

# HSCO

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## Head Start Collaboration Office

Informational  
Webinar  
July 17<sup>th</sup>  
2:30 PM EST



# History of Head Start Collaboration Offices



- Head Start Collaboration Offices are established through grants to states, DC and PR (with separate grants for Collaboration Offices for the AIAN and Migrant Seasonal Head Start programs)

**1990:** 12 state pilot project

**1997:** All states plus DC and PR

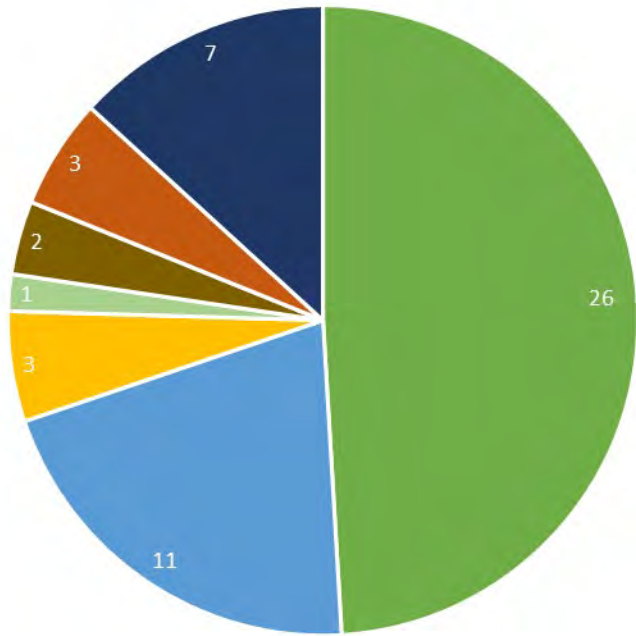
**2007:** AIAN and MSHS added

# Head Start Act of 2007



- Head Start Collaboration Offices (HSCOs) are funded through Section 642B of the 2007 Head Start Act
- The Head Start Act clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the Head Start Collaboration Office and its director
- The Act also expressly states that the Lead Agency receiving Collaboration Grants is responsible for ensuring that the Collaboration Director has sufficient authority and access to fulfill the legislative requirements set out in Section 624B.

# Locations of Collaboration Offices



Education, Early Learning, or Early Childhood

Governor's office

Other type of entity (e.g., agency, department, bureau)

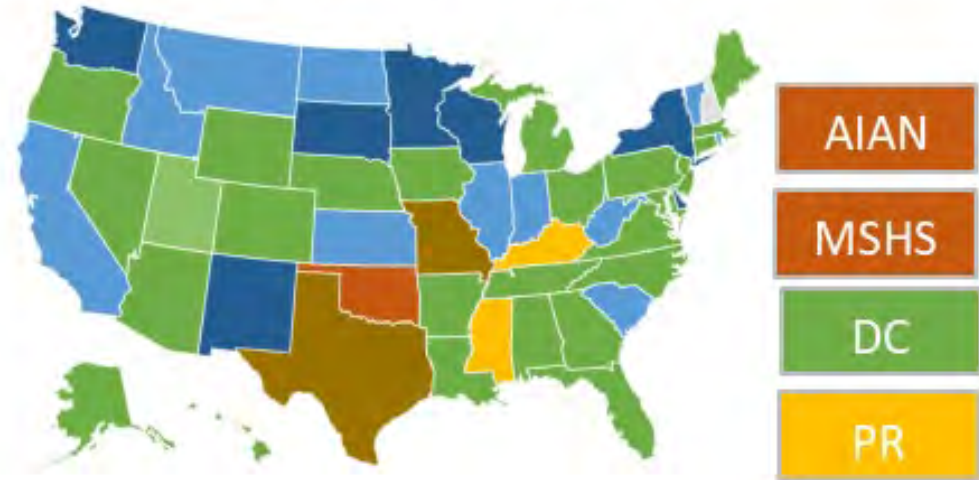
Workforce/Commerce

Health, Human and/or Social Services

Non-Profit

University

Where HSCOs are Housed



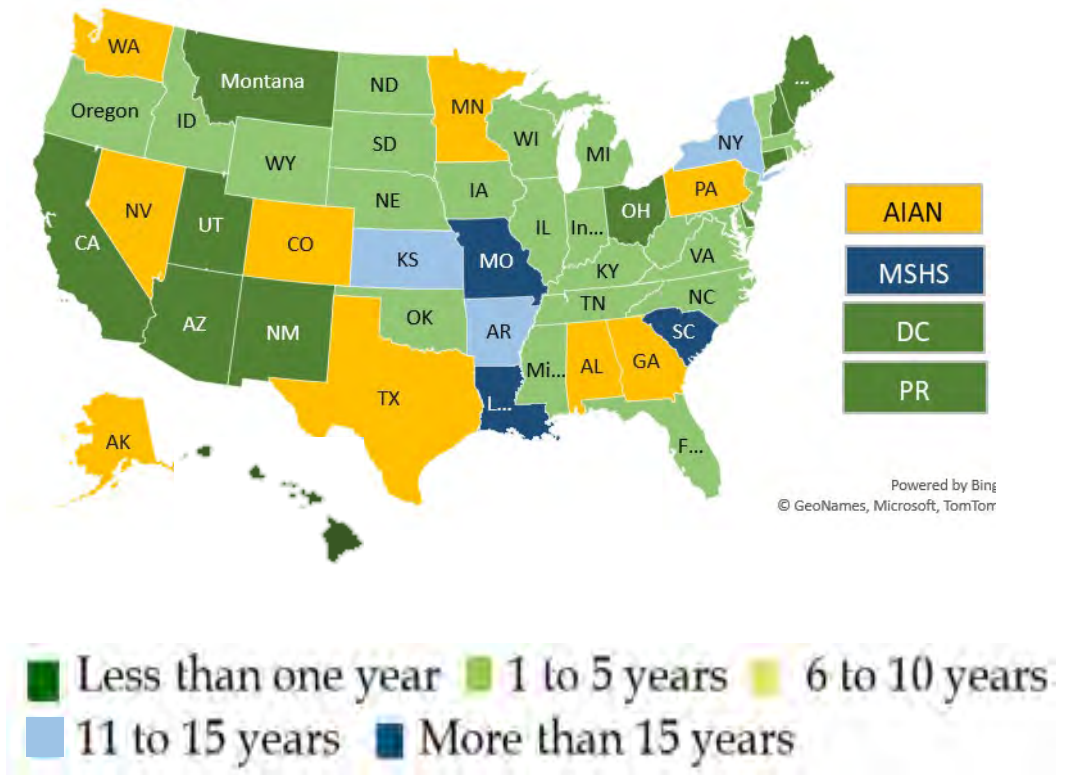


# HSCO Demographics



- Despite the importance of their work, turnover is frequent among HSCOs
- 14 HSCOs are new to the position in the past year
- Funding for HSCO grants is limited by the 2007 Head Start Act
- Most collaboration offices consist of only 1 staff member- the Director

Length of Time HSCO Director has been in the role



# Why HSCOs are Important



With structure and support from the Office of Head Start, HSCOs are intended to:

- Strengthen early childhood systems
- Improve access to services and supports
- Encourage and facilitate collaboration between Head Start and other programs and services
- Communicate and share information
- Augment Head Start's capacity to partner on state initiatives
- Facilitate the involvement of Head Start in state policies, including participating on state early childhood advisory council

# Who HSCOs Work With



- State Agencies
- Stakeholders in the state
- School Districts
- Local Head Start Programs
- State and National Head Start Associations
- Regional Head Start Offices
- Federal Central Office of Head Start



# What HSCOs Do



HSCOs work with a variety of stakeholders, policymakers and systems initiatives

## Early Care and Education System

- Help to crosswalk child care and Head Start regulations
- Participate in State Advisory Councils
- Work on alignment efforts in their state systems
- Coordinate availability and accessibility of ECE such as child care subsidies to families



## School Readiness and Pre-K

- Work with State Education Agencies (SEA) and state superintendents to support local partnerships
- Work on alignment of Kindergarten Entry Assessments (KEA) to Head Start
- Partner with state pre-K initiatives

See [Head Start Collaboration Office Briefs](#) for annual briefs of HSCO work



# What HSCOs Do *(Continued)*



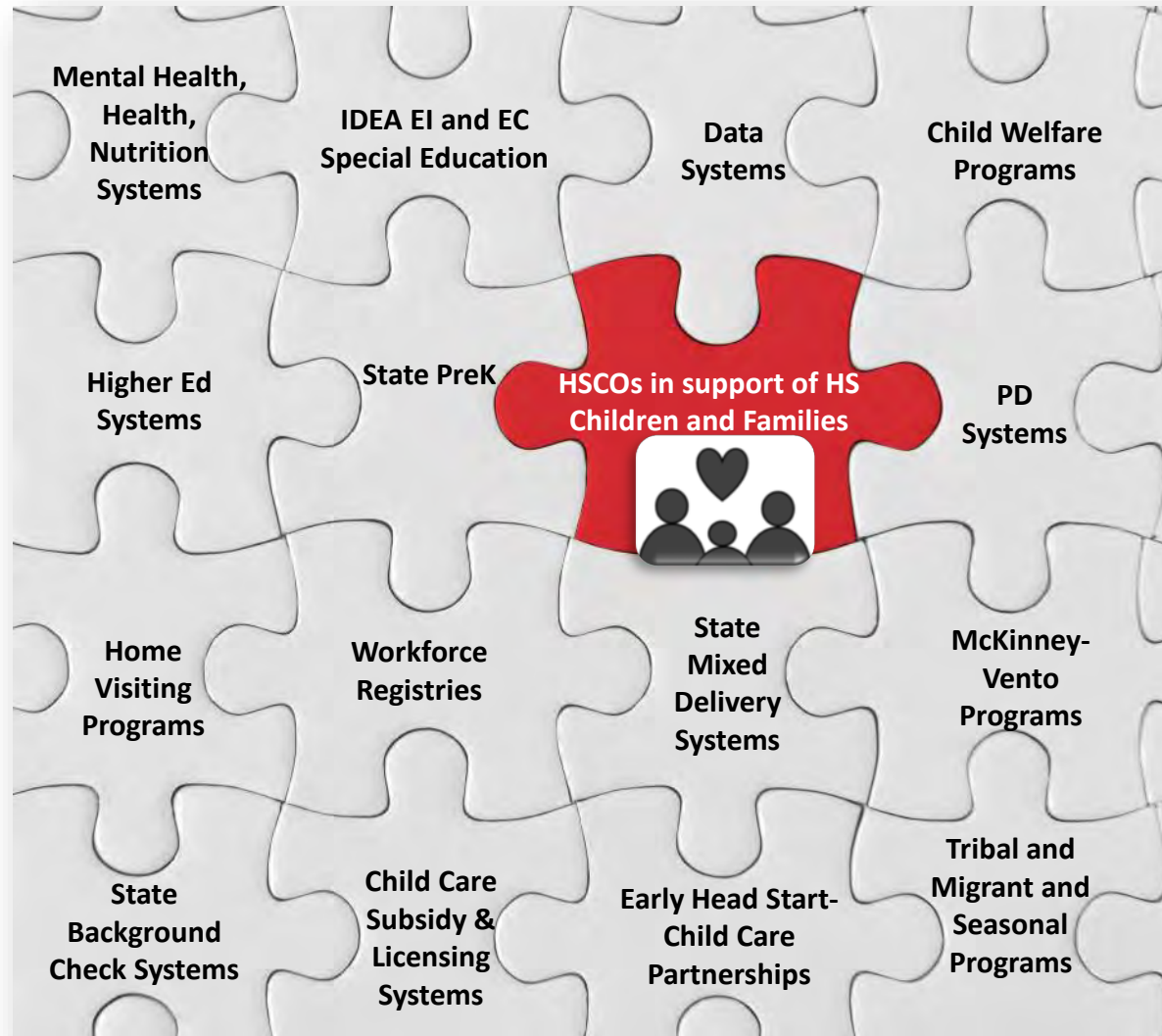
## **Data Systems**

- Ensure data systems include Head Start data including deliberate integration of Head Start data into state data systems
- Serve as a conduit between Head Start agencies and state data system
- Serve on committees to plan and develop state data systems

## **Professional Development**

- Serve on statewide bodies tasked with reviewing state coursework and degree options
- Work with state childcare registries to ensure training is appropriate and accessible
- Assist colleges and universities to form articulation agreements
- Work on state core knowledge and competencies for ECE professionals

# The Role of Head Start in State Early Care and Education Systems



HSCOs support Head Start children, families and programs by connecting Head Start to a variety of state systems, programs and initiatives

# Contact Us

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For more info on HSCOs, see:  
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/state-collaboration/article/head-start-collaboration-offices-state-systems>

