

Head Start Program Facts: Fiscal Year 2020



Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social, and other services. Since its inception, Head Start has served more than 37 million children birth to age 5 and their families. In 2020, Head Start was funded to serve about 852,501 children and pregnant people in centers, family homes, and in family child care homes. The program is rooted in urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the nation. [Learn more about Head Start.](#)

Terms

Throughout this fact sheet, unless otherwise specified, "Head Start" refers to the Head Start program as a whole. This includes Head Start preschool services to children primarily ages 3 to 5; Early Head Start services to infants, toddlers, and pregnant people; and services to families provided by American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs.

"Funded enrollment" (also called "enrollment slots") refers to the number of children and pregnant people supported by federal Head Start funds in a program at any one time during the program year. This number includes slots funded by state or other funds when used by grant recipients as required nonfederal match. States may provide additional funding to local Head Start programs, which is not included in federal Head Start reporting.

"Cumulative enrollment" refers to the actual number of children and pregnant people Head Start programs serve throughout the entire program year, inclusive of enrollees who left during the program year and the enrollees who filled those empty places. Due to turnover, more children and families may receive Head Start services throughout the program year than is reflected in funded enrollment. All of these enrollees are reported in the Program Information Report (PIR).

Federal Budget

The U.S. Congress authorizes the amount of federal spending for Head Start each year. The Head Start program is administered by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Head Start awards federal grants directly to public agencies, private nonprofit and for-profit organizations, tribal governments, and school systems for operating Head Start programs in local communities.

Activity	Amount
Head Start Program, incl. Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships	\$10,215,738,136
Training and Technical Assistance	\$239,679,418
Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation	\$21,801,567
Monitoring Support	\$41,997,387
Program Support	\$56,583,652
Designation Renewal System (DRS) Transitions Support	\$25,000,000
Total	\$10,613,016,734

Annual Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment by State

The Head Start program serves children, families, and pregnant people in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six U.S. territories. The table in this section presents the total actual funding awarded and funded enrollment of Head Start programs in each state and territory.

AIAN funding goes directly to AIAN tribal governments. AIAN programs operate in 26 states, and their services cross state lines in some cases. MSHS funding and funded enrollment are shown as one total, as this program supports children and families who receive services in various states during the year. Thus, federal funding and funded enrollment for these services cannot be attributed to individual states.

Annual Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment

<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>Head Start (excl. AIAN)</i>		<i>AIAN</i>	
	<i>Federal Funding</i>	<i>Funded Enrollment</i>	<i>Federal Funding</i>	<i>Funded Enrollment</i>
<i>Alabama</i>	\$151,659,952	13,223		
<i>Alaska</i>	\$19,582,475	1,360	\$35,323,577	1,957
<i>Arizona</i>	\$171,240,081	12,937	\$37,715,345	2,923
<i>Arkansas</i>	\$104,422,438	9,434		
<i>California</i>	\$1,293,829,207	89,543	\$13,407,736	801
<i>Colorado</i>	\$115,293,674	9,354	\$759,529	56
<i>Connecticut</i>	\$72,356,920	5,606		
<i>Delaware</i>	\$21,301,117	1,997		
<i>District of Columbia</i>	\$33,543,829	2,095		
<i>Florida</i>	\$432,493,009	40,128		
<i>Georgia</i>	\$250,842,776	23,345		
<i>Hawaii</i>	\$31,067,864	2,901		
<i>Idaho</i>	\$38,432,509	2,924	\$4,778,196	319
<i>Illinois</i>	\$395,926,749	32,584		
<i>Indiana</i>	\$155,381,560	13,511		
<i>Iowa</i>	\$79,968,599	7,180		
<i>Kansas</i>	\$77,268,364	6,672	\$2,116,677	109
<i>Kentucky</i>	\$182,322,765	15,399		
<i>Louisiana</i>	\$205,978,119	20,392		
<i>Maine</i>	\$43,011,023	2,977	\$971,762	60
<i>Maryland</i>	\$115,376,032	9,329		
<i>Massachusetts</i>	\$157,968,885	11,678		
<i>Michigan</i>	\$360,792,041	28,907	\$7,971,137	598
<i>Minnesota</i>	\$120,509,189	10,630	\$14,751,467	1,004
<i>Mississippi</i>	\$220,630,909	22,132	\$2,431,965	268
<i>Missouri</i>	\$183,831,453	14,217		
<i>Montana</i>	\$36,865,088	2,996	\$17,263,777	1,436
<i>Nebraska</i>	\$59,397,300	4,898	\$5,643,443	349
<i>Nevada</i>	\$41,171,649	3,000	\$4,418,866	362
<i>New Hampshire</i>	\$20,814,879	1,563		
<i>New Jersey</i>	\$184,557,505	14,915		

New Mexico	\$75,634,491	6,587	\$26,990,511	2,094
New York	\$610,167,997	47,192	\$1,543,890	143
North Carolina	\$230,153,111	20,737	\$2,998,394	230
North Dakota	\$24,756,102	1,891	\$9,375,059	752
Ohio	\$373,675,699	33,111		
Oklahoma	\$131,967,843	13,659	\$32,961,826	2,911
Oregon	\$104,125,730	12,459	\$4,672,602	396
Pennsylvania	\$356,967,178	35,534		
Rhode Island	\$33,940,833	2,664		
South Carolina	\$130,071,176	12,151	\$1,805,525	112
South Dakota	\$28,240,624	2,751	\$23,180,166	1,950
Tennessee	\$181,067,548	16,577		
Texas	\$706,245,351	68,647	\$1,311,640	134
Utah	\$73,469,808	5,462	\$2,348,867	235
Vermont	\$23,512,198	1,392		
Virginia	\$148,970,921	13,827		
Washington	\$172,000,785	11,408	\$23,236,558	1,486
West Virginia	\$74,394,855	7,849		
Wisconsin	\$152,259,979	13,379	\$13,875,862	1,089
Wyoming	\$20,938,782	1,490	\$3,056,230	261
American Samoa	\$4,405,417	1,332		
Guam	\$3,704,262	534		
No. Marianas	\$3,588,916	460		
Palau	\$1,896,067	350		
Puerto Rico	\$323,185,126	31,268		
Virgin Islands	\$10,869,898	1,014		
Subtotal:	\$9,378,048,657	801,552	\$294,910,607	22,035
MSHS	\$434,848,946	28,914		

Total ¹	
Funding	\$10,107,808,210
Enrollment	852,501

¹The FY 2020 appropriation included \$100 million for a fourth round of Early Head Start Expansion and EHS-CC Partnerships grants to be awarded by March 2021. Additionally, there were expansion Funding Opportunity Announcements posted in multiple states including for AIAN and MSHS programs. None of these funds nor funded enrollment are included in this table as they were not awarded by the end of FY 2020.

Program Year Statistics

Most grant recipients provided both Head Start and Early Head Start services during the 2019-2020 program year.

- Head Start preschool services only: 28%
- Early Head Start (EHS) services only: 12%
- Both: 60%

Each year, Head Start programs are required to submit Program Information Reports (PIR) on

the services they have provided to children and families throughout the program year, including child, family, and staff demographics and program characteristics.

Typically, this section of the annual Head Start fact sheet includes additional information about program services collected through the PIR. Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in many program closures across the country during the 2019-2020 program year, the Office of Head Start did not require Head Start programs to submit the PIR. Please see the other annual fact sheets for additional data on program services.

For a copy of the PIR form, detailed reports, instructions on how to access PIR data sets, and further information, visit the [Program Information Report \(PIR\) page](#).