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

### 2017 Missouri Head Start Profile

#### Access to Head Start in Missouri

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funded Head Start (HS) Slots</th>
<th>11,302</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots</td>
<td>3,028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

These slots filled **959 classrooms** in Missouri.

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**By the numbers:**

$160,068,544

FY17 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in MO

25 Head Start programs

28 Early Head Start programs

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**The Head Start Advantage**

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

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

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

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

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**Missouri’s Head Start Workforce**

4,668 HS and EHS jobs in Missouri

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only **$28,538** per year.

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*Photo: A Head Start parent from Oakland, California with her child.

"I heard about Head Start through friends and family. So many of their children went to Head Start. I got the information and I am glad that I did. Head Start has changed the life of my family and gave me a new outlook on life. I was able to work full time, provide for my family, and put myself through school."

Eleanor W.
Parent
Kansas City, Missouri
### In Missouri...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>352 children with veteran / active military parents were served by Head Start</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17,749 children had continuously accessible health care</td>
<td>15,955</td>
<td>children had continuous access to dental care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,977 parents advanced their education level</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>families received job training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700 children in foster care were served by Head Start</td>
<td>2,188</td>
<td>children with disabilities were served by Head Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>432 pregnant women were served by Early Head Start</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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.

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*Eligible is defined as children from birth to age five who are from families with incomes below the poverty level, are homeless, and/or receive public assistance. Foster children are eligible regardless of their foster family’s income.

For citations and other state fact sheets, please visit www.nhsa.org/Fact-Sheets

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Our mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.