

Our mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.

2016 Head Start Military Families Fact Sheet

662,013

Children birth to five with a parent in the military (active duty or reserve)

6,533

Head Start children with a parent that is on active duty in the military

7,183

Head Start children with a parent that is a veteran of the military

Giving military families a Head Start...



Active duty and reserve duty families have access to child care through the DoD. The DoD Child Development Program serves approximately 200,000 children in centers and family homes both on- and off-installation.

States with the most military families served by Head Start

1,431 California

1,123 Texas

658 Michigan

559 Ohio

501 Pennsylvania

Highest percentage of military families served by Head Start

6.8% Hawaii

4.4% Arkansas

4.3% North Dakota

3.3% Montana

3.0% Idaho



“For my children, Head Start was a constant even though their dad was deployed. Head Start was also there to help when their family was all together, to help them become stronger, through family events such as special classes on being a military family and how to better parent your child. I feel that our family was strengthened by the support and understanding of being a military family.”

Kylee Allen, Washington

Community Partnership for Child Development

El Paso County, Colorado

CPCD partners with the family-serving organization on base, which refers families who can benefit from Head Start or Early Head Start to the program. CPCD also trains staff on the specific needs of the military population, such as understanding deployment cycles and the services that are available for families both on and off the installation.

1,165 children served: 174 of active military parents, 77 of veterans



Community Action Planning Council, Inc.

Watertown, New York

CAPC offers a “home base program,” wherein certified Head Start home visitors go directly to Fort Drum to work with children and families.

275 children served: 29 of active military parents, 8 of veterans



Santa Rosa School District Head Start

Milton, Florida

Santa Rosa employs a military counselor to work with families twice a week. Counselors address issues specific to military families, such as preparing for deployment.

To celebrate “Month of the Military Child” in April, Santa Rosa schools celebrate with events such as parades and runs to show support for the area’s growing military population.

280 children served: 31 of active military parents, 1 of a veteran



About NHSA

The National Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization committed to the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life. NHSA is the voice for more than 1 million children, 200,000 staff and 1,600 Head Start grantees in the United States.

For more info, please contact us: go.nhsa.org/Contact.



For citations and other state fact sheets, please visit www.nhsa.org/Fact-Sheets



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