

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 Mississippi Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Mississippi

21,582

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



65% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

2,725

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



6% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **1,417 classrooms** in Mississippi.

By the numbers:

\$194,304,926

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

17 Head Start programs

19 Early Head Start programs



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

"My daughter attends Head Start on the Indian Reservation. My husband and I work full-time, so we are not able to be with our children like we want to. We really appreciate the Head Start program. As a parent, I feel comfortable leaving my child with the teachers all day. My daughter loves to go to school every day and when she gets home, she immediately starts talking about what she learned."

Tia G.
Parent
Carthage, Mississippi

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.**

Mississippi's Head Start Workforce



6,244

HS and EHS jobs in Mississippi

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$22,347** per year.

In Mississippi...



276

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



221

children in foster care were served by Head Start



258

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



162

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



10,146

families participated in health education



24,744

children had continuous accessible health care



24,398

children had continuous access to dental care



2,335

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



4,000

parents advanced their education level



3,155

families received job training



344

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.