

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 Alaska Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Alaska

2,540

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



49% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

567

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



7% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **180 classrooms** in Alaska.

By the numbers:

\$18,195,463

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

5 Head Start programs

4 Early Head Start programs



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

"It means so much to not have to worry about my daughter while I advance my career so that my family can be and do better. When I get through my program, I'll be a registered nurse. We won't qualify for Head Start anymore, but we won't need to. Head Start is helping my daughter now, but they don't know that they're helping her next year when she wants to do ballet and I'll be able to do that for her."

Raechyl T.
Parent
Mountain View, Alaska

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.**

Alaska's Head Start Workforce



962

HS and EHS jobs in Alaska

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$39,104** per year.

In Alaska...



1,797

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



223

children in foster care were served by Head Start



226

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



327

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



960

families participated in health education



3,185

children had continuous accessible health care



2,725

children had continuous access to dental care



406

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



403

parents advanced their education level



113

families received job training



29

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



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

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