

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 West Virginia Head Start Profile



## Access to Head Start in West Virginia

**7,026**

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



**38%** of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS\*

**1,028**

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



**4%** of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS\*

These slots filled **757 classrooms** in West Virginia.

### By the numbers:

**\$63,546,913**

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

**21** Head Start programs

**12** Early Head Start programs



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

"I have had children in home-based EHS, center-based EHS, and HS. I have always been a working mother, and now I'm a single mother so the HS/EHS program has been such a benefit to our children. My children have adapted well to the school setting and are in a safe learning environment. The overall experience for my children has been great!"

**NaTausha W.**  
Parent  
Bluefield, West 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.**

## West Virginia's Head Start Workforce



**2,056**

HS and EHS jobs in West Virginia

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$32,669** per year.

## In West Virginia...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



481

children in foster care were served by Head Start



146

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



561

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



4,842

families participated in health education



9,121

children had continuously accessible health care



8,477

children had continuous access to dental care



1,820

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



1,281

parents advanced their education level



222

families received job training



181

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.