

Head Start is a federally-funded, locally-run early childhood development program that provides comprehensive services for America's most vulnerable children and their families.

2017 California Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in California

80,982

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



30% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

20,976

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



8% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **5,357 classrooms** in California.

By the numbers:

\$1,083,197,474

FY17 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in CA

121 Head Start programs

152 Early Head Start programs



Photo: A Head Start parent from Oakland, California with her child.

"I was a single mother of three and had my first child at fifteen. I had not completed high school. Through the support of my Head Start Director, I volunteered at the center and went back to school. I became involved in my children's education and our community. I would not have broken the cycle of poverty and uneducated women in my family if it had not been for Head Start."

Yolanda B.
Parent
Pico Rivera, California

The Head Start Advantage

Head Start children **reduce their vocabulary deficit by 38%** during the program year.

Head Start children are **31% less likely to have been held back** a grade.

Head Start children are **19% less likely to smoke** as adults.

High quality birth-to-five programs, like the combination of EHS and HS, **pay off 13% per year.**

California's Head Start Workforce



24,078

HS and EHS jobs in California

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$39,219** per year.

In California...



706

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



6,885

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



3,651

children in foster care were served by Head Start



1,394

children with veteran / active military parents were served by Head Start



3,813

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



53,235

families participated in health education



122,635

children had continuously accessible health care



116,224

children had continuous access to dental care



15,129

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



18,086

parents advanced their education level



8,407

families received job training



1,770

pregnant women were served by Early Head Start

About NHSA

The National Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization committed to the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life. NHSA is the voice for more than 1 million children, 200,000 staff and 1,600 Head Start grantees in the United States.

For more information, please contact us: [go.nhsa.org/Contact](https://www.nhsa.org/Contact).

*Eligible is defined as children from birth to age five who are from families with incomes below the poverty level, are homeless, and/or receive public assistance. Foster children are eligible regardless of their foster family's income.

For citations and other state fact sheets, please visit www.nhsa.org/Fact-Sheets



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

Our mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.