

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 Puerto Rico Head Start Profile



## Access to Head Start in Puerto Rico

**30,064**

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



**48%** of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS\*

**3,539**

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



**6%** of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS\*

These slots filled **1,981 classrooms** in Puerto Rico.

## By the numbers:

**\$302,806,491**

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

**40** Head Start programs

**46** Early Head Start programs



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

"Luego de culminar mi bachillerato comenze a buscar empleo lo cual se me hizo muy dificil. Mi esposa agradadamente pudo conseguir empleo y yo me quede acargo de lo que seria el llevar y recoger a nuestro hijo al Centro de Head Start. Poco a poco y de la mano del personal de HS se creo el Grupo de Apoyo ahí fui desarrollando mis habilidades. Lo que me hizo merecedor del reconocimiento del programa como uno de los padres con mayor numero de horas de labor voluntaria."

**Edwin G. L.**  
Parent  
Villalba, Puerto Rico

## 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.**

## Puerto Rico's Head Start Workforce



**9,735**

HS and EHS jobs in Puerto Rico

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$22,546** per year.

## In Puerto Rico...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



259

children in foster care were served by Head Start



99

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



153

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



14,534

families participated in health education



34,614

children had continuously accessible health care



32,600

children had continuous access to dental care



7,082

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



2,531

parents advanced their education level



3,273

families received job training



463

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)



Our mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.