

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 Montana Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Montana

3,719

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



47% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

885

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



17% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **314 classrooms** in Montana.

By the numbers:

\$30,401,304

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

13 Head Start programs

8 Early Head Start programs



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

"Head Start helped both me and my two children. I knew they were in good hands when I went to work and were receiving a great early learning experience in a wonderful environment. Both of my children attended Head Start and both are now exceeding their expectations in elementary school due to the knowledge they gained. Head Start is a wonderful first step for any child's future."

Shelli C.
Parent
Cut Bank, Montana

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.**

Montana's Head Start Workforce



1,418

HS and EHS jobs in Montana

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$27,150** per year.

In Montana...



1,553

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



352

children in foster care were served by Head Start



198

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



624

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



2,456

families participated in health education



4,738

children had continuously accessible health care



4,684

children had continuous access to dental care



663

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



859

parents advanced their education level



241

families received job training



79

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.