

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 North Carolina Head Start Profile



## Access to Head Start in North Carolina

**17,845**

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



**22%** of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS\*

**4,214**

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



**5%** of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS\*

These slots filled **1,496 classrooms** in North Carolina.

## By the numbers:

**\$206,281,897**

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

**46** Head Start programs

**37** Early Head Start programs



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

"Head Start played a very influential role in my life. As a Head Start parent (single, living in public housing, and receiving government assistance), I was encouraged by my case manager to further my education. Today, I possess a BA and a master's, and I am an active board member of a community resource agency. Head Start not only gives children a Head Start, but the parents as well."

**Serena R.**  
Parent  
Greenville, North Carolina

## 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.**

## North Carolina's Head Start Workforce



**5,626**

HS and EHS jobs in North Carolina

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$28,799** per year.

## In North Carolina...



**230**

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



**748**

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



**420**

children in foster care were served by Head Start



**480**

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



**1,354**

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



**10,200**

families participated in health education



**24,697**

children had continuously accessible health care



**21,615**

children had continuous access to dental care



**2,968**

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



**4,171**

parents advanced their education level



**1,781**

families received job training



**272**

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](https://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.