

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

5,471

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



29% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

1,198

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



9% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

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



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

"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

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.

In Utah...



215

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



458

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



255

children in foster care were served by Head Start



163

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



557

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



2,815

families participated in health education



7,391

children had continuous accessible health care



7,276

children had continuous access to dental care



1,246

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



1,323

parents advanced their education level



318

families received job training



157

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.