

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 District of Columbia Head Start Profile



### Access to Head Start in the District of Columbia

**2,309**

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



**57%** of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS\*

**980**

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



**19%** of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS\*

These slots filled **468 classrooms** in the District of Columbia.

### By the numbers:

**\$33,081,083**

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

**5** Head Start programs

**8** Early Head Start programs



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

"While in home-based Head Start with my child, I was looking for a new job but didn't know where to begin. The workforce development manager at Head Start helped me create a resume and look for open positions. After I was hired for an initial job, I went through a special certification course and now I work in an even higher-paid position."

**Ms. Green**  
Parent  
Washington, D.C.

### 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.**

### The District of Columbia's Head Start Workforce



**1,275**

HS and EHS jobs in the District of Columbia

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$69,583** per year.

## In the District of Columbia...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



35

children in foster care were served by Head Start



77

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



461

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



1,047

families participated in health education



6,256

children had continuously accessible health care



5,644

children had continuous access to dental care



846

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



804

parents advanced their education level



290

families received job training



131

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)



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.