Head Start Supports SD Early Learners

**Head Start** is a federally funded program that serves expectant women and children ages 0-5. Community-based programs serve children and families who meet income eligibility requirements, are placed in a foster care setting or are experiencing homelessness. Services are provided through the home, in a classroom setting, or in other locally designed options. Head Start takes a comprehensive approach to meet the needs of the whole child and family. There are 16 Grantees (8 Region VIII, 8 Region XI) in South Dakota which receive funding from the Office of Head Start.

In 2018 – an estimated **61,756 children were under 5 years of age in South Dakota**.6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs**</th>
<th>Age 0-2</th>
<th>Ages 3-5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Home Childcare Slots 1</td>
<td>5,340</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Family Childcare Slots 1</td>
<td>948</td>
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<td>Child Care Center Slots 1</td>
<td>23,310</td>
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<td>Early Childhood Spec Ed 2, 3</td>
<td>1,227</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>Head Start</td>
<td>1505</td>
<td>4161</td>
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<td>MIECHV Program 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public &amp; Private District PK 4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4293</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown*</td>
<td>18,683</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Home, Relative, Unregistered Care, Private Preschool, etc **Children may be enrolled in more than one program.

6 – https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/SD/PST043218

**Head Start Waiting List**

In the Fall of 2018 there were an estimated **953** applicants on the waiting list for the 8 Region VIII Grantees (Fall 2019 **839** estimated) applicants on the waiting list.

*It is noted that the waiting list numbers in each county is not a reflection of how many children are eligible for Head Start services – it is the number that have completed applications that are not currently receiving services. Head Start programs accept applications year round.

You can find an interactive Head Start waiting list map by county here: https://tinyurl.com/HeadStartWaitlist

Find Out More at [www.sdheadstart.org](http://www.sdheadstart.org) or use the Resource Locator at [www.SDStepAhead.org](http://www.SDStepAhead.org)

**2018-2019 Program Year**

**EARLY HEAD START**

965 funded slots
(expectant women and children ages 0-2)

*Provided Services to:*

123 expectant women
1,382 infants/toddlers ages 0-2

- 866 income below 100% federal poverty guidelines
- 94 public assistance (such as TANF/SSI)
- 97 foster children
- 218 homeless children
- 133 income above 100% of poverty level
- 97 income between 100-130% of poverty level

**HEAD START**

3600 funded slots*
(children ages 3-5)

*Provided Services to:*

4,161 children ages 3-5

(*an additional 109 children in SD are served by a ND tribal program)

- 2,714 income below 100% federal poverty guidelines
- 226 public assistance (such as TANF/SSI)
- 170 foster children
- 366 homeless children
- 435 income above 100% of poverty level
- 241 income between 100-130% of poverty level

Federal Poverty Guidelines:
http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines

**Note:** Reported cumulative enrollment (higher than funded slots) – when children withdraw, the program is required to fill the vacancy within 30 days.