

California

2025 Head Start Profile



BY THE NUMBERS

\$1,457,956,440

FY24 Funding

80,345

Total Funded Seats

48,653

Funded Head Start Preschool Seats

24,573

Funded Early Head Start Seats

507

Funded American Indian/
Alaska Native Head Start Seats

196

Funded American Indian/Alaska
Native Early Head Start Seats

6,416

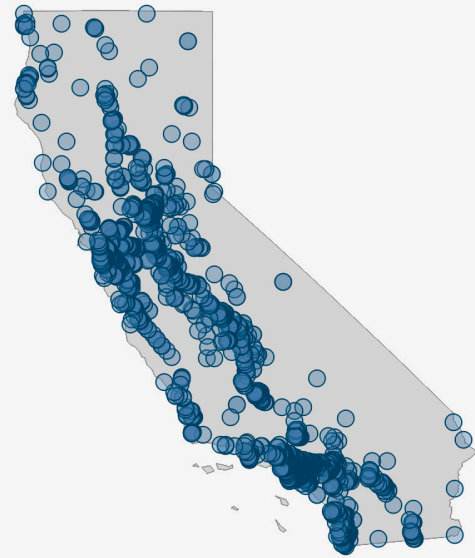
Funded Migrant and Seasonal Head
Start and Early Head Start Seats

26,681

Total Staff Employed

1,881

Total Centers



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



SNAPSHOT



“Having grown up in a predominantly agricultural town, in a low-income household with a single parent, the odds were stacked against me. Head Start helped me beat those odds by helping me gain confidence as a learner and giving me a teacher that became a lifelong mentor.”

—Darline, Head Start Parent



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:



Research shows that the benefits of Head Start appear to transfer from one generation to the next in a substantial way.



CHILDREN

617,882 Home Visits Conducted	9,293 Children Received Care for a Chronic Health Condition
1,401 Pregnant Women Served	76,777 Children Received Preventative Dental Care
37,615 Newly Enrolled Children Completed Behavioral Screenings	58,096 Children Up-to-Date on Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Screenings



FAMILIES

7,655 Homeless Families Served	16,338 Fathers Involved in their Child's Educational Experiences
1133 Active Duty or Military Veteran	65,534 Families Received Services that Promote Family Outcomes



COMMUNITIES

4,339 Head Start and Early Head Start Classrooms	59,909 Parents Employed, in School, or in Job Training
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