

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 Florida Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Florida

34,217

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



22% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

7,701

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



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

These slots filled **2,851 classrooms** in Florida.

By the numbers:

\$369,118,674

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

60 Head Start programs

55 Early Head Start programs



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

"I was a single mom with 2 children. I was unemployed and not sure how I could afford childcare to even go to work. After I applied and both of my children were accepted to Head Start, I was able to work with my Family Advocate who talked to me about my future. I was grateful for the opportunity to have my children in a safe place while I got started on my career."

Rebecca R.
Parent
Sarasota, Florida

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.**

Florida's Head Start Workforce



11,053

HS and EHS jobs in Florida

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$35,154** per year.

In Florida...



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slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



3,179

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



283

children in foster care were served by Head Start



380

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



1,372

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



21,993

families participated in health education



47,088

children had continuously accessible health care



42,761

children had continuous access to dental care



5,143

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



7,967

parents advanced their education level



4,702

families received job training



586

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.