

## 2023 Fact Sheet

# Providing #HOPE to Florida's Children, Families, and Communities



HEAD START WAS FOUNDED IN 1965 as a national early education program based on the premise that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, can reach their full potential. Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) offer comprehensive, multi-generational, community-based programs that provide health, nutrition, and family services to children from birth to age five and pregnant women. Working closely with local communities to identify and meet specific needs, Head Start promotes family health and stability while engaging parents as equal partners in their child's education.

### Florida Head Start Association

Led by a Director and a volunteer Board of Directors, the Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) empowers members to advocate, lead, and enhance the education, health, and social services provided to families by Head Start.

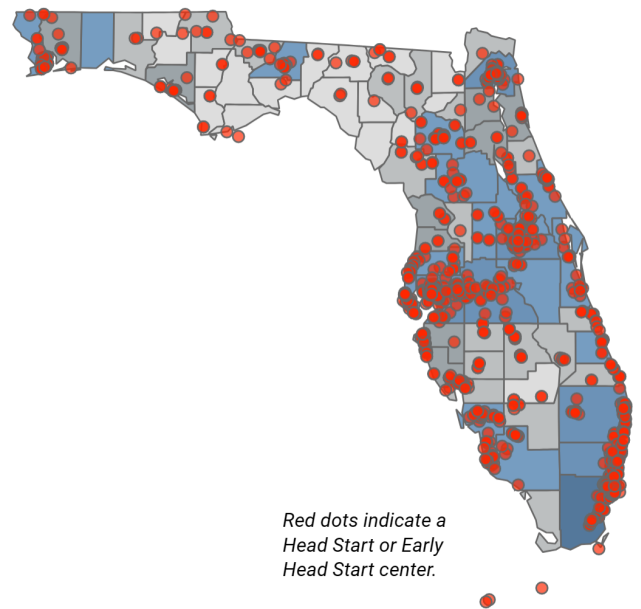
### Head Start Positive Statewide Impact

- Head Start federal funding added \$490,661,731 to Florida's economy
- Florida Head Start programs employed 10,480 individuals
- 45,592 children/pregnant women and 41,169 families served
- 28,169 parents employed, in school or job training
- 2,302 homeless families served
- 385 acquired housing during enrollment



# Florida 2023 Head Start at a Glance

- 58 Head Start programs
- 71 Early Head Start programs
- 4 Migrant and Seasonal HS/EHS programs
- 45,592 cumulative children served
- 612 EHS pregnant women
- 31,000 Head Start preschool children (3-5 years)
- 13,980 Early Head Start children (birth-3 years)



## Outreach to Vulnerable Populations

Some of the children and families with the greatest need for Head Start services and support can be the most difficult to reach. FHSA-led coalitions and statewide partnerships enable information-sharing and establish mutually beneficial lines of communication. During the 2021-22 academic year, those efforts reached:

- 26,728 serving income at or below 100% of federal poverty line
- 482 children in foster care
- 13,414 children receiving Public assistance TANF, SSI
- 2,523 children experiencing homelessness

## Disabilities and Mental Health Services

Head Start/EHS programs take advantage of the early intervention window so crucial to remediating developmental delays and disabilities.

- 2,081 staff consultations with mental health professionals
- 2,420 total children with IEP\* or IFSP\*

*\*Individualized Education Program (IEP), Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)*

## Year-End Health Profile Across Programs

In the face of overwhelming delays and obstacles in connecting to healthcare services, HS/EHS programs made remarkable progress in supporting parents and families, as evidenced by the following key metrics:

- 41,981 children with health insurance
- 42,317 children with a continuous source of medical care
- 38,566 children with a continuous source of dental care
- 528 pregnant women with a continuous source of health care

## Head Start Family Profile

Respected as the very heart of Head Start, parents are involved in governance, program planning, and classroom activities. They receive support for personal and family goal-setting and guidance on creating a stable and healthy home environment.

- 41,169 Head Start/EHS families
- 13,740 two-parent families
- 27,429 single-parent families
- 28,169 at least one parent employed or enrolled in school/job training



**Florida Head Start Association**  
111 N. Gadsden Street, Suite 200  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 694-6477 | [www.FLHeadStart.org](http://www.FLHeadStart.org)

Source: Office of Head Start  
2023 Performance Information Report (PIR)