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 Tennessee Head Start Profile

Access to Head Start in Tennessee

15,333
Funded Head Start (HS) Slots

2,257
Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots

24% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

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

These slots filled 1,184 classrooms in Tennessee.

By the numbers:

$150,487,100
FY17 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in TN

23
Head Start programs

22
Early Head Start programs

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.

Tennessee’s Head Start Workforce

4,009
HS and EHS jobs in Tennessee

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only $30,837 per year.

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

“I had no idea 15 years ago that my life would change when my daughter enrolled in Early Head Start. It has amazed me how I was financially unstable and only had a high school degree that I would ever be where I am today: not struggling, with two degrees and a CDA. I worked hard to be where I am; for four years, I maintained a full-time job and was a full-time student to complete my degrees.”

Melissa A.
Parent
Tennessee
### In Tennessee...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children</td>
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<tr>
<td>220 children with veteran / active military parents were served by Head Start</td>
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<td>687 children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start</td>
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<td>2,404 children with disabilities were served by Head Start</td>
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<td>20,085 children had continuously accessible health care</td>
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<td>19,216 children had continuous access to dental care</td>
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<td>1,954 parents advanced their education level</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,400 families received job training</td>
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<tr>
<td>587 children in foster care were served by Head Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>8,512 families participated in health education</td>
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<tr>
<td>587 children in foster care were served by Head Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>201 pregnant women were served by Early Head Start</td>
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### 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.

*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

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