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.

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### 2017 Texas Head Start Profile

**Access to Head Start in Texas**

- **65,446** Funded Head Start (HS) Slots
- **10,374** Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots

- **26%** of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS
- **4%** of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS

These slots filled **5,082 classrooms** in Texas.

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**By the numbers:**

- **$621,266,002** FY17 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in TX
- **88** Head Start programs
- **77** Early Head Start programs

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**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.

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**Texas’s Head Start Workforce**

- **18,641** HS and EHS jobs in Texas

  The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only **$37,463** per year.

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

"3 years ago, I became a single parent of four when their father was incarcerated. Head Start helped me work towards my long-term goals: attending school and owning a business. They helped me have a better connection between my children and me. I don’t think I would be a business owner almost done with my bachelor’s if it wasn’t for this wonderful organization."

**Khrystan W.**

Parent  
Dallas, Texas
In Texas...

- 34 slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children
- 982 children with veteran / active military parents were served by Head Start
- 81,277 children had continuously accessible health care
- 9,362 parents advanced their education level
- 5,100 slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children
- 3,588 children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start
- 81,838 children had continuous access to dental care
- 1,690 children in foster care were served by Head Start
- 81,277 children had continuously accessible health care
- 18,927 families participated in health education
- 9,362 parents advanced their education level
- 8,809 children with disabilities were served by Head Start
- 4,504 families received job training

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

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