

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 Pennsylvania Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Pennsylvania

25,936

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



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

5,877

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



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

These slots filled **2,047 classrooms** in Pennsylvania.

By the numbers:

\$298,378,955

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

56 Head Start programs

60 Early Head Start programs



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

"When I was 22, I was uneducated, lacked self-esteem, and had no hope of ever going off welfare. I was afraid to try to get a job with the little skill and education I had. Head Start encouraged me to participate in groups they offered for parents. They helped me with refresher courses to get my GPA up. As a result, I graduated college and have been self-sufficient since 1997."

Tefoni M.
Head Start Parent

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.**

Pennsylvania's Head Start Workforce



8,868

HS and EHS jobs in Pennsylvania

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$39,631** per year.

In Pennsylvania...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



383

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



1,079

children in foster care were served by Head Start



669

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



1,962

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



14,359

families participated in health education



42,745

children had continuously accessible health care



38,210

children had continuous access to dental care



7,585

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



6,901

parents advanced their education level



2,262

families received job training



720

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.