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 Illinois Head Start Profile

#### Access to Head Start in Illinois

32,132

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots

7,663

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots

39% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

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

These slots filled 2,508 classrooms in Illinois.

"I found myself divorced with two children. I wanted to go back and get my college degree, but limited funds and unaffordable/unreliable daycare was a real problem. Head Start staff came to my door one day recruiting for the program. By enrolling my children in Head Start, I was able to attend college which helped me to later obtain a management position."

**Denise C.**  
Parent  
Mt. Sterling, Illinois

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#### By the numbers:

$347,588,798

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

82

Head Start programs

87

Early Head Start programs

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#### 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.

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#### Illinois’s Head Start Workforce

9,188

HS and EHS jobs in Illinois

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only $34,314 per year.
In Illinois...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>345</td>
<td>345 children with veteran / active military parents were served by Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,477</td>
<td>2,064 children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45,126</td>
<td>45,126 children had continuously accessible health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40,316</td>
<td>40,316 children had continuous access to dental care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,667</td>
<td>2,667 parents advanced their education level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,436</td>
<td>3,436 families received job training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,037</td>
<td>5,037 children with disabilities were served by Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>919</td>
<td>919 children in foster care were served by Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>558</td>
<td>558 pregnant women were served by Early Head Start</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

*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.