

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

# 2016 Washington Head Start Profile



## Access to Head Start in Washington

**13,278**

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots

**3,243**

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



**28%** of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS.



**8%** of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS.



"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

## Washington by the Numbers

**\$134,600,950**

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

- 29** Head Start programs
- 30** Early Head Start programs
- 26** American Indian/Alaska Native programs
- 3** Migrant/Seasonal programs
- 1,098** Classrooms operated
- 664** Head Start children were in foster care
- 428** Head Start children with veteran/active military parents

## Washington's Head Start Workforce



**5,232**

HS and EHS jobs in Washington

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree in Washington makes **\$33,080** per year, compared to the **\$54,950** a kindergarten teacher makes annually.

**1,559**

Head Start children experiencing homelessness

## In Washington...



**18,785**

children had continuously accessible health care



**17,733**

children had continuous access to dental care



**2,413**

children were identified with special needs



**2,570**

parents advanced their education level



**1,142**

families received job training



**424**

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](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.