

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

2016 National Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in the United States

771,479

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots

149,986

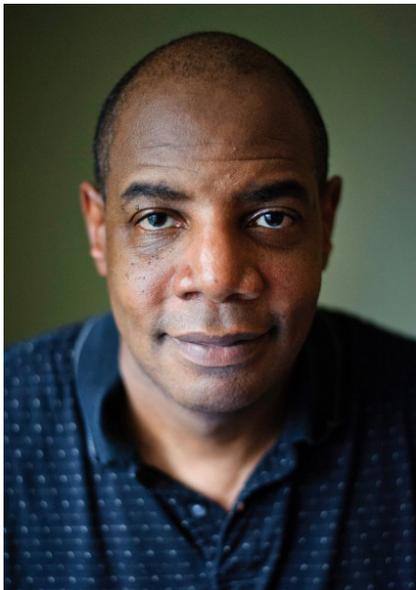
Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



31% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS.



6% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS.



"My family included a single mom and six siblings. Only the two youngest, my sister and I, attended Head Start. The four oldest have either been incarcerated, struggled with drug addiction, had trouble maintaining a job, or passed away. My sister is a successful court reporter. I have served as a military officer, state agency head, and speaker for the State Department. What was the discriminating factor? I contend it was Head Start."

Chuck Mills
Former Marine One co-pilot

Head Start's National Numbers

\$9,168,095,000

FY16 Enacted Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in the United States

1,598 Head Start programs

1,322 Early Head Start programs

211 American Indian/Alaska Native programs

60 Migrant/Seasonal programs

58,385 Classrooms operated

24,301 Head Start children were in foster care

13,717 Head Start children with veteran/active military parents

44,897 Head Start children experiencing homelessness

The United States' Head Start Workforce



241,450

HS and EHS jobs in the U.S.

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree in the U.S. makes **\$32,137** per year, compared to the **\$54,550** a kindergarten teacher makes annually.

In the United States...



1,043,889

children had continuously accessible health care



968,895

children had continuous access to dental care



133,863

children were identified with special needs



151,203

parents advanced their education level



71,573

families received job training



15,284

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

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