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.

2020 Illinois Head Start Profile

Key
- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Migrant and Seasonal Head Start
- American Indian and Alaska Native

Head Start’s Accessibility and Reach in Illinois

Funding
$363,169,807
FY18 Funding (excluding Migrant & Seasonal)

Head Start Jobs
10,731
Head Start and Early Head Start Jobs in Illinois

26,688
Funded Head Start (HS) Slots
60% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS

8,339
Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots
14% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS

In their own words...
"We are grateful for the opportunities Head Start gave our family to learn and grow. Our parent-child educator is the best thing that has happened to our family. I'm not sure how I would have made it this far without her! And for my child, I know he is smart but now I know he will be ready for school and he has discovered that learning is fun."
Anonymous
Northwest Illinois

For more information, including citations, please visit: go.nhsa.org/Facts.
In the 55 years since Head Start began, families and society have changed dramatically, but our commitment to partnering with vulnerable children and families remains unwavering. From early math and reading skills to confidence and resilience, Head Start helps children build the skills they need to be successful in school and life. Our comprehensive approach meets the needs of the whole child, addressing health and well-being as well as ABC's and 123's. The proof of our success is in the outcomes—our 37 million alumni have gone on to succeed in all walks of life, breaking the cycle of poverty in communities across the country.

### Comprehensive Services in Illinois

- **617** fathers participated in program governance
- **2,818** parents received job training
- **249,992** home visits were conducted
- **3,332** children received a behavioral health treatment plan

### Long-Term Impact

- Head Start participants are **12% less likely to live in poverty** as adults and **29% less likely to receive public assistance**.

> “Evidence suggests Head Start not only helps kids develop and allows parents to go to work, but it may also help at-risk kids from ending up in the foster care system.”

- Head Start parents have **steeper increases in their educational attainment** by the time their children are six years old.

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Questions? Contact us at advocacy@nhsa.org. For more information, including citations, please visit: [go.nhsa.org/Facts](go.nhsa.org/Facts).

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