

Washington

2025 Head Start Profile



BY THE NUMBERS

\$189,370,181

FY24 Funding

13,154

Total Funded Seats

6,284

Funded Head Start Preschool Seats

3,257

Funded Early Head Start Seats

998

**Funded American Indian/
Alaska Native Head Start Seats**

521

**Funded American Indian/Alaska
Native Early Head Start Seats**

2,094

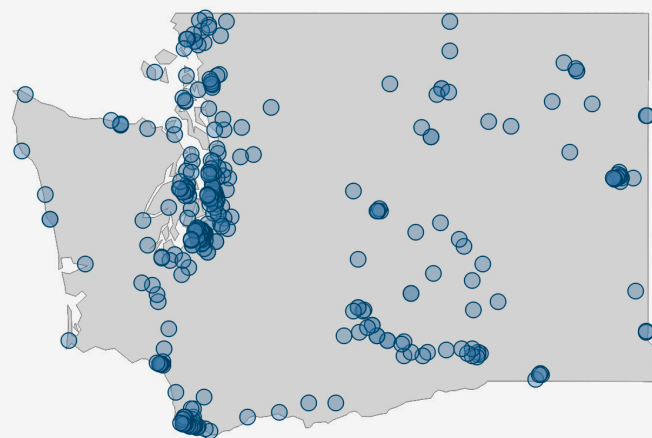
**Funded Migrant and Seasonal Head
Start and Early Head Start Seats**

5,342

Total Staff Employed

351

Total Centers



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



SNAPSHOT



“Washington mother of two Galena, who is autistic, signed up for Early Head Start when she was pregnant with her first daughter. For Galena, Early Head Start has not only provided child care but also improved her parenting and ‘holistically lifted our family up.’”

[Parent with Autism Becomes an Advocate for Other Parents](#)



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.

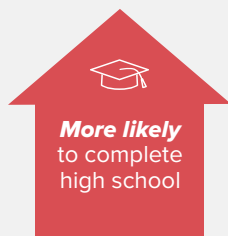
Education: Leaning on decades of brain science, Head Start staff work with children to build the brain connections and self confidence necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond.

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.

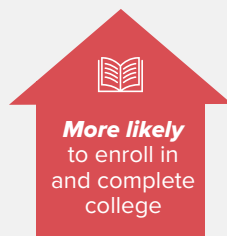
Parent Engagement and Support: Believing that parents are a child's first and most important teachers, Head Start requires parent involvement in major program decision-making. Further, Head Start works with parents to put them on a path of economic self-reliance through goal-setting, parenting training,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



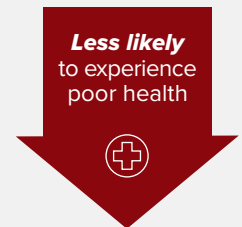
More likely
to enroll in
and complete
college



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

118,030 Home Visits Conducted

396 Pregnant Women Served

6,787 Newly Enrolled Children Completed Behavioral Screenings

1,033 Children Received Care for a Chronic Health Condition

12,532 Children Received Preventative Dental Care

9,290 Children Up-to-Date on Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Screenings



FAMILIES

1,693 Homeless Families Served

426 Active Duty or Military Veteran

4,967 Fathers Involved in their Child's Educational Experiences

11,324 Families Received Services that Promote Family Outcomes



COMMUNITIES

821 Head Start and Early Head Start Classrooms

10,299 Parents Employed, in School, or in Job Training