

Head Start is a federally-funded, locally-run preschool program that provides comprehensive services for America's most vulnerable children and their families.

2016 Illinois Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Illinois

34,521

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots

6,933

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



60% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS.



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



"I found myself divorced with two children. I wanted to go back and get my college degree, but limited funds and unaffordable/unreliable daycare was a real problem. Head Start staff came to my door one day recruiting for the program. By enrolling my children in Head Start, I was able to attend college which helped me to later obtain a management position."

Denise C., Parent
Mt. Sterling, Illinois

Illinois by the Numbers

\$349,689,761

FY16 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in Illinois

80 Head Start programs

75 Early Head Start programs

-- American Indian/Alaska Native programs

6 Migrant/Seasonal programs

2,500 Classrooms operated

864 Head Start children were in foster care

314 Head Start children with veteran/active military parents

1,977 Head Start children experiencing homelessness

Illinois's Head Start Workforce



9,255

HS and EHS jobs in Illinois

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree in Illinois makes **\$33,800** per year, compared to the **\$53,560** a kindergarten teacher makes annually.

In Illinois...



44,830

children had continuously accessible health care



41,478

children had continuous access to dental care



5,229

children were identified with special needs



3,378

parents advanced their education level



4,528

families received job training



573

pregnant women were served by Early Head Start

Head Start's Impact: the Head Start Advantage

Children who participate in Head Start programs receive innumerable benefits. These advantages appear immediately, last a lifetime, and even have an effect on other generations.

38%

Head Start children reduce their vocabulary deficit by 38% during the program year.

31%

Head Start children are 31% less likely to have been held back a grade.

19%

Head Start children are 19% less likely to smoke as adults.

13%

High quality birth-to-five programs, like the combination of EHS and HS, pay off 13% per year.

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).

For citations and other state fact sheets, please visit 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.