

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

2016 North Carolina Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in North Carolina

18,021

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots

4,029

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



16% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS.



4% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS.



"Head Start played a very influential role in my life. As a Head Start parent (single, living in public housing and receiving government assistance), I was encouraged by my case manager to further my education. Today, I possess a BA and a master's, and I am an active board member of a community resource agency. Head Start not only gives children a Head Start, but the parents as well."

Serena R., Parent
Greenville, North Carolina

North Carolina by the Numbers

\$204,048,968

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

46 Head Start programs

35 Early Head Start programs

1 American Indian/Alaska Native program

3 Migrant/Seasonal programs

1,470 Classrooms operated

334 Head Start children were in foster care

433 Head Start children with veteran/active military parents

1,189 Head Start children experiencing homelessness

North Carolina's Head Start Workforce



5,455

HS and EHS jobs in North Carolina

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree in North Carolina makes **\$28,421** per year, compared to the **\$41,840** a kindergarten teacher makes annually.

In North Carolina...



24,403

children had continuously accessible health care



22,597

children had continuous access to dental care



2,933

children were identified with special needs



4,629

parents advanced their education level



1,687

families received job training



308

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.