

Head Start is a federally-funded, locally-run early childhood development program that provides comprehensive services for America’s most vulnerable children and their families.

2017 Alabama Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Alabama

13,462

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



29% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

2,112

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



5% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **910 classrooms** in Alabama.

By the numbers:

\$138,647,275

FY17 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in AL

26 Head Start programs

17 Early Head Start programs



Photo: A Head Start parent from Oakland, California with her child.

“My middle child was struggling with some developmental delays. At the time, I had a full-time job, but I could not work full-time and take him to all of his appointments so I had to go down to part-time. Head Start was so good to my son; I felt comfortable enough with his progress that I went back to work full-time. I could not have done this without a good network of support.”

Katy G.
Parent
Scottsboro, Alabama

The Head Start Advantage

Head Start children **reduce their vocabulary deficit by 38%** during the program year.

Head Start children are **31% less likely to have been held back** a grade.

Head Start children are **19% less likely to smoke** as adults.

High quality birth-to-five programs, like the combination of EHS and HS, **pay off 13% per year.**

Alabama’s Head Start Workforce



4,125

HS and EHS jobs in Alabama

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only **\$28,927** per year.

In Alabama...



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slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



298

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



91

children in foster care were served by Head Start



239

children with veteran / active military parents were served by Head Start



358

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



5,298

families participated in health education



16,170

children had continuous accessible health care



15,303

children had continuous access to dental care



1,464

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



2,424

parents advanced their education level



1,155

families received job training



225

pregnant women were served by Early Head Start

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 information, please contact us: [go.nhsa.org/Contact](https://www.nhsa.org/Contact).

*Eligible is defined as children from birth to age five who are from families with incomes below the poverty level, are homeless, and/or receive public assistance. Foster children are eligible regardless of their foster family's income.

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



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