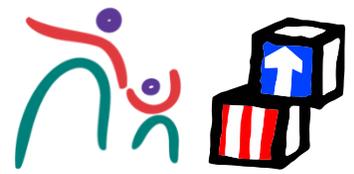




2019-2020 Annual Report



Child Care Resources Inc.
Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership
2019-2020 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

Child Care Resources Inc.'s (CCRI's) Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) partnered with eight 5-star licensed child care centers in Mecklenburg and Burke counties in North Carolina to deliver comprehensive child and family services for infants, toddlers, and their families living in poverty. CCRI's Early Head Start grant was awarded in 2015 by the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The EHS-CCP program is designed for children ages birth to 3 who:

- Live in households earning below 100% of the federal poverty level;
- Receive a child care subsidy or are on the subsidy waiting list; and/or
- May be in foster care, have special needs, or whose families are homeless.

Key components of CCRI's EHS-CCP program include:

- Small group sizes, low child-staff ratios, and qualified early childhood teachers
- Use of a research-based curriculum
- Developmental screenings for all children and referrals (as needed)
- On-going child assessments to monitor growth and development
- Family engagement opportunities, activities, and support
- Training, coaching, and support for teachers and directors
- Health, safety, and nutrition services focused on ensuring that infants and toddlers have medical and dental homes and that child care settings are safe and nurturing
- Access to mental health services for children, families, and child care staff

During the program year (September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020), CCRI worked with its child care partner sites to offer full-day child care across 230 service days. A total of 196 slots were under contract, and EHS-CCP staff worked continuously to recruit new child care programs. Throughout the program year, a total of 216 infants and toddlers received services for at least one month. Each center provided high-quality early care and education (ECE) programming and family engagement to meet the rigorous Head Start Performance Standards as well as all state and local licensing and health and safety standards.

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in drastic measures nationwide. In North Carolina, Governor Cooper issued an Executive Stay at Home Order that was effective from April through mid-May 2020, and the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) immediately provided alternative child care supports to families who were in need of child care, which has never been closed by the State at any time throughout the pandemic.

During the Stay at Home Order, CCRI's EHS-CCP partner sites in Burke County remained open to serve families that were willing and able to attend. In Mecklenburg County, all five partner sites temporarily closed for the health and safety of children, families, and program staff. During this temporary closure, partnering centers provided weekly opportunities for families to pick up educational materials and activities for learning at home as well as diapers, wipes, and food, as needed. In collaboration with partner site administrators and EHS teachers, Family Support Staff remained in daily contact with impacted families.

As of June 2020, all partner sites were open and providing in-person child care and virtual services to families, based on their circumstances and preferences. All sites adhered to DCDEE's enhanced health and safety guidelines during COVID-19.

Program Goals

1. *CCRI's EHS-CCP will result in measurably improved infant/toddler child care delivery – classroom instruction, family engagement and support, teacher performance, and child outcomes – across partner sites and provide a model of excellence in infant/toddler care delivery for child care programs serving low-income children and families.*

The following child care partner sites offered EHS-CCP services:

- Bright Future Learning Center
- Creative Beginnings
- First Ward Child Development Center
- Giggles N' Grins
- Giggles N' Grins Too
- Pure Genius Learning Center
- The Early Learning Center
- Dixon Academy

Early care and education services were robust with many successes, as detailed in the Child Development and Education section of this report.

In addition, CCRI established new partnerships with nine organizations to support the EHS-CCP program in Mecklenburg and Burke counties.

2. *CCRI's EHS-CCP will adopt a reliable and robust data management system to strengthen all tasks required to enhance program planning, implementation, and evaluation, which results in improvement of child and family outcomes.*

EHS-CCP used ChildPlus to track and manage program data and to inform program monitoring. Staff were able to identify program needs and opportunities for improvement and measure program compliance. EHS-CCP also used robust child assessment systems Teaching Strategies GOLD to measure child learning and development, and to inform lesson planning and individualized growth plans for all enrolled children. Data was entered daily and monitored weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annually to provide direction on child, family, and program needs, as well as areas of success.

FINANCES

The table below details funds received by CCRI and its child care partners for EHS-CCP activities during the program year:

Public Funds	
Office of Head Start EHS-CCP funding	\$ 3,173,748.83
Child care subsidy funds collected by child care partners	\$ 755,584.90
USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program collected by partners	\$ 156,544.56
Mecklenburg County match funds	\$ 64,640.88
Total Public Funds Received	\$ 4,150,519.17
Private Funds	
Parent fees collected by the child care partners related to child care subsidy	\$ 80,005.62
TOTAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS	\$ 4,230,524.79

The table below details actual operating and training/technical assistance (T/TA) expenditures for the current program year and proposed expenditures for next year (September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2020):

OPERATING and T/TA BUDGET	19-20 Actual	20-21 Proposed
Personnel	\$ 529,965	\$ 741,994
Fringe Benefits	\$ 147,212	\$ 248,468
Travel (out of town)	\$ 16,729	\$ 0
Supplies and Materials	\$ 17,055	\$ 13,200
Contractual	\$ 2,080,881	\$ 2,703,828

Other*	\$ 93,471	\$ 131,662
Indirect	\$ 288,436	\$ 385,575
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,173,749	\$ 4,224,727

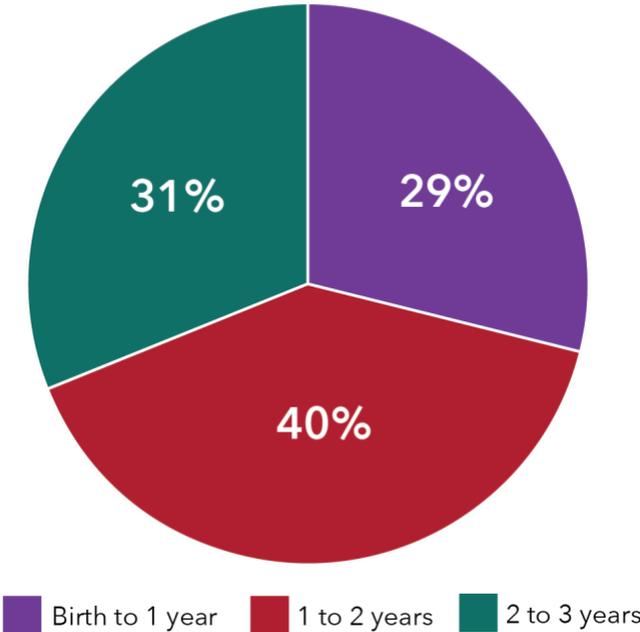
Budget Category Notes:

- Personnel – CCRI employed 12 EHS-CCP staff to deliver comprehensive services to EHS-CCP partners.
- Contractual – CCRI has contributed to the consistent employment of over 90 community residents in its nine EHS-CCP programs.
- Other – Includes communications and postage; printing; local travel; dues and subscriptions; advertising; vehicle insurance; and EHS grant contract services.

ENROLLMENT

A cumulative total of 216 children were served by EHS-CCP throughout the program year across a total of 196 contracted slots, with average monthly enrollment at 71% of contracted slots (lower than typical due to the COVID-19 pandemic and North Carolina’s Executive Stay at Home Order).

Children’s Ages PY19-20



PERFORMANCE REVIEW

As of August 31, 2020, CCRI has successfully completed its five-year EHS-CCP grant. In November 2019, CCRI submitted a competitive application for a new five-year EHS-CCP grant (September 2020 – August 2025), which was awarded in August 2020.

HEALTH, DENTAL, AND NUTRITION SERVICES

Access to health, nutrition, and dental services are a hallmark of EHS-CCP. Family Support Staff worked with families to ensure they had both medical and dental homes. Families without one or both were given referrals, and staff followed up to ensure these referrals were successful.

During the program year:

- 100% (216/216) of children had a medical home.
- 100% (216/216) of children had medical insurance, of whom more than 98% (210/216) had Medicaid or CHIP and less than 2% (6/216) had private insurance.
- 79% (169/216) of children received medical exams at least once.
- 48% (103/216) of eligible toddlers received dental screenings.
- 20% (42/216) of infants and toddlers received services or referrals for mental health.
- 130 vision screenings and 52 hearing screenings were provided by EHS-CCP.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

All EHS-CCP partner sites hosted monthly parent committee meetings. Policy Council meetings also occurred monthly and were attended by parent representatives from each partner center. Additional activities included reading events, spring and fall festivals, and father involvement activities. Highlights from the program year include:

- Families of 187 children completed the Ages and Stages Social Emotional Questionnaire.
- Families at five partner centers elected at least one parent to serve on Policy Council; a total of 10 parents served.
- A large majority (159/216) of families completed Family Partnership Agreements.
- Family members, including grandparents and other relatives, volunteered in their children's programs.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

CCRI's EHS-CCP implemented multiple strategies to support children's learning and development and prepare them for kindergarten. Highlights include:

- Intensive training on *The Creative Curriculum*® and Teaching Strategies (TS) GOLD® to assist teachers in creating classroom and individualized lesson plans and using the curriculum-based assessment tool to support children's learning.
- Children's learning was on track with Widely Held Expectations (WHE) for their age. Based on TS GOLD® formal assessment, from Fall 2019 to Spring 2020, all children made gains in their knowledge and development, and 86% of children met or exceeded WHE across all domains.
- EHS-CCP provided 53 teacher training hours on topics such as: Inclusion and Support for Children with Special Needs, Mental Health during COVID-19, parent teacher interactions, Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), and resources for children experiencing trauma.
- Teachers used the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and North Carolina's Foundations for Early Learning and Development to inform lesson planning and understanding of children's needs.
- Teachers screened 181 children with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3rd edition (ASQ-3), and Family Support Specialists assisted 187 families with completing the ASQ-SE (social-emotional screenings) upon enrollment.
- A total of 176 children received developmental screenings within the first 45 days of enrollment, with a total of 181 children receiving developmental screenings. Goals, objectives, and outcomes were developed for 176 children.
- A total of 202 children received one home visit, of whom 158 received two home visits. Families not visited twice were those that refused home visits or were not enrolled in EHS-CCP long enough for two home visits to be completed during the program year.
- Families of 170 children participated in at least one parent teacher conference, of whom 134 participated in two conferences. Families not participating in two conferences were those that declined or were not enrolled long enough for two conferences to be completed.
- A total of 37 children (18.8%) had Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) and received services accordingly.
- Of all EHS-CCP teachers, 61% (46/75) had an associate's degree in early childhood or a related field, and 8% (6/75) had a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.