

# Pennsylvania

## 2025 Head Start Profile



### BY THE NUMBERS

\$386,260,499

FY24 Funding

27,746

Total Funded Seats

20,672

Funded Head Start Preschool Seats

6,702

Funded Early Head Start Seats

372

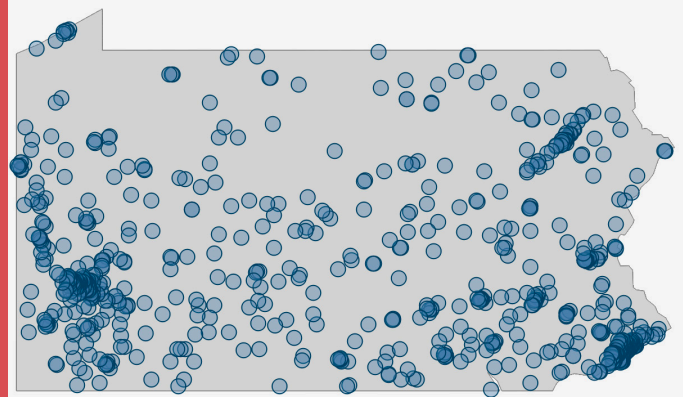
Funded Migrant and Seasonal Head Start and Early Head Start Seats

9,907

Total Staff Employed

806

Total Centers



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



### SNAPSHOT



“In Pennsylvania, mother Caryliz DeJesus loves seeing how their son and daughter, Ahzir and Ahvyanë, continuously learn new things at their school. ‘I love how they have a garden where the kids can learn how food grows and actually see their own fruits and veggies grow.’”

[Families Experiencing Poverty on Journey to Financial Stability](#)



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.

© 2025 by the National Head Start Association

For citations and additional fact sheets, visit [go.nhsa.org/state-profile](https://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.

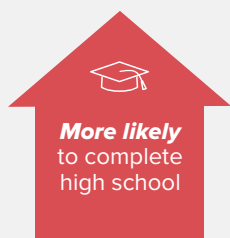
**Education:** Leaning on decades of brain science, Head Start staff work with children to build the brain connections and self confidence necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond.

**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.

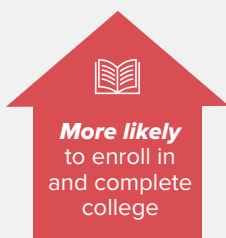
**Parent Engagement and Support:** Believing that parents are a child's first and most important teachers, Head Start requires parent involvement in major program decision-making. Further, Head Start works with parents to put them on a path of economic self-reliance through goal-setting, parenting training,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



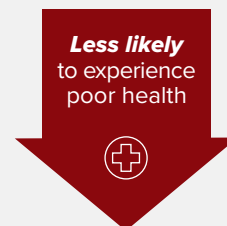
**More likely**  
to enroll in  
and complete  
college



**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

258,346

Home Visits Conducted

534

Pregnant Women Served

17,905

Newly Enrolled Children Completed Behavioral Screenings

3,267

Children Received Care for a Chronic Health Condition

28,075

Children Received Preventative Dental Care

23,242

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



## FAMILIES

2,365

Homeless Families Served

694

Active Duty or Military Veteran

9,112

Fathers Involved in their Child's Educational Experiences

27,589

Families Received Services that Promote Family Outcomes



## COMMUNITIES

1,912

Head Start and Early Head Start Classrooms

23,104

Parents Employed, in School, or in Job Training