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 Virginia Head Start Profile

#### Access to Head Start in Virginia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-funded Head Start (HS) Slots</th>
<th>Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12,670</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,452</strong></td>
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</table>

25% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS

4% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS

These slots filled 931 classrooms in Virginia.

"My daughter is 18 months and can do sign language and can count to ten. She started in the infant program, and that was a blessing to me and my wife because it was hard to find a baby sitter. We even considered my wife quitting all together and staying home but we could not afford it. Thanks so much Head Start."

Adam H.
Parent
Norton, Virginia

#### 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.**

#### Virginia’s Head Start Workforce

3,698 HS and EHS jobs in Virginia

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only **$36,173** per year.
In Virginia...

0 slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children

120 slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children

238 children in foster care were served by Head Start

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

731 children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start

7,471 families participated in health education

16,811 children had continuously accessible health care

15,493 children had continuous access to dental care

2,087 children with disabilities were served by Head Start

974 parents advanced their education level

1,333 families received job training

296 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.

*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.