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 National Head Start Profile**

**Access to Head Start in the United States**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funded Head Start (HS) Slots</th>
<th>Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>732,711</td>
<td>154,352</td>
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</table>

31% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS

7% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS

These slots filled 57,083 classrooms in the United States.

**By the numbers:**

- **$9,574,923,948** FY17 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships
- 1,608 Head Start programs
- 1,398 Early Head Start programs

**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.

"Head Start was my chance for success. My family included a single mom and six siblings. Only the two youngest, my sister and I, attended Head Start. The four oldest have either been incarcerated, struggled with drug addiction, had trouble maintaining a job, or passed away. My sister is a successful court reporter. I have served as a military officer, state agency head, and speaker for the State Department. What was the discriminating factor? I contend it was Head Start."

Chuck Mills
Head Start Alum

**The National Head Start Workforce**

- 239,567 HS and EHS jobs in the United States
- The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only **$33,373** per year.
- High quality birth-to-five programs, like the combination of EHS and HS, pay off 13% per year.
In the United States...

- 22,263 slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children
- 14,798 children with veteran / active military parents were served by Head Start
- 1,021,102 children had continuously accessible health care
- 128,804 parents advanced their education level
- 30,580 slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children
- 47,714 children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start
- 944,808 children had continuous access to dental care
- 67,348 families received job training
- 26,109 children in foster care were served by Head Start
- 132,869 children with disabilities were served by Head Start
- 404,950 families participated in health education
- 15,290 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.

*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.