

# Tennessee

## 2025 Head Start Profile



### BY THE NUMBERS

\$196,273,390

FY24 Funding

15,208

Total Funded Seats

12,703

Funded Head Start Preschool Seats

2,311

Funded Early Head Start Seats

194

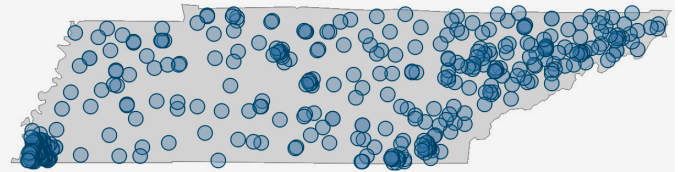
Funded Migrant and Seasonal Head Start and Early Head Start Seats

4,144

Total Staff Employed

417

Total Centers



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



### SNAPSHOT



“My Head Start story starts with a family advocate visiting the fast food restaurant where I worked. I enrolled my 3-year-old twin girls in the program, and with the help of Head Start health screenings, we found out that both my children were in need of speech services and eye surgery. Without the encouragement of the Head Start, I would have never taken such young children to the eye doctor. Head Start also kept encouraging me to work toward my degree and I am proud to say I will graduate this May with an associates degree in early childhood education.”

—Zina, Head Start Parent



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.

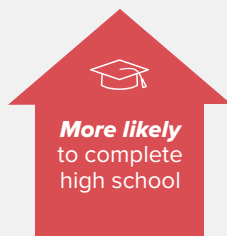
**Education:** Leaning on decades of brain science, Head Start staff work with children to build the brain connections and self confidence necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond.

**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.

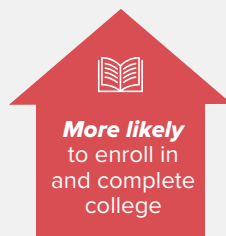
**Parent Engagement and Support:** Believing that parents are a child's first and most important teachers, Head Start requires parent involvement in major program decision-making. Further, Head Start works with parents to put them on a path of economic self-reliance through goal-setting, parenting training,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



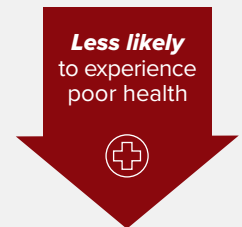
**More likely**  
to enroll in  
and complete  
college



**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

43,850

Home Visits Conducted

150

Pregnant Women Served

9,364

Newly Enrolled Children Completed Behavioral Screenings

1,482

Children Received Care for a Chronic Health Condition

14,486

Children Received Preventative Dental Care

13,952

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



## FAMILIES

792

Homeless Families Served

345

Active Duty or Military Veteran

3,851

Fathers Involved in their Child's Educational Experiences

13,343

Families Received Services that Promote Family Outcomes



## COMMUNITIES

962

Head Start and Early Head Start Classrooms

8,767

Parents Employed, in School, or in Job Training