

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 Illinois Head Start Profile



## Access to Head Start in Illinois

**32,132**

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



**39%** of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS\*

**7,663**

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



**7%** of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS\*

These slots filled **2,508 classrooms** in Illinois.

## By the numbers:

**\$347,588,798**

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

**82** Head Start programs

**87** Early Head Start programs



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

"I found myself divorced with two children. I wanted to go back and get my college degree, but limited funds and unaffordable/unreliable daycare was a real problem. Head Start staff came to my door one day recruiting for the program. By enrolling my children in Head Start, I was able to attend college which helped me to later obtain a management position."

**Denise C.**  
Parent  
Mt. Sterling, Illinois

## 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.**

## Illinois's Head Start Workforce



**9,188**

HS and EHS jobs in Illinois

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$34,314** per year.

## In Illinois...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



447

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



919

children in foster care were served by Head Start



345

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



2,064

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



12,171

families participated in health education



45,126

children had continuously accessible health care



40,316

children had continuous access to dental care



5,037

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



2,667

parents advanced their education level



3,436

families received job training



558

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](https://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.