

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 Louisiana Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Louisiana

17,041

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



34% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

2,356

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



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

These slots filled **1,344 classrooms** in Louisiana.

By the numbers:

\$183,253,006

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

48 Head Start programs

22 Early Head Start programs



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

“My child attended Head Start and that allowed me to go back to school. Head Start encouraged me all the way. I was able to obtain my GED and I went on to Phlebotomy school, I have obtained my CDA and I have some courses towards my associate’s degree. Now I am a full time employee. My Family Service Worker pushed and encouraged me to be all that I could be.”

Audrey C.
Parent
Franklinton, Louisiana

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.**

Louisiana’s Head Start Workforce



4,782

HS and EHS jobs in Louisiana

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only **\$32,168** per year.

In Louisiana...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



215

children in foster care were served by Head Start



205

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



573

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



6,855

families participated in health education



21,403

children had continuously accessible health care



20,482

children had continuous access to dental care



2,156

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



4,658

parents advanced their education level



2,701

families received job training



168

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.