

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 Colorado Head Start Profile



## Access to Head Start in Colorado

**9,162**

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



41% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS\*

**1,806**

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



11% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS\*

These slots filled **835 classrooms** in Colorado.

## By the numbers:

**\$92,374,610**

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

**41** Head Start programs

**20** Early Head Start programs



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

"Head Start has helped with the learning process. Being that I work two jobs to maintain a comfortable life, the only time I get to spend teaching my kids is the weekends. With Head Start, they have a curriculum so I have something to work on with them at home."

**Tierra G.**  
Parent  
Aurora, Colorado

## 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.**

## Colorado's Head Start Workforce



**3,427**

HS and EHS jobs in Colorado

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$34,808** per year.

## In Colorado...



188

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



605

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



337

children in foster care were served by Head Start



405

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



1,082

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



5,314

families participated in health education



12,362

children had continuous accessible health care



11,703

children had continuous access to dental care



1,636

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



1,250

parents advanced their education level



451

families received job training



167

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](https://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.