

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



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

2,257

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



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



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

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.

In Tennessee...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



240

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



587

children in foster care were served by Head Start



220

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



687

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



8,512

families participated in health education



20,085

children had continuous accessible health care



19,216

children had continuous access to dental care



2,404

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



1,954

parents advanced their education level



1,400

families received job training



201

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



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