



Yasmina S. Vinci, Executive Director, National Head Start Association

A seasoned leader in both executive and policy roles, Yasmina Vinci's professional experience and capabilities have delivered improvements in the lives of children at the national, state, and local levels. Yasmina comes to the National Head Start Association after several years as principal and founder of EDGE Consulting Partners. At EDGE, Yasmina pursued local, national and global projects that utilized the knowledge, experience, and connections of her years in human services and early education, to enhance the capacity of organizations to thrive as competent, strategic entities capable of influencing policy. Yasmina founded EDGE after receiving her Master in Public Administration degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Yasmina brings to her new role over ten years of executive director experience at national organizations. As the first Executive Director of the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA), she led NACCRRRA's transition from an all-volunteer association of less than 200 child care resource and referral agencies to a powerful national network of 860+ community-based organizations. In this role, she worked with affiliate organizations, other national advocacy and research organizations, the press, federal and state governments, and the US Congress to implement NACCRRRA's system-building public policy agenda on early care and education. Under her leadership, NACCRRRA organized the national grassroots campaign that was instrumental to securing the funding for child care in the welfare reform legislation.

A deep understanding of child care issues and challenges at the most local level informs Yasmina's experiences. She began her career as the Executive Director of an inner city child care center and, prior to joining NACCRRRA, Yasmina was the Manager of Special Projects in the New Jersey Department of Human Services where she managed the Dependent Care Grant, coordinated the development New Jersey's initial plan for the implementation of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, and supervised a number of research, immunization and Head Start-related projects.

Yasmina's board impact has also been substantial and varied. In addition to holding leadership positions on the governing Boards of the National School Age Care Alliance, the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, United Way, YWCA, Alliance for Work Life Progress, ARC and others, she has also served on numerous advisory boards and task forces, and for nine years was Commissioner on the National Head Start Fellowship Commission.

Currently, Yasmina serves on the Governing Board of the Council for Professional Recognition, the Board of the Children's Investment Fund, the Advisory Board of Boston EQUIP, and the National Advisory Board for the Family Initiative of Legal Momentum and the Advisory Board for Bright Horizons Family Solutions.