

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 New Jersey Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in New Jersey

12,020

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



34% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

3,007

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



9% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **1,073 classrooms** in New Jersey.

By the numbers:

\$168,528,955

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

26 Head Start programs

27 Early Head Start programs



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

“When I became involved with Head Start, I was a newly divorced, single parent of 4 daughters. I needed to support my family and Head Start gave me the opportunity to do just that. I was able to re-enter the work force knowing that my child was going to be well cared for.”

Catherine C.
Parent
Bayville, New Jersey

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.**

New Jersey’s Head Start Workforce



4,164

HS and EHS jobs in New Jersey

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only **\$43,493** per year.

In New Jersey...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



87

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



181

children in foster care were served by Head Start



93

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



695

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



5,810

families participated in health education



15,646

children had continuous accessible health care



14,767

children had continuous access to dental care



1,302

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



1,549

parents advanced their education level



865

families received job training



531

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.