

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 Maine Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Maine

2,377

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



25% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

790

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



16% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **258 classrooms** in Maine.

By the numbers:

\$34,375,412

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

11 Head Start programs

13 Early Head Start programs



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

"Shortly after my son began Head Start, I enrolled as a pregnant mom with my daughter. Head Start helped both of my children; they both got the speech help they needed. Head Start has not just helped my children, but has helped myself in so many ways. Head Start has helped finance my education so that I can better myself as a teacher and employer."

Sara S.
Parent
Rumford, Maine

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.**

Maine's Head Start Workforce



1,379

HS and EHS jobs in Maine

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$29,689** per year.

In Maine...



60

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



217

children in foster care were served by Head Start



150

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



192

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



2,492

families participated in health education



3,847

children had continuous accessible health care



2,968

children had continuous access to dental care



678

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



290

parents advanced their education level



208

families received job training



66

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



Our mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.