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

Alabama

2022 Head Start & Early Head Start Profile

“At Head Start, my son learned how to interact and play with other kids. It truly prepared him for the next step of his schooling. And thanks to Head Start, I was able to go back to work and provide for my family. The staff was amazing and really cared about our long term well being.”

– David Ware, Town Creek

155,596,023
FY21 Funding
(Excluding Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Funding)

13,378
Funded Slots Statewide

10,255
Funded Head Start Slots

2,874
Funded Early Head Start Slots

249
Funded Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Slots

245
Head Start Centers Statewide

Visit nhsa.org/locator to view the map in more detail.
Head Start’s Model
Nationwide, Comprehensive, Multi-Generational

In the six decades since our founding, we have reached a new milestone: 37 million children have been served by Head Start. Innovators and small business owners, police officers and members of the service, nurses and teachers—our alumni represent the vast and diverse fabric of our country. From early math and reading skills, to confidence and resilience, Head Start helps children build the skills they need to be successful in school and life.

Head Start takes a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of young children and their families. There are four pillars in every program:

**Education**: Learning experiences support intellectual, social, and emotional growth

**Health Services**: Immunizations, dental, medical, and mental health support, nutritional services, and early screenings ensure healthy development

**Family Involvement**: Opportunities for parents and caregivers to be involved in decision making, participate in classes, and volunteer in the program strengthen families

**Wraparound Support**: Tailored services meet local and individual needs and link children and families to community supports.

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**Head Start and Early Head Start programs successfully implemented CDC recommended guidance and other ancillary measures for child care programs that remained open, allowing them to continue offering in-person learning.**

— CDC, *Implementing Mitigation Strategies in Early Care and Education Settings for Prevention of SARS-CoV-2 Transmission*
December 2020

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The National Head Start Association is committed to the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life. Since 1974, NHSA has worked for policy changes that ensure all income-eligible children have access to the Head Start model.

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**Children**

- **34,530** Home Visits Conducted Throughout the Year
- **160** Children Received Care for a Chronic Health Condition
- **5,668** Children Received Preventative Dental Care
- **5,252** Newly Enrolled Children Completed Behavioral Screenings

**Families**

- **360** Homeless Families Served
- **8,281** Families Received Services that Promote Family Outcomes
- **2,202** Fathers Involved in their Child’s Educational Experiences

**Community**

- **843** Head Start and Early Head Start Classrooms
- **4,209** Total Head Start and Early Head Start Staff
- **7,370** Parents Employed, in School, or in Job Training