

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

2016 Florida Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Florida

34,869

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots

7,600

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



20% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS.



4% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS.



"I was a single mom with 2 children. I was unemployed and not sure how I could afford childcare to even go to work. After I applied and both of my children were accepted to Head Start, I was able to work with my Family Advocate who talked to me about my future. I was grateful for the opportunity to have my children in a safe place while I got started on my career."

Rebecca R., Parent
Sarasota, Florida

Florida by the Numbers

\$364,228,454

FY16 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in Florida

- 59** Head Start programs
- 53** Early Head Start programs
- American Indian/Alaska Native programs
- 5** Migrant/Seasonal programs
- 2,883** Classrooms operated
- 272** Head Start children were in foster care
- 482** Head Start children with veteran/active military parents

Florida's Head Start Workforce



10,982

HS and EHS jobs in Florida

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree in Florida makes **\$35,532** per year, compared to the **\$46,850** a kindergarten teacher makes annually.

1,176 Head Start children experiencing homelessness

In Florida...



46,438

children had continuously accessible health care



42,400

children had continuous access to dental care



5,116

children were identified with special needs



9,986

parents advanced their education level



5,751

families received job training



638

pregnant women were served by Early Head Start

Head Start's Impact: the Head Start Advantage

Children who participate in Head Start programs receive innumerable benefits. These advantages appear immediately, last a lifetime, and even have an effect on other generations.

38%

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

31%

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

19%

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

13%

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

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).

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.