

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

732,711

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



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

154,352

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



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

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

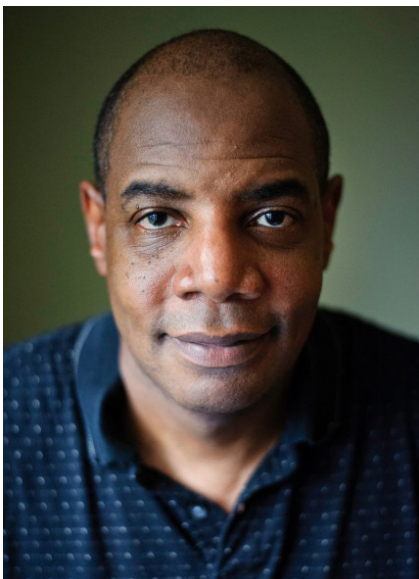
By the numbers:

\$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



"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 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.**

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.

In the United States...



22,263

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



30,580

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



26,109

children in foster care were served by Head Start



14,798

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



47,714

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



404,950

families participated in health education



1,021,102

children had continuously accessible health care



944,808

children had continuous access to dental care



132,869

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



128,804

parents advanced their education level



67,348

families received job training



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](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.