

# Virginia

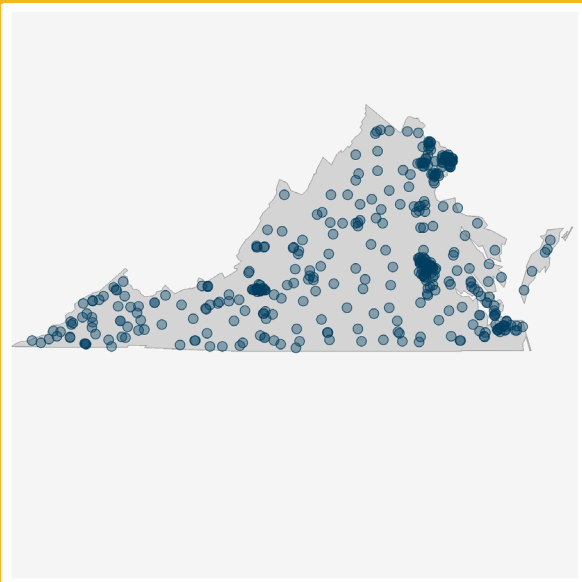
## 2023 Head Start & Early Head Start Profile

“Head Start has impacted my child by seeing her as a child and not her disability. They taught her the skills and confidence to be successful in elementary school. Head Start also gave me the opportunity to gain leadership skills and eventually employment. Working full time and having a special needs child is stressful, but Head Start supported me and my family so we could succeed in our journey.”

– Nichole Cooper, *Orange*



Visit [nhsa.org/locator](https://nhsa.org/locator) to view state maps in detail.



• **393**  
Head Start and Early Head Start Centers Statewide

**\$151,962,333**

**FY22 Funding**

(Excluding Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Funding)

**14,523**

**Funded Slots Statewide**

**10,985**

Funded **Head Start** Slots

**3,448**

Funded **Early Head Start** Slots

**90**

Funded **Migrant and Seasonal 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

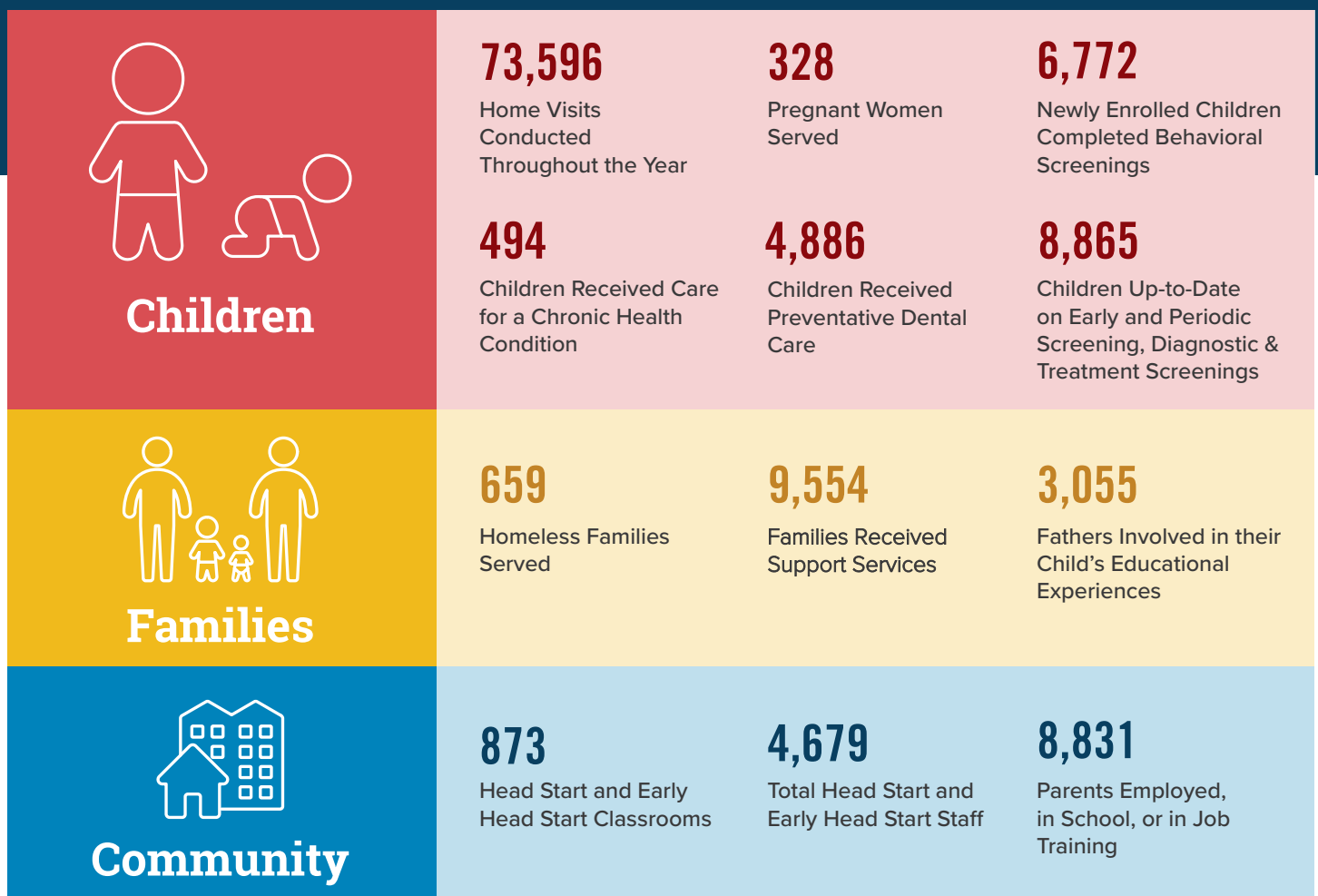
**Health Services:** Immunizations, dental, medical, and mental health support, nutritional services, and early screenings ensure healthy development

**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](https://go.nhsa.org/state-profile)