

The District of Columbia

2026 Head Start Profile



BY THE NUMBERS

\$39,381,167

FY25 Funding

1,997

Total Funded Seats

885

Total Staff Employed

424

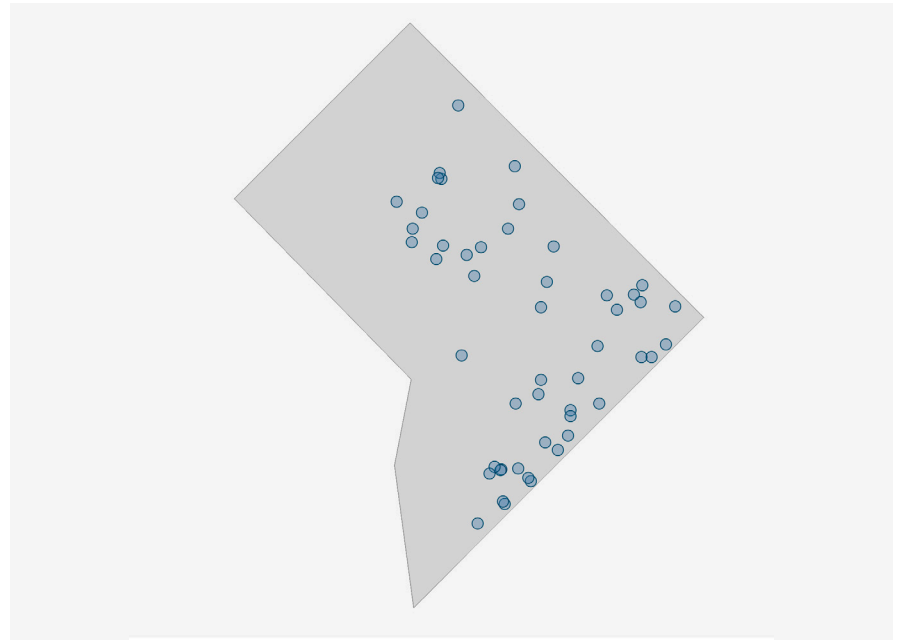
Funded Head Start Preschool Seats

1,573

Funded Early Head Start Preschool Seats

50

Total Centers ▶



Looking for congressional district data?
Visit nhsa.org/locator to view district maps.



THE HEAD START MODEL: A PROVEN SUCCESS

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.

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.

**13%
Return On
Investment**

Research shows that high-quality early childhood programs, like Head Start, generate an annual ROI of more than 13%.

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. 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.



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.

Head Start helps children build the skills they need to be successful in school and life. Research shows that the benefits of Head Start appear to transfer from one generation to the next in a substantial way.



Children Who Attend Head Start Are:



More likely
to have
healthy
eating
patterns



More likely
to complete
high school



More likely
to enroll
in and
complete
college

Less likely
to be
arrested



Less likely
to
experience
poor health



Less likely
to enter
foster care



CHILDREN

32

Foster Children Served

105

Pregnant Women Served

985

Newly Enrolled Children Completed Behavioral Screenings

1,788

Children Received Preventative Dental Care

157

Children Received Care for a Chronic Health Condition

1,418

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



FAMILIES

194

Families Experiencing Homelessness

12

Active Duty or Military Veteran Families Served

231

Fathers Involved in their Child's Educational Experiences

10,880

Home Visits Conducted



COMMUNITIES

249

Head Start Classrooms

1,231

Parents Employed, in School, or in Job Training



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