

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



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.