

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

2016 Virginia Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Virginia

12,197

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots

2,386

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



22% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS.



7% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS.



"My daughter is 18 months and can do sign language and can count to ten. She started in the infant program, and that was a blessing to me and my wife because it was hard to find a baby sitter. We even considered my wife quitting all together and staying home but we could not afford it. Thanks so much Head start."

Adam H., Parent
Norton, Virginia

Virginia by the Numbers

\$129,421,763

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

50 Head Start programs

27 Early Head Start programs

-- American Indian/Alaska Native programs

1 Migrant/Seasonal program

922 Classrooms operated

217 Head Start children were in foster care

243 Head Start children with veteran/active military parents

757 Head Start children experiencing homelessness

Virginia's Head Start Workforce



3,728

HS and EHS jobs in Virginia

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree in Virginia makes **\$34,070** per year, compared to the **\$60,900** a kindergarten teacher makes annually.

In Virginia...



17,010

children had continuously accessible health care



15,550

children had continuous access to dental care



1,958

children were identified with special needs



1,560

parents advanced their education level



1,202

families received job training



277

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.