



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



October is Head Start Awareness Month!

For more info visit: go.nhsa.org/HSAM

Did you know...

October was first proclaimed Head Start Awareness Month by President Ronald Reagan on October 22, 1982. Ever since, October has been a month for our community to celebrate the life changing impact of Head Start.

Head Start was launched in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to provide comprehensive health, nutrition, and education services to children living in poverty. Over the last 53 years (and 33+ million children later!) the Head Start Model has been built on evidence-based practices and is constantly adapting - using the best available science and teaching techniques to meet the needs of local communities.

Each year more than 1 million children, families and pregnant women are served by Head Start.

The four major components of Head Start are:

- **Education:** Providing a variety of learning experiences to help children grow intellectually, socially, and emotionally.
- **Health:** Providing health services such as immunizations, dental, medical, and mental health, and nutritional services, and early identification of health problems.
- **Parent Involvement:** Involving parents in the planning and implementation of activities. Parents serve on policy councils and committees that make administrative decisions; participate in classes and workshops on child development; and volunteer in the program.
- **Social Services:** Provide outreach to families to determine what services they need.

The Head Start Advantage

As a comprehensive early education program, Head Start helps children at risk of being left behind build the abilities they need to be ready for kindergarten and life. Every child has the ability to succeed, and together, we're supporting more children, families, and communities on their path to success.

Head Start's success can be found in the millions of alumni who are in every field and profession and have gone on to become members of Congress, business leaders, artists, doctors, educators and more!

Head Start in the U.S, by the numbers:

\$9,574,923,948

FY17 Estimated Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in the United States

887,063

Funded Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) Slots in the United States

239,567

Head Start and Early Head Start Jobs in the United States

3,006

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs in the United States