thorough understanding of the challenges and requirements of Utah's Head Start programs. This valuable insight informs the work of the Head Start Collaboration Office for the upcoming year.

This survey has been divided into two sections:

1. Head Start and Early Head Start Respondent results
2. State Agency, Early Childhood Educator, and Stakeholder Respondent results

## HEAD START RESPONDENTS ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT HEALTH SERVICES



### Successes:

Excellent support from local Health Department  
 Collaboration with Health Care Providers  
 Partnerships with local Nursing College  
 Increase in Medical and Oral Health Homes  
 Partnership with Volunteer providers that provide health and dental screenings

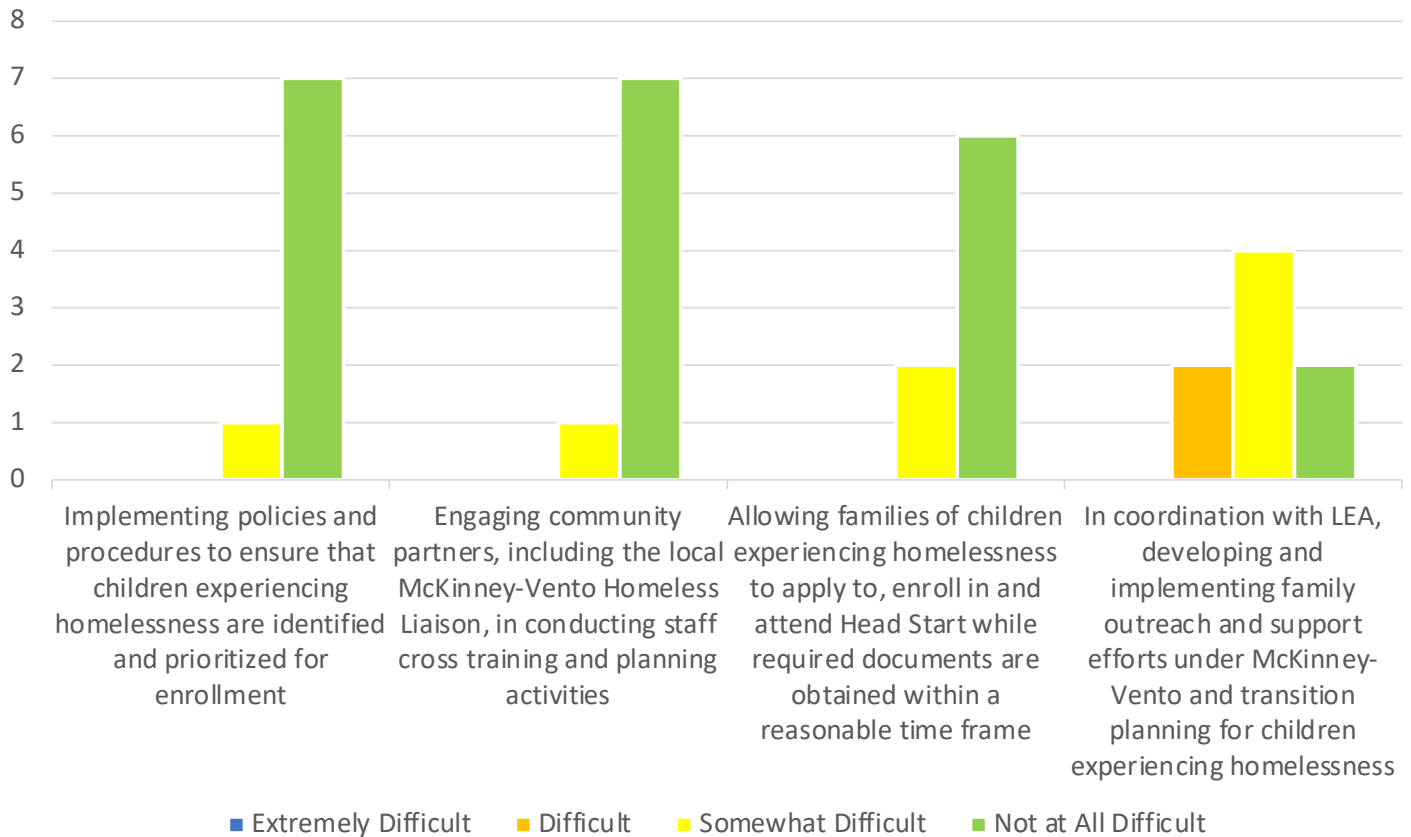
### Challenges:

Lack of Providers that accept Medicaid  
 Pediatricians not completing Lead Testing  
 Parents resistance to completing Well Child Checks  
 Understanding the Complexities of Accessing Health Services  
 Language Barriers

### Suggestions:

Organize informational workshops to educate parents about the importance of wellness checks  
 Integrate wellness checks into existing program routines

## **HEAD START RESPONDENTS ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**



### **Successes:**

Process for identifying and prioritizing children experiencing homelessness  
 Joint training with local community partners  
 Partnering with local McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison

### **Challenges:**

Some programs are working towards better coordination with Local Education Agencies to transition children experiencing homelessness  
 Transportation

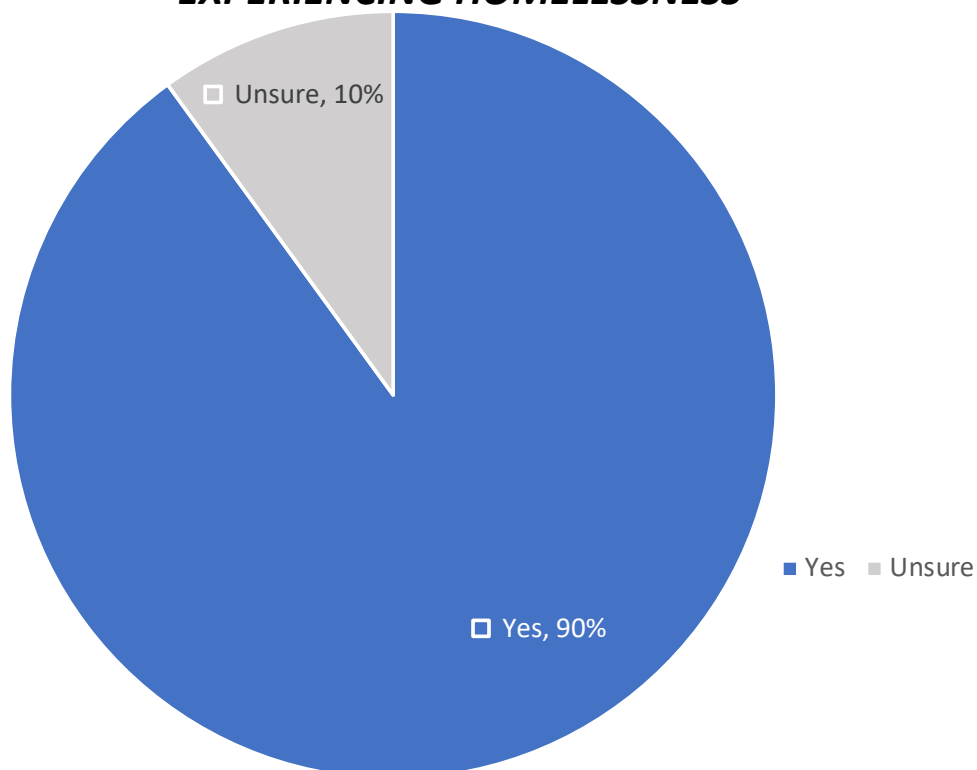
### **Suggestions:**

Work collaboratively with Local Education Agencies to identify specific needs of children experiencing homelessness  
 Map out available resources and services within the community that can support children and families experiencing homelessness during transitions

**HEAD START RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR PROCESS FOR DATA COLLECTION OF CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

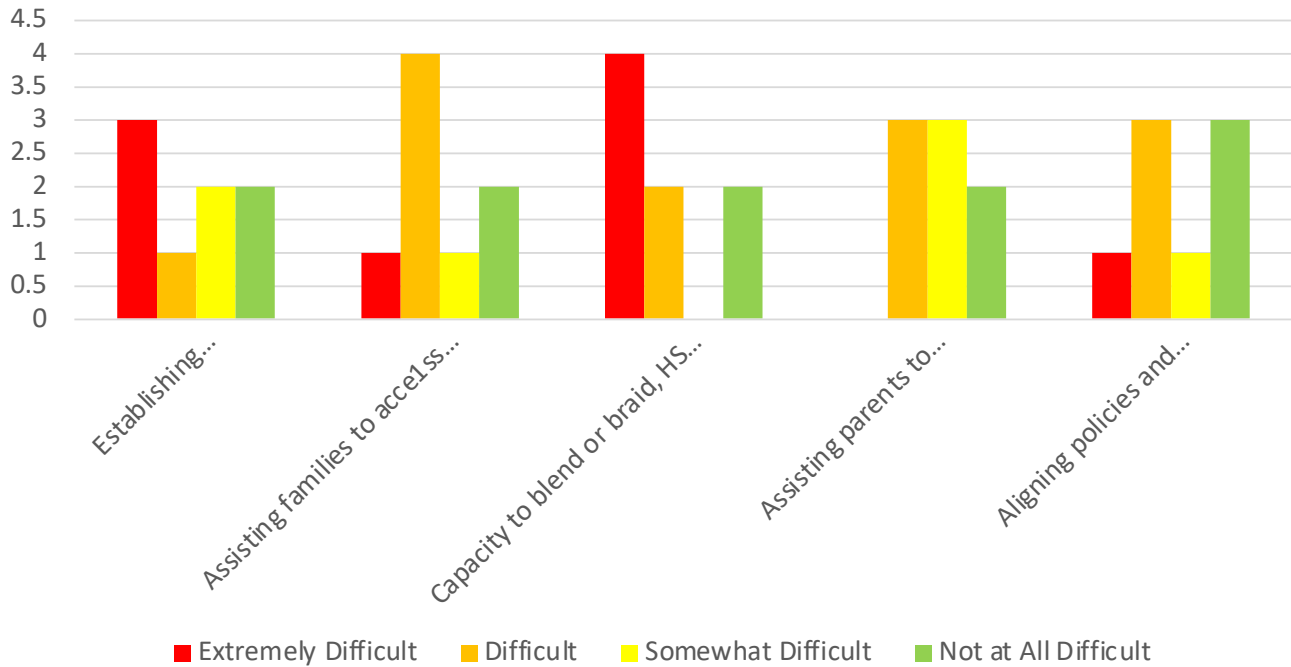
70% use the ChildPlus system to collect data on the number of enrolled children experiencing homelessness  
20% use program eligibility points to collect data on the number of enrolled children experiencing homelessness  
10% use the monthly Head Start Director’s report to collect data on the number of enrolled children experiencing

**HEAD START RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED IF THEIR PROGRAM INFORMATION REPORT (PIR) ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE NUMBER OF ENROLLED CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**



The Office of Head Start (OHS) Program Information Report (PIR) provides comprehensive data on the services, staff, children, and families served by Head Start and Early Head Start programs nationwide. All grant recipients and delegates are required to submit a PIR for Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

**HEAD START RESPONDENTS ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT CHILD CARE SERVICES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND RESOURCES**

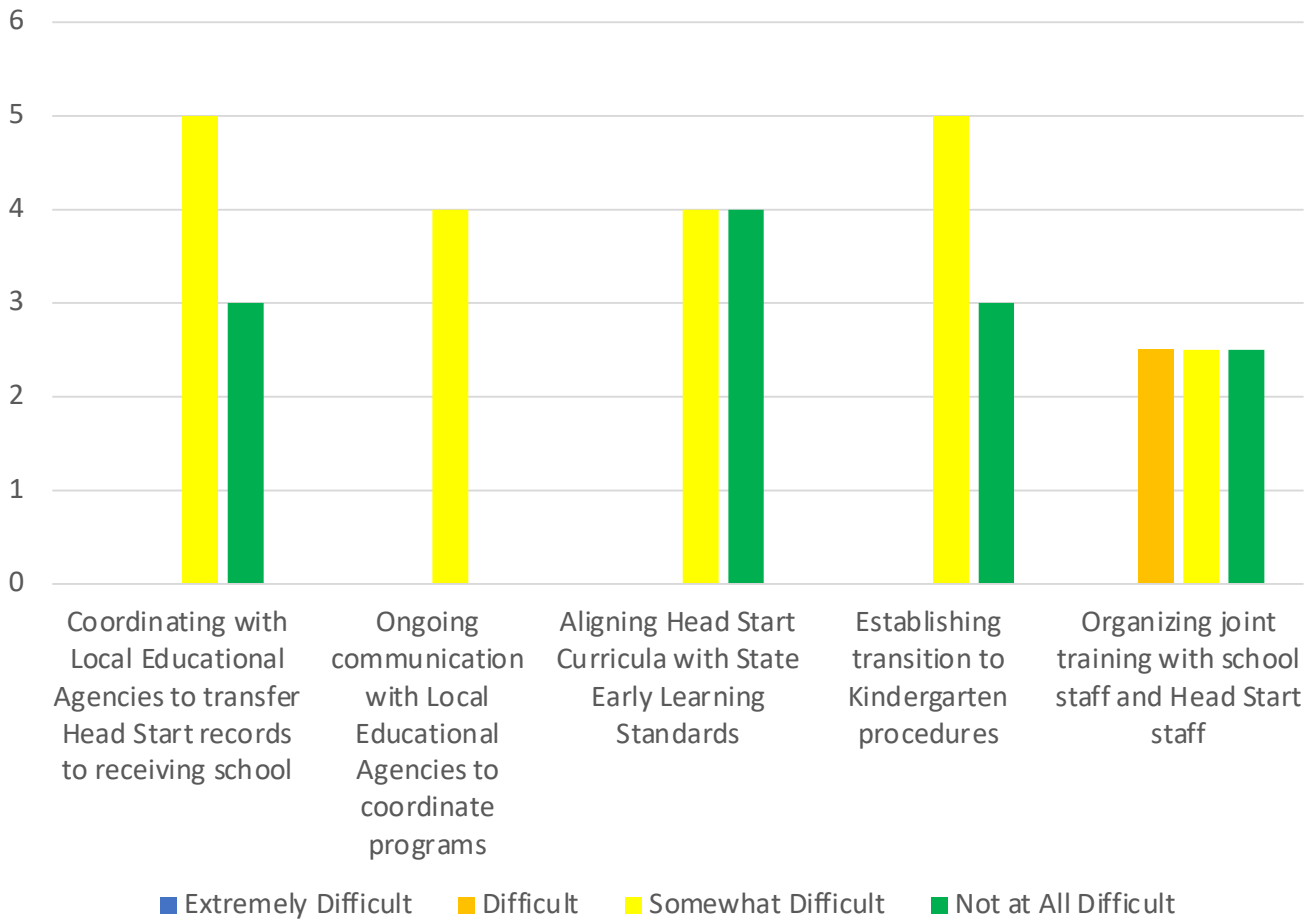


**Successes:**  
 Excellent relationship with the Office of Child Care  
 Head Start is able to offer a longer day  
 Providing parents with readily accessible list of child care providers  
 Several successful partnerships with child care centers

**Challenges:**  
 Finding interested child care partners  
 Embracing collaboration as Head Start moves to a longer day  
 Guidelines differ  
 Navigating braided funding

**Suggestions to strengthen relationships with child care providers:**  
 Develop an Online Platform accessing and sharing resources  
 Workshops and Training Sessions  
 Implement a mentorship system to facilitate informal knowledge sharing

**HEAD START RESPONDENTS RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS ABOUT KINDERGARTEN TRANSITIONS AND ALIGNMENT**



**Successes:**  
Great relationships with Local Educational Agencies  
60% of Utah Head Start programs submit Pre-Kindergarten entry/exit assessment data to their Local Educational Agency

**Challenges:**  
Coordinating transfer of Head Start records to receiving schools  
District staff turnover  
Establishing Kindergarten transition procedures  
15% of Utah Head Start programs receive Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade entry/exit assessment data from their Local Education Agency

**Suggestions:**  
Organize joint training with Local Educational Agencies

***HEAD START Respondents identified the following areas of support needed from The Head Start Collaboration Office:***

Resources and training opportunities about data-driven decision making

Resources and training about child and family-centered diverse and inclusive practices

Improving outcomes for dually enrolled children with an IEP or IFSP, experiencing homelessness and in Foster Care

Forming mutually beneficial working relationships with stakeholders

Resources for Behavior that is Challenging

Making connections with the Utah State Board of Education to access student outcome data

Being recognized in the State Childcare system as high quality programs

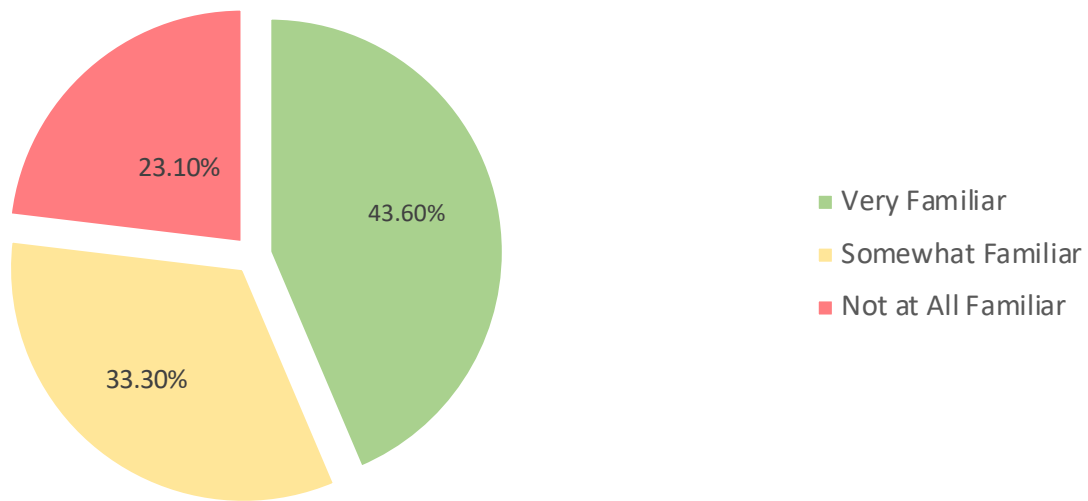
Strengthening relationships with child care providers/educators (Statewide)

Continued engagement in effective data sharing across State systems

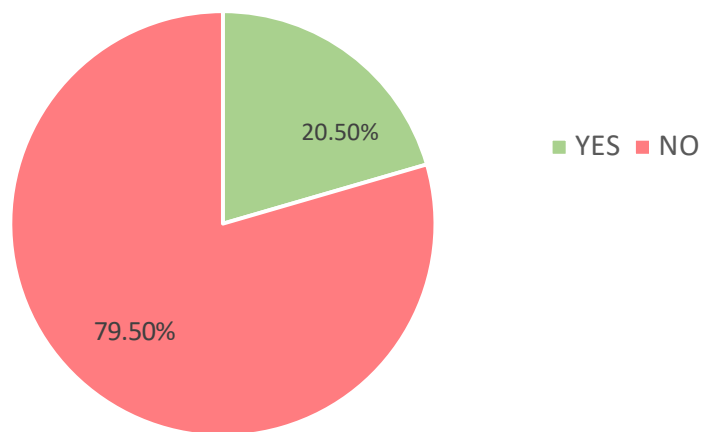


**STAKEHOLDERS, STATE AGENCIES, CHILDCARE PROVIDERS AND EDUCATORS RESPONDED TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

**How familiar are you with Utah Head Start programs?**



**Have you or your organization collaborated with Head Start?**



**STAKEHOLDERS, STATE AGENCIES, CHILDCARE PROVIDERS  
AND EDUCATORS RESPONDED TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

**How satisfied are you with the level of communication and collaboration  
with the Head Start programs?**

28% Of Respondents are not at all satisfied  
55% Of Respondents are somewhat satisfied  
17% Of Respondents very satisfied

**What type of collaboration opportunities would you like to see  
offered by Head Start programs in the future?**

Joint training sessions and workshops  
Shared resources and materials  
Parent/family engagement activities  
Policy advocacy efforts

**How do you utilize Head Start data in your agency, private daycare center,  
or program?**

5% Of Respondents use Head Start data to apply for grants  
5% Of Respondents use Head Start data in their agency or program needs assessment  
10% Of Respondents use Head Start data for agency or program planning purposes  
50% Of Respondents do NOT use Head Start data but they inform families about local Head Start program  
information  
30% Of Respondents are unsure if they use Head Start data  
7.7% Of Respondents use Head Start data to support transitions between programs

**What barriers have you encountered when collaborating with Head  
Start?**

None so far. Each agency has been engaging and helpful.  
People with really busy schedules that have limited time to collaborate.  
None. This collaboration is key for us.  
Do not know how to contact Head Start programs  
Language

**STAKEHOLDERS, STATE AGENCIES, CHILDCARE PROVIDERS AND  
EDUCATOR RESPONDENTS SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING FOR  
IMPROVING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THEIR  
ORGANIZATION/PROGRAM AND THE UTAH HEAD START PROGRAMS**

We should mutually support each other.

Regular meeting(s) at least once a year

Maintain the momentum that currently exists with ASQ, ECIDS, USBE, etc.

I would suggest we have a meeting between Head Start in OCC and the Home Visiting Program to begin building a relationship and exploring what we can do together.

I think collaboration with Head Start is difficult because the grantees have different priorities that are not always in alignment. Some are more aware of their part in the larger early childhood system than others

Strengthen communication

Contact daycare providers personally and ask them if they have any children that could benefit from Head Start

More information and current, relevant newsletters to inform providers of what's going on