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 North Carolina Head Start Profile

**Access to Head Start in North Carolina**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funded Head Start (HS) Slots</th>
<th>Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>17,845</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,214</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

5% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **1,496 classrooms** in North Carolina.

**By the numbers:**

$206,281,897

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head Start programs</th>
<th>Early Head Start programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>46</strong></td>
<td><strong>37</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**North Carolina’s Head Start Workforce**

5,626

HS and EHS jobs in North Carolina

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree makes only **$28,799** per year.

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

"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
In North Carolina...

- 230 slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children
- 480 children with veteran / active military parents were served by Head Start
- 24,697 children had continuously accessible health care
- 4,171 parents advanced their education level
- 1,781 families received job training
- 10,200 families participated in health education
- 420 children in foster care were served by Head Start
- 748 slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children
- 21,615 children had continuous access to dental care
- 2,968 children with disabilities were served by Head Start
- 1,354 children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start
- 272 pregnant women were served by Early Head Start
- 420 children in foster care were served by Head Start

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.

*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

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