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.

2021 Maryland 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 Reach in Maryland

In their own words...

Without Head Start, our children would have struggled to learn English. Mrs. Rosa, our family advocate, helped me find employment. She spent so much time supporting my family as we studied for the citizenship test and she helped us learn English. She assisted us for more than five years! – Ateef Alksan Fhmy

Fall River, Maryland

Funding

$119,161,817
FY21 Funding (excluding Migrant & Seasonal)

Access to Head Start

7,797
Funded Head Start Slots
21% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to Head Start

Head Start Jobs

2,536
Head Start and Early Head Start Jobs in Maryland

2,991
Funded Early Head Start Slots
13% of eligible children under 3 had access to Early Head Start

All information, except for the FY21 funding amount, is from FY18 data due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, including citations, please visit go.nhsha.org/Facts.
Head Start’s Model: Nationwide, Comprehensive, Multi-Generational

In the six decades since our founding, we have reached a new milestone: 37 million children have been served by Head Start. That is 1 out of every 11 Americans. Innovators and communicators, advocates and thinkers, health care heroes and teachers themselves—our alumni represent the vast and diverse fabric of our country.

When we speak with our alumni, they recall the warmth they felt from their Head Start teachers. Kind words that gave them comfort and nutritious meals that felt like home. For many, this start to their educational journey imprinted a love of learning and a sense of possibility.

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 wellbeing as well as ABCs and 123s. Our success is in the stories, testimony, and experiences of our 37 million living proof points of Head Start’s impact and decades of rigorous research on how equitable access to preschool and wraparound services break the cycle of poverty in communities across the country.

Comprehensive Services in Maryland

- 321 fathers participated in program governance
- 719 parents received job training
- 41,258 home visits were conducted
- 1,001 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.

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

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