

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](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.