

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 Washington Head Start Profile



## Access to Head Start in Washington

**12,329**

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



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

**3,465**

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



**12%** of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS\*

These slots filled **1,032 classrooms** in Washington.

## By the numbers:

**\$135,531,773**

FY17 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in WA

**29** Head Start programs

**32** Early Head Start programs



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

"I had 2 children in Head Start and Early Head Start when I began my career in Social Services. Now, 20 years later, I have a stellar job as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker where I provide mental health services to military members. Head Start was one of the most nurturing and encouraging environments I've ever encountered. I grew as a parent, as a person, and as a professional."

**Jill P.**  
Parent  
Washouga, Washington

## 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.**

## Washington's Head Start Workforce



**6,082**

HS and EHS jobs in Washington

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$35,121** per year.

## In Washington...



**1,353**

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



**2,810**

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



**658**

children in foster care were served by Head Start



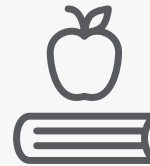
**456**

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



**1,465**

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



**8,086**

families participated in health education



**19,047**

children had continuously accessible health care



**17,602**

children had continuous access to dental care



**2,397**

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



**2,632**

parents advanced their education level



**1,073**

families received job training



**408**

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](https://www.nhsa.org/Fact-Sheets)



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

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