

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 Iowa Head Start Profile



Access to Head Start in Iowa

5,850

Funded Head Start (HS) Slots



31% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS*

1,599

Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots



8% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS*

These slots filled **533 classrooms** in Iowa.

By the numbers:

\$63,602,899

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

19 Head Start programs

18 Early Head Start programs



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

"I was 17 and in high school when my son was born. Head Start worked with my school district to make sure both of us could go to school. The school van would take me to drop him off at Head Start, where I knew he was with loving people in a safe environment. Then, it would take me to high school. I am now a high school graduate, employed, and looking forward to college."

Emily R.
Parent
Leon, Iowa

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.**

Iowa's Head Start Workforce



2,014

HS and EHS jobs in Iowa

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor's degree makes only **\$31,415** per year.

In Iowa...



0

slots were funded to serve American Indian / Alaska Native children



0

slots were funded to serve Migrant / Seasonal children



261

children in foster care were served by Head Start



156

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



574

children experiencing homelessness were served by Head Start



3,758

families participated in health education



8,490

children had continuously accessible health care



8,189

children had continuous access to dental care



1,105

children with disabilities were served by Head Start



609

parents advanced their education level



410

families received job training



186

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



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.