

Head Start is a community-based, comprehensive early education program that gives young children from at-risk backgrounds the skills they need to be successful in school and life.



2019 Illinois Head Start Profile

Access to Head Start in Illinois

27,240

Funded *Head Start* (HS) Slots



51% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS

8,101

Funded *Early Head Start* (EHS) Slots



10% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS

These slots filled **2,328 classrooms** in Illinois.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



2.3x

Children in poverty are **2.3 times** more likely to suffer from 3 or more ACEs.

ACEs include abuse, neglect, homelessness, parental substance abuse, or foster care.

Research shows that as the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk of lifelong negative outcomes.

Illinois's Head Start Workforce



9,483

HS and EHS jobs in Illinois

In Illinois, the average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes **\$37,135** per year, compared to an average kindergarten teacher salary of **\$55,850**.

By the Numbers

\$344,519,689
FY18 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in Illinois

43 Head Start Programs

43 Early Head Start Programs

Head Start Story

"Before Head Start, I did not have a plan for my own life, let alone, my daughter's. With Head Start and with the advantage they provided to my family, I was able to better my life in ways words cannot express. Head Start is dedicated to helping children and families achieve educational, financial, and life goals that would otherwise seem unattainable."

Lauren Moss
Parent

The Head Start Advantage in Illinois

Demographics



639

pregnant women were served by Early Head Start



4,896

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



1,148

children in foster care were served by Head Start



333

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



2,155

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



1,258

children in the care of grandparents or other relatives were served by Head Start



39,636

children had continuously accessible health care



36,012

children had continuous access to dental care



11,901

families participated in health education



3,677

parents advanced their education level



3,141

families received job training



5,805

families received crisis intervention

Services

Head Start in the Community



1,346

agreements between Head Start and **local school districts**



287

agreements with agencies to provide **disability services** to infants and toddlers



206

collaboration agreements with **child welfare agencies**

For more information, please visit: go.nhsa.org/Facts



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.