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 Utah Head Start Profile

Access to Head Start in Utah

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Funded Head Start (HS) Slots</strong></th>
<th>5,471</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots</strong></td>
<td>1,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>29%</strong> of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9%</strong> of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*</td>
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</table>

These slots filled **398 classrooms** in Utah.

By the numbers:

- **$50,820,431** FY17 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in UT
- **8** Head Start programs
- **13** 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**.

Utah’s Head Start Workforce

- **2,064** HS and EHS jobs in Utah

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only **$26,164** per year.

“I worked hard my whole life, when mental illness overtook my (then) husband. Within a few months, he lost all our assets and bankrupted our businesses. Suddenly, with only a high school diploma, I was singularly responsible for five. As I was trying to figure out how to afford college AND daycare, I found Head Start. Now, I will complete my master’s and have several job opportunities.”

Liberty M.
Parent
Orem City, Utah

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

- 215 slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children
- 163 children with veteran / active military parents were served by Head Start
- 7,391 children had continuously accessible health care
- 1,323 parents advanced their education level
- 458 slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children
- 557 children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start
- 7,276 children had continuous access to dental care
- 318 families received job training
- 255 children in foster care were served by Head Start
- 2,815 families participated in health education
- 255 pregnant women were served by Early Head Start
- 1,246 children with disabilities were served by 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.

*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.