

**Head Start 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Leading the Way... in Community Partnerships**

[Music]

President Lyndon Johnson: Today we're able to announce that we will have open and, we believe, operating this summer, coast to coast, some 2,000 child development centers. This means that nearly half the preschool children of poverty will get a head start on their future.

Kathy Colfer: We need to tap into all available resources, including local, because our goal is to enhance existing services or to partner to bring needed services to a community. Braiding and blending of federal and state resources alone does not fund the full cost of high-quality services. Formation of these meaningful relationships is vital. It is important that these relationships are not only formed with parents, but with community representatives, school districts, and other agencies. We need those non-traditional voices to be our advocates for early care and education.

One example of our work is called our Community Contribution Campaign, in which we communicate with every town in our service area about quality and ask for financial contribution. In our communications, we talk about how quality service for their vulnerable and youngest citizens benefits the town. We talk about the number of children and families served by a town, and we also talk about the budget gap for child and family.

The higher education community is also a great partner. We have provided on-campus Early Head Start services at our local community college; and in turn, they provided free space, support for teacher salaries, and funding to assist parents with their child care fees. Some examples of our success is funding for facilities, technology support, and to provide our program with funding for the difference between the cost of care and the market rates so that over-income families can access high-quality programming.

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