

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 Arkansas Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Arkansas

7,894

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



28% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

2,230

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



12% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **781 classrooms** in Arkansas.

By the numbers:

\$93,822,428

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

22 Head Start programs

17 Early Head Start programs



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

"When I got divorced, I found myself with three kids and no support to help with day care so I could work. Because of Head Start, I was able to raise my family up out of poverty when I started my own business and developed a magazine for the state of Arkansas. My hope is that everyone understands how vital this program is to the success of our communities."

Rachel C.
Parent
Corning, Arkansas

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.**

Arkansas's Head Start Workforce



3,411

HS and EHS jobs in Arkansas

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$30,137** per year.

In Arkansas...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



365

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



175

children in foster care were served by Head Start



132

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



480

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



4,475

families participated in health education



11,479

children had continuous accessible health care



10,620

children had continuous access to dental care



1,832

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



1,489

parents advanced their education level



941

families received job training



172

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.