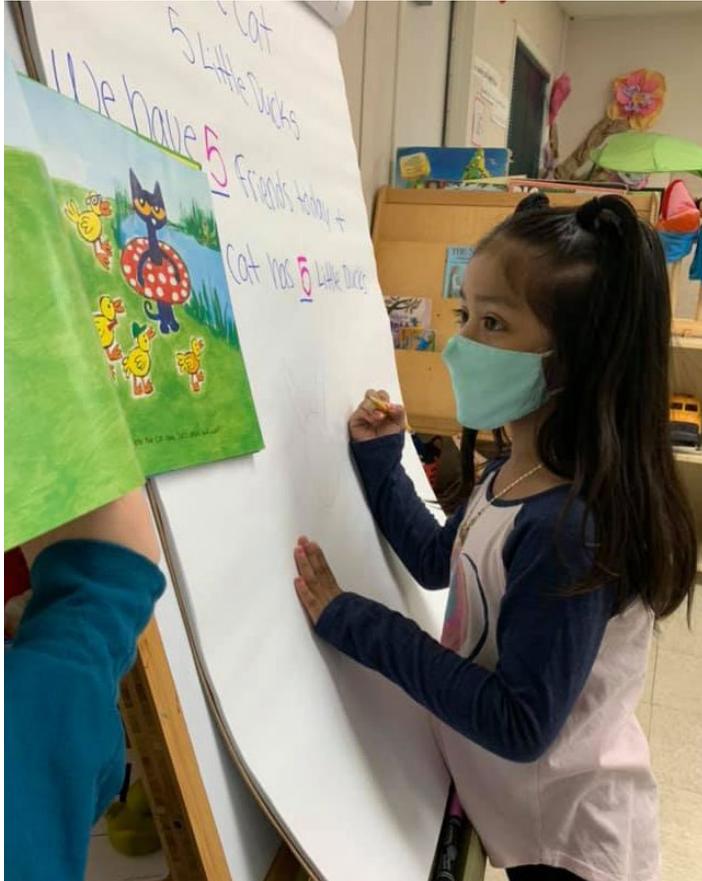




# Head Start 2021 Annual Report



# HELPING FAMILIES REACH THEIR GOALS

## FREE AND AFFORDABLE HIGH-QUALITY CHILDCARE

During the COVID-19 pandemic, both essential workers and Head Start families had a critical need for childcare, a crucial resource for economic stability. 90% of working families in Marin need childcare due to parent employment. With this unprecedented challenge, Community Action Marin served as a trusted partner to provide childcare services to families in need across the county.

In response to the public health crisis, our staff ensured 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, our 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.

We 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.

## SERVING THE COUNTY

In the 2020-2021 school year, we served approximately 44% of income eligible students in the county:

- **91** children in Head Start
- **53** in Early Head Start
- **13** pregnant mothers

The average monthly enrollment was:

- **80%** of the 214 Head Start and 148 Early Head Start funded slots

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. Our team implements effective teaching practices, including program-wide implementation of research-based curriculum and support for children's language acquisition.

Parents participate in the kindergarten transition so they know what to expect when their children start the program. This includes online readiness so they know how to register and access program information. They also meet a second time to get all of the details involved in their child starting school.

The program's curriculum uses the California Teaching Pyramid Framework. This focuses on building strong teacher-child

relationships, supporting social and emotional development, preventing challenging behaviors, developing individualized interventions plans, and promoting a sense of belonging.

Our Head Start programs are now in their second year of utilizing the Desired Results Development Profile (DRDP) tool to support ongoing observation and assessment toward individualizing our programming for each child. While DRDP is limited in its analysis of program outcomes, it continues to allow for data analysis of the progression of children towards meeting school readiness goals. To ensure standard implementation, staff have been trained on ChildPlus Mobile online which allows teachers to begin observations when a child enters the classroom.

Spring 2021 outcomes showed students met or exceeded outcomes in the following:

### Preschool Students

- **80%** cognitive/math/science
- **81%** emotional skills
- **91%** in literacy and language development

### Early Head Start Students

- **63%** cognitive/math/science
- **41%** emotional skills
- **54%** in literacy and language development

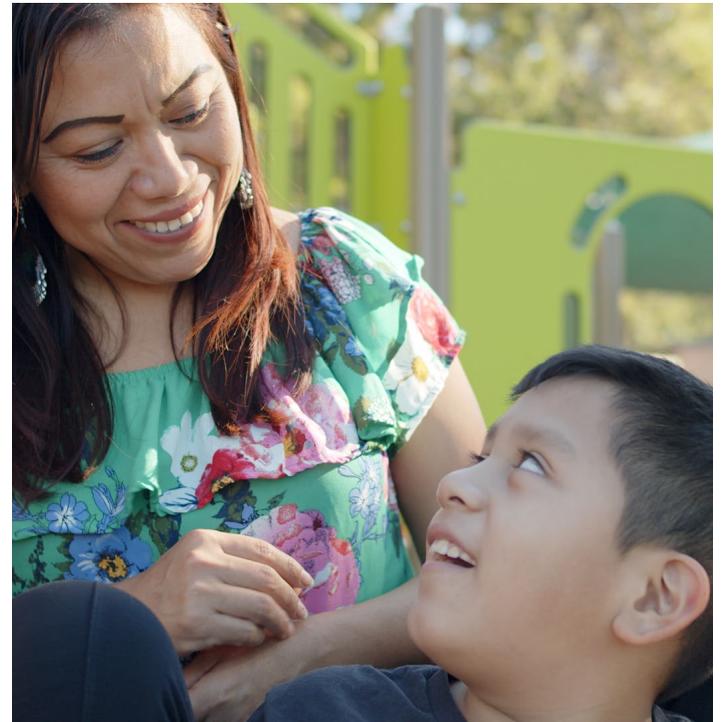
# 37%

**OF HOUSEHOLDS IN MARIN COUNTY**  
do not get paid enough to meet basic needs

## "WHAT COMMUNITY ACTION MARIN HAS DONE FOR ME AND MY GRANDCHILDREN, THE SUPPORT THROUGH OUR STRUGGLES, HAS BEEN WONDERFUL.

To say I am grateful is not enough. I feel this does not come close to expressing how I feel about the group I work with, or the care my grandchildren receive from their childcare programs. Anytime I see people that need help or assistance, I always recommend Community Action Marin's services because they are helpful for children and families."

- ANGELA M., GRANDPARENT



## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Each year, families have numerous opportunities to participate in their child's education and, in the process, gain leadership skills. These activities are designed to complement the work of teachers in the classroom:

### Family Engagement Events

Parents come together throughout the school year to meet and learn about topics that support child learning and family well-being such as family relationships, nutrition, language, math, digital literacy, and physical

development. Parents participate in Back to School Night, check out book bags through our Raising a Reader program, and participate in the Ready Rosie parenting curriculum.

### Policy Council

Parents elect 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, policies, and the program budget.

Parents also learn about safety protocols at our children's centers, positive parenting skills, and how to engage further as part of the school community, within the Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

### 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.

By participating in these different family engagement 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.

**"THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN A SECOND HOME TO MY SON and it has given me the opportunity to grow professionally."**

-LEYDIS MATA, HEAD START PARENT



### Health

Every working day, the Children and Family Services team provided not only high-quality early education and parent engagement, but also nutrition, health, and wellness offerings. We served 550+ healthy organic meals to children in our programs daily. We helped connect

families to needed health support despite the challenges with scheduling appointments during the pandemic.

A longtime highlight of our program is our Learning Gardens which offers exciting, hands-on ways to increase healthy eating choices and access to

fresh fruits and vegetables among the families we serve.

We utilize a curriculum called Garden of Eatin' to teach children about food, nutrition, cooking, gardening, agriculture, nature, and related topics. Children enrolled in our Children and Family Ser-

vices programs also learn about healthy eating by the example of their caregivers, who model healthy habits, manners, and good choices in the classroom.

Of the children in our Head Start and Early Head Start programs, 57% received a dental exam and 64% received physical exams.



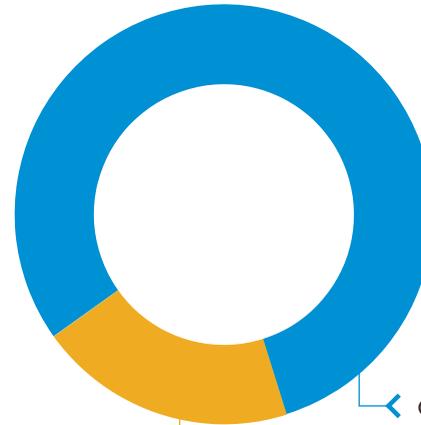
**“AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR APPROACH AS EDUCATORS IS HELPING TO ENSURE THAT PARENTS ARE ENGAGED IN THE WORK OF THEIR CHILDREN IN THE PROGRAM.** It’s critically important to create a family experience. From children, little ones to parents to older adults and families, we really try to bring everybody together. Parents must recognize that they are their child’s life-long educator.”

-CHANDRA ALEXANDRE,  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, COMMUNITY ACTION MARIN

## FINANCIALS

### REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$7,958,114



GOVERNMENT  
(79.5%) \$6,363,387

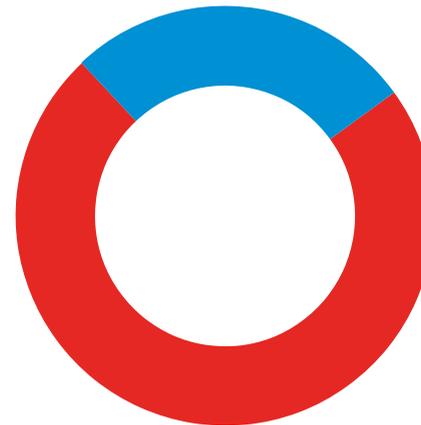
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS  
(20.5%) \$1,594,726

HEAD START: \$4,313,807

EARLY HEAD START: \$3,644,307

### EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$7,958,114



PROGRAM EXPENSES: \$5,779,642

OTHER EXPENSES: \$2,178,472

Head Start and Early Head Start programs represent approximately 37% of Community Action Marin’s budget.



# IN YOUR<sup>®</sup> CORNER

555 Northgate Drive, Suite 201  
San Rafael, California 94903  
info@camarin.org 415.526.7500  
[camarin.org](http://camarin.org)

COMM  
UNITY  
ACTION  
MARIN

