

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 Missouri Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Missouri

11,302

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



28% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

3,028

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



4% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **959 classrooms** in Missouri.

By the numbers:

\$160,068,544

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

25 Head Start programs

28 Early Head Start programs



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

"I heard about Head Start through friends and family. So many of their children went to Head Start. I got the information and I am glad that I did. Head Start has changed the life of my family and gave me a new outlook on life. I was able to work full time, provide for my family, and put myself through school."

Eleanor W.
Parent
Kansas City, Missouri

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.**

Missouri's Head Start Workforce



4,668

HS and EHS jobs in Missouri

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$28,538** per year.

In Missouri...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



700

children in foster care were served by Head Start



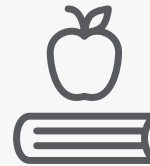
352

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



1,130

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



7,737

families participated in health education



17,749

children had continuously accessible health care



15,955

children had continuous access to dental care



2,188

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



1,977

parents advanced their education level



503

families received job training



432

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.