

Migrant and Seasonal

2026 Head Start Profile



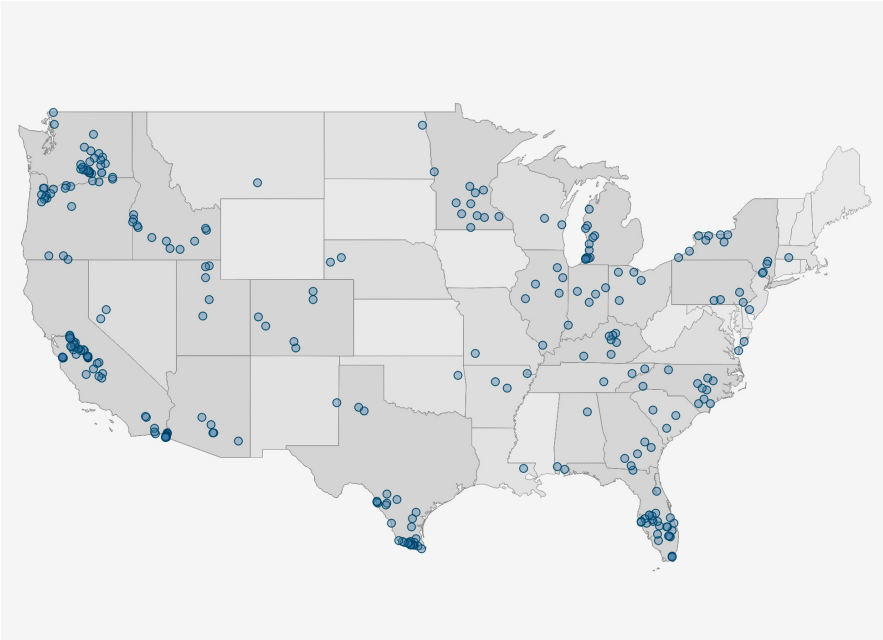
BY THE NUMBERS

\$515,631,596
FY25 Funding

23,734
Total Funded Seats

9,945
Total Staff Employed

275
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

85

Foster Children Served

177

Pregnant Women Served

8,184

Newly Enrolled Children Completed Behavioral Screenings

19,892

Children Received Preventative Dental Care

1,849

Children Received Care for a Chronic Health Condition

18,504

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



FAMILIES

1,857

Families Experiencing Homelessness

42

Active Duty or Military Veteran Families Served

5,629

Fathers Involved in their Child's Educational Experiences

47,350

Home Visits Conducted



COMMUNITIES

1,776

Head Start Classrooms

15,158

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