

COMM  
UNITY  
ACTION  
MARIN

# *Head Start* ANNUAL REPORT 2020





# PAVING THE WAY FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES

## FREE AND AFFORDABLE HIGH-QUALITY CHILDCARE

Despite the uncertainty experienced by many at the onset of the pandemic, our agency served as a trusted partner. As soon as shelter-in-place orders went into effect, first essential workers and then enrolled families had access to childcare, a crucial resource for economic stability. In response to the public health crisis, staff aligned resources to ensure that over 550 children received a safe, caring, home-away-from-home to have fun, learn, and explore. Remote preschool also strengthened connections across social distancing, with online chats, videos, lessons, and at-home activities that kept little ones busy.

As the county's Head Start operator and largest provider of state-subsidized childcare, the agency's team ensured that children ages 0-5

from families of low-income got access to comprehensive nutrition, health, and early education services to ensure their well-being. The team partnered with families to identify strengths, needs, interests, and goals. These supports helped families, fostered parent child relationships, and connected people to peers. They also assisted parents in becoming advocates for their children and to be leaders in their community.

In the 2019-2020 school year, we served approximately 26% of income eligible students in the county:

- **230** children in Head Start
- **188** in Early Head Start
- **20** pregnant mothers

The average monthly enrollment was:

- **98%** of the 214 funded enrollment slots in Head

# 98%

**AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT**  
in Head Start and Early Head Start

Start and the 148 funded slots in Early Head Start

Working together, staff:

- Helped to increase children's school readiness
- Opened doorways to greater economic mobility for families
- Supported mental health and wellness, and met urgent needs

Families also gained the knowledge, skills, and access to opportunities that better prepared them for steps to self-sufficiency and thriving through the agency's team of success coaches.

## SCHOOL READINESS

Our team's goal is to ensure that children enter kindergarten ready to learn and that families are prepared to succeed according to their dreams for today and tomorrow. The team implements effective teaching practices, including program-wide implementation of research-based curriculum to fidelity (Creative Curriculum)

and supporting children's language acquisition. The program focuses on developing social emotional skills by using CSEFEL Teaching Pyramid practices, which include strategies to support behaviors and develop individualized intervention plans. Spring 2020 outcomes showed 98% of our students meeting or exceeding expectations in math, 92% in emotional skills, 95% in literacy, 88%

in language skills, and 97% in cognitive skills. In Fall 2020, the program switched to using DRDP as an outcomes tool and will report school readiness using that tool going forward.

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

As we do each year, Community Action Marin refreshed our community assessment to help inform our strategic planning.

**"I AM THE FATHER OF A CHILD WHO IS CURRENTLY** enrolled at the Canal Children Center in San Rafael. I would like to share my gratitude with the program coordinators for doing such incredible work in helping children and families across Marin County...With the help and support being provided to our children, we as parents are able to learn valuable skills from the program that help us provide a better educational environment for our future members of society. Being able to have a say in the proposal of future educational program changes, as a member of the Parents Council for Community Action Marin, allows us to have an advantage to be more involved in our children's education in ways that were not possible before. Now, we can all move forward as a community dedicated to assist and help children and families around Marin County."

-CARLOS V., PARENT



Marin County is on average a very wealthy place, however, the poverty rate for children under 5 is approximately 10% and highly concentrated in certain neighborhoods. In addition, costs are extraordinarily high, with one of the most expensive rental markets in the country and over 50% of households paying 30% or more of their income in rent.

Our parents understandably reported the largest community needs as reducing housing costs and improving employment prospects. Childcare remained a large need with just about 7,900 slots for 12,100 children, and parents reporting childcare as a challenge when seeking employment. The pandemic has exacerbated these challenges even more,

leading to elevated levels of need for assistance. In our program we sought to help address these challenges by engaging with parents and connecting them to supports across the agency.

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Each year, families have many opportunities to participate in their child's

education and, in the process, gain leadership skills.

### Family Engagement Events

Parent committees come together throughout the school year to meet and learn about topics that support child learning and family well-being. Topics have included "Relationships Matter, You Can Make a Difference," Executive Functioning, Nutrition,

Literacy, Language, Math, Physical Development and Preparing for Kindergarten.

### Policy Council

Parents elected Policy Council representatives and alternates from their parent committees to meet monthly with the Head Start Director and Managers. These parent representatives help to drive the direction of the Head Start program by giving their input on program planning, improving policies and the program budget.

### Classroom Volunteering

Parents and community members participate in the classroom in many ways. They join children in class activities and circle time, attend field trips, work in community gardens, help teachers, and create class materials. They also join family days at the Bay Area Discovery Museum and other local sites.

As a way to bridge the home to school connection, Head Start / Early Head Start families come together throughout the year to participate with their children at events. Parents check out book bags through our Raising a Reader program (currently paused due to COVID-19) and participate in the ReadyRosie parenting curriculum. This program builds on parents' knowledge by providing families with learning activities that focus a variety of topics, including different child development domains and positive discipline techniques.

By participating in these opportunities, families learn new ways to support their child's school readiness skills. These activities also foster relationships and support families as learners, helping parents to recognize that they are their child's life-long educator.

### Health

Every working day, the Children and Family Services team provides not only high-quality early education and parent engagement, but also nutrition, health and wellness offerings. We served tens of thousands of nutritious meals and snacks and helped connect families to needed health supports, despite the challenges with scheduling appointments as the pandemic hit. Of the 230 students in Head Start, 89% had a dental exam and 93% had a physical exam; of the 188 participants in Early Head Start 86% had a physical and 41% had a dental exam.



# 53%

**MORE CHILDREN THAN OPENINGS**

has parents reporting childcare as a challenge when seeking employment

"AS A MOTHER OF TWO AND AS A PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER, I needed to make a decision to continue supporting my daughters or quit my job teaching. Thanks to the Learning Pod, I was able to keep my daughters in school and continue teaching at Old Gallinas. Thanks, Community Action Marin, for your support!"

-ERIKA C.,

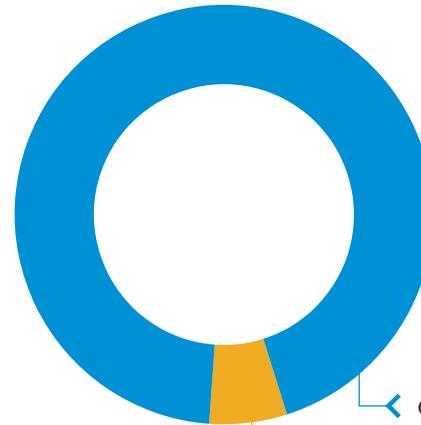
TEACHING STAFF OLD GALLINAS CHILDREN'S CENTER



## FINANCIALS

### REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$6,088,357



HEAD START: \$3,220,910

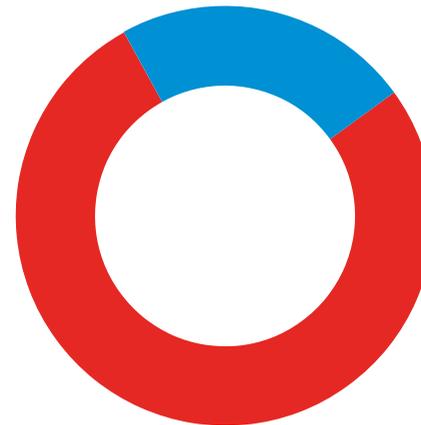
EARLY HEAD START: \$2,867,447

GOVERNMENT  
(94%) \$5,714,985

GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS  
(6%) \$373,373

### EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$5,948,826



PROGRAM EXPENSES: \$4,571,080

OTHER EXPENSES: \$1,377,746

Head Start and Early Head Start programs represent approximately 31% of Community Action Marin's budget.

# IN YOUR<sup>®</sup> CORNER

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