

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 Massachusetts Head Start Profile



## Access to Head Start in Massachusetts

10,114

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



29% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS\*

1,903

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



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

These slots filled **731 classrooms** in Massachusetts.

## By the numbers:

\$136,229,557

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

28 Head Start programs

23 Early Head Start programs



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

"My young family was struggling. I had fled a violent spouse with nothing more than a suitcase and two small ones. A friend mentioned Head Start as a source for a preschool slot. In six months' time, I had an apartment and a job. Head Start was a lifesaver. My children got an education and care that I could count on. I got to work and provide for my family."

**Peg L.**  
Parent  
Gloucester, Massachusetts

## 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.**

## Massachusetts's Head Start Workforce



4,072

HS and EHS jobs in Massachusetts

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$32,847** per year.

## In Massachusetts...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



125

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



425

children in foster care were served by Head Start



115

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



1,163

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



8,219

families participated in health education



15,071

children had continuous accessible health care



13,460

children had continuous access to dental care



2,211

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



2,058

parents advanced their education level



819

families received job training



154

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.