

Puerto Rico

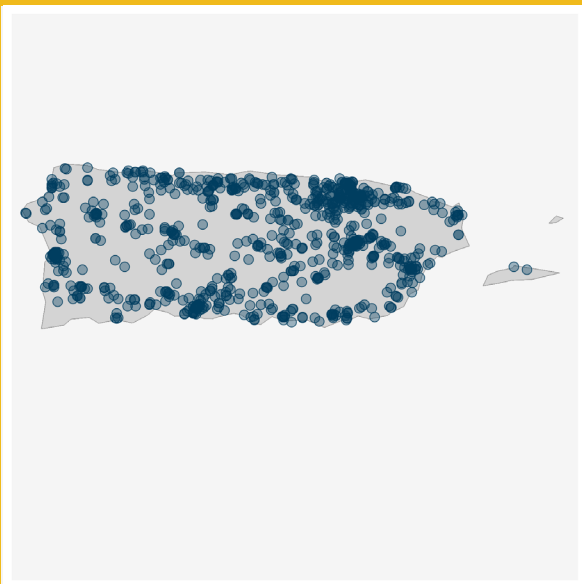
2023 Head Start & Early Head Start Profile

“Head Start has been a blessing for me because it has given me the opportunity to concentrate on my degree in nursing and start my job hunt. Being a single mother is hard, but earning my degree has given me the hope of finding a quality job to provide for my small family. Head Start has given my son the opportunity to learn a lot and given him the stage to show how smart he really is.”

– Keishla Diaz, *San Sebastian*



Visit nhsa.org/locator to view state maps in detail.



• **834**
Head Start and Early Head Start Centers

\$325,872,430

FY22 Funding

27,338

Funded Slots

21,308

Funded Head Start Slots

6,030

Funded Early Head Start Slots

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

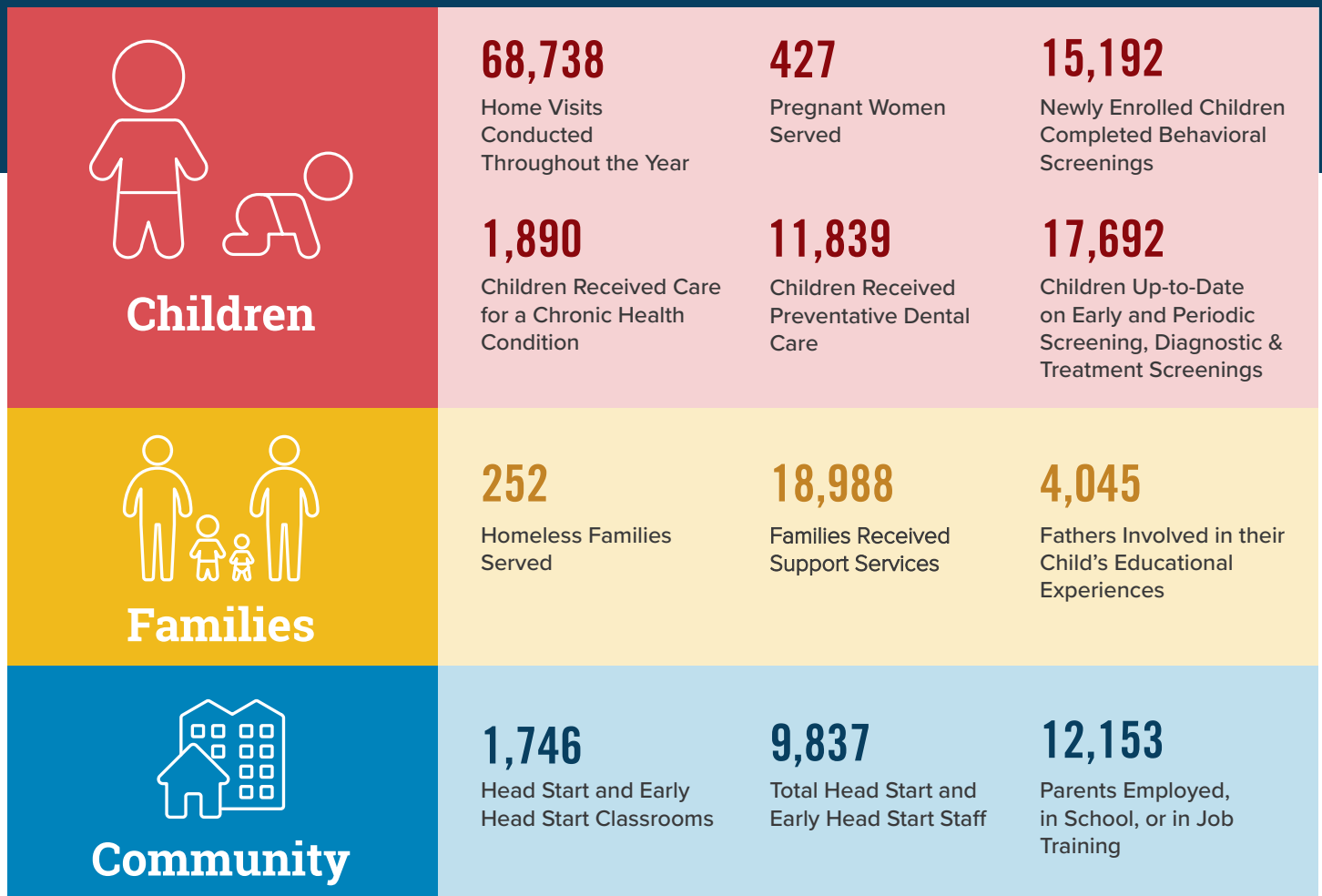
Health Services: Immunizations, dental, medical, and mental health support, nutritional services, and early screenings ensure healthy development

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.

“ The key takeaway is that the benefits of Head Start appear to transfer from one generation to the next in a substantial way... These results imply that cost-benefit analyses of Head Start and similar early childhood interventions underestimate the benefits of such programs by ignoring the transmission of positive effects across generations.”

— *Breaking the Cycle? Intergenerational Effects of an Antipoverty Program in Early Childhood*, Journal of Political Economy, 2022



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.

For citations, the national profile, and other state profiles, visit go.nhsa.org/state-profile