

# National 2025 Head Start Profile



## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$12,104,041,095** **FY24 Funding**

**754,819** **Total Funded Seats**

**527,002** **Funded Head Start Preschool Seats**

**183,470** **Funded Early Head Start Seats**

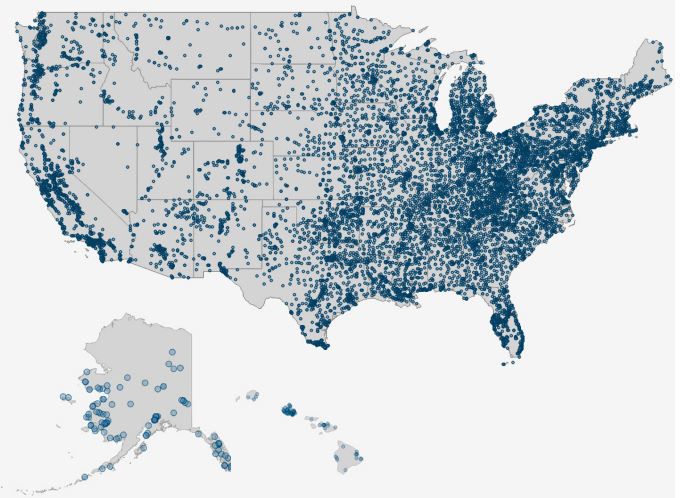
**15,864** **Funded American Indian/  
Alaska Native Head Start Seats**

**4,364** **Funded American Indian/Alaska  
Native Early Head Start Seats**

**24,814** **Funded Migrant and Seasonal Head  
Start and Early Head Start Seats**

**250,823** **Total Staff Employed**

**17,711** **Total Centers**



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



## SNAPSHOT



“26 years ago, I enrolled my child in Head Start. My children and I had moved three times in three years, so I joined a first-time homebuyers class through Head Start. Within two years, I bought my own home that I still live in today! Head Start also taught me how to be a more engaged parent. My child is grown now and works in IT at a large company and has his own apartment. I think his love for reading and exploring stemmed from his experiences in Head Start.”

—Dianne, Head Start Parent



# 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.

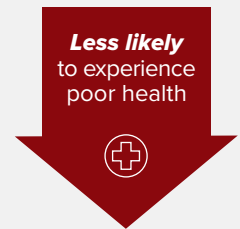
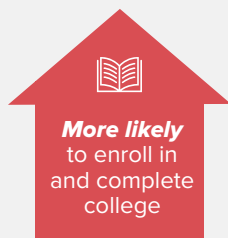
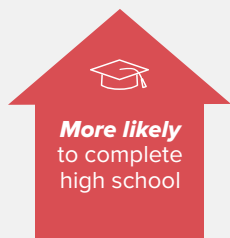
**Education:** Leaning on decades of brain science, Head Start staff work with children to build the brain connections and self confidence necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond.

**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:



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



## CHILDREN

**3,982,062** Home Visits Conducted

**13,462** Pregnant Women Served

**392,344** Newly Enrolled Children Completed Behavioral Screenings

**70,578** Children Received Care for a Chronic Health Condition

**685,665** Children Received Preventative Dental Care

**570,172** Children Up-to-Date on Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Screenings



## FAMILIES

**54,768** Homeless Families Served

**15,091** Active Duty or Military Veteran

**203,021** Fathers Involved in their Child's Educational Experiences

**601,153** Families Received Services that Promote Family Outcomes



## COMMUNITIES

**48,697** Head Start and Early Head Start Classrooms

**539,848** Parents Employed, in School, or in Job Training