

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 Rhode Island Head Start Profile



## Access to Head Start in Rhode Island

**1,978**

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



**33%** of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS\*

**659**

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



**13%** of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS\*

These slots filled **183 classrooms** in Rhode Island.

## By the numbers:

**\$27,759,199**

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

**7** Head Start programs

**8** Early Head Start programs



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

"Our daughter was born 3 months early. In addition to her hospital stay, doctor's visits, and medical equipment, we had a son to care for. These expenses meant that our daughter could not attend preschool. But then a flyer came home from our son's school about Head Start. Head Start has allowed us both to send our daughter to preschool and to work to support our family."

**Sara and Chris W.**  
Parent  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

## 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.**

## Rhode Island's Head Start Workforce



**992**

HS and EHS jobs in Rhode Island

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$41,084** per year.

## In Rhode Island...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



126

children in foster care were served by Head Start



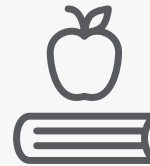
54

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



83

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



2,632

families participated in health education



3,471

children had continuous accessible health care



3,155

children had continuous access to dental care



503

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



246

parents advanced their education level



143

families received job training



39

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.