

Missouri

2025 Head Start Profile



BY THE NUMBERS

\$208,530,531

FY24 Funding

13,278

Total Funded Seats

9,409

Funded Head Start Preschool Seats

3,869

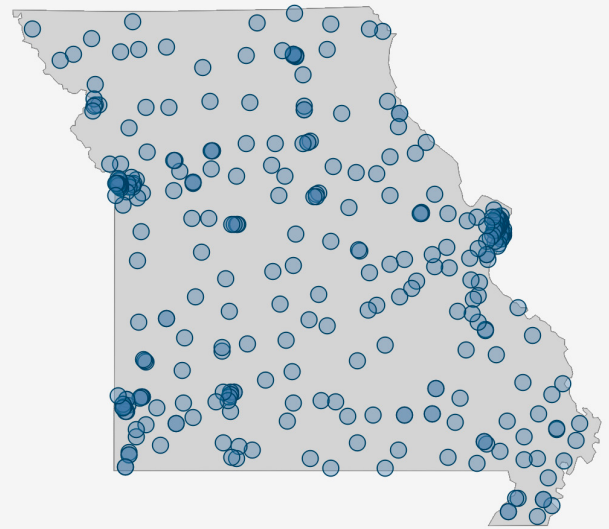
Funded Early Head Start Seats

6,171

Total Staff Employed

421

Total Centers



Visit nhsa.org/locator to view maps in detail with congressional districts.



SNAPSHOT



“By partnering with Head Start, I became a better grandmother to my grandkids. I’ve learned to take time away from my busy schedule and focus on their education. By focusing on them, I am able to teach them counting when we go to the store, measuring when cooking, and about the senses when on nature walks. My grandchildren had been neglected and Head Start has been a Godsend. I can’t say enough about the program.”

—Janet, Head Start Caregiver



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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For citations and additional fact sheets, visit go.nhsa.org/state-profile



THE HEAD START MODEL

Nationwide, Comprehensive, Multi-Generational

The premise of Head Start is simple: **every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to reach their full potential.**

In the six decades since its founding, Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start has served nearly 40 million children and their families. Innovators and small business owners, police officers and members of the military, nurses and teachers, and even members of Congress—our alumni represent the vast and diverse fabric of our country. From early math and reading skills, to confidence and resilience, Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start help with children build the skills they need to be successful in school and life.

There are four pillars in every program.

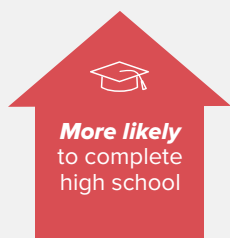
Education: Leaning on decades of brain science, Head Start staff work with children to build the brain connections and self confidence necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Health: Providing dental, health, and mental health services and referrals, as well as healthy eating based on current nutritional best practices, and early identification of health problems, Head Start addresses critical health and nutrition needs so that children are fully ready to learn and grow.

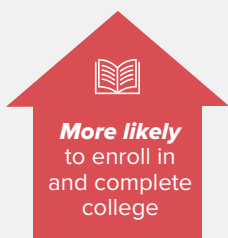
Parent Engagement and Support: Believing that parents are a child's first and most important teachers, Head Start requires parent involvement in major program decision-making. Further, Head Start works with parents to put them on a path of economic self-reliance through goal-setting, parenting training, and genuine engagement, enabling parents to join the workforce and stay working.

Local Design: Acknowledging that each community has different strengths, resources, and challenges, each program is designed to reflect the traditions, priorities, and cultures of their community.

Children who attend Head Start are:



More likely
to complete
high school



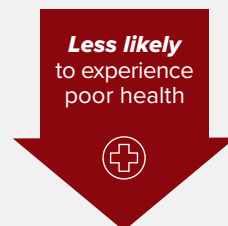
More likely
to enroll in
and complete
college



Less likely
to be
arrested



Less likely
to enter
foster care



Less likely
to experience
poor health

Research shows that the benefits of Head Start appear to transfer from one generation to the next in a substantial way.



CHILDREN

91,278

Home Visits Conducted

503

Pregnant Women Served

6,491

Newly Enrolled Children Completed Behavioral Screenings

1,165

Children Received Care for a Chronic Health Condition

12,233

Children Received Preventative Dental Care

11,716

Children Up-to-Date on Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Screenings



FAMILIES

1,053

Homeless Families Served

348

Active Duty or Military Veteran

4,817

Fathers Involved in their Child's Educational Experiences

11,326

Families Received Services that Promote Family Outcomes



COMMUNITIES

908

Head Start and Early Head Start Classrooms

10,254

Parents Employed, in School, or in Job Training