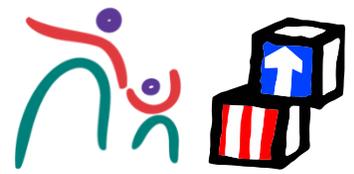




Child Care Resources Inc.

EARLY HEAD START
CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

2018-19 Annual Report



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INTRODUCTION

Child Care Resources Inc.'s (CCRI's) Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) partnered with nine 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 under age 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, 2018, through August 31, 2019), CCRI worked with its child care partner sites to offer full-day early care and education (ECE) services across 230 service days. A total of 196 slots were under contract, and EHS-CCP staff worked continuously to recruit new child care programs. Over the course of the year, a total of 230 infants and toddlers received services for at least one month. Each center provided high-quality ECE programming and family engagement by meeting the rigorous requirements of the Head Start Performance Standards, in addition to all state and local licensing and health and safety standards.

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 partnership sites and will 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
- Howard Levine Child Development Center
- Lakewood Preschool Cooperative
- Pure Genius Learning Center
- The Early Learning Center

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 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	18-19 Actual	19-20 Proposed
Personnel	\$ 529,965	\$ 558,998
Fringe Benefits	\$ 147,212	\$ 183,094
Travel (out of town)	\$ 16,729	\$ 12,500
Supplies and Materials	\$ 17,055	\$ 17,598
Contractual	\$ 2,080,881	\$ 2,262,941
Other*	\$ 93,471	\$ 124,916
Indirect	\$ 288,436	\$ 316,347
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,173,749	\$ 3,476,394

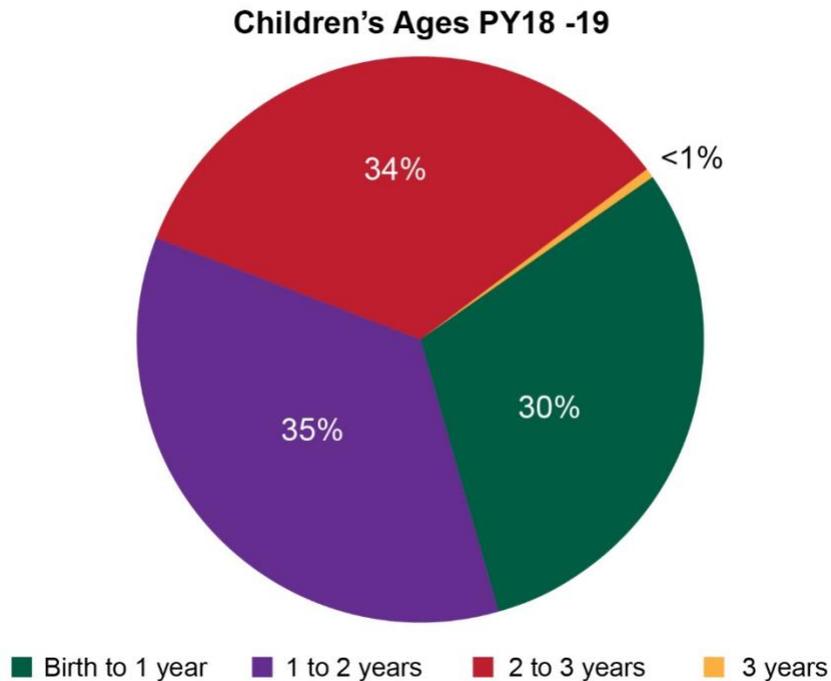
Budget Category Notes:

- Personnel – CCRI employed 11 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 230 children were served by EHS-CCP throughout the program year across a maximum of 196 contracted slots. The average monthly enrollment was 85% of contracted slots with child care partners.

In July 2019, due to contract noncompliance, CCRI terminated its EHS-CCP contract with a provider serving 22 children. The care for 16 families who chose to remain in Early Head Start was temporarily moved to another EHS child care partner site for the duration of the 2018-19 program year. In July 2019, CCRI contracted with a new child care partner site for 32 EHS-CCP slots to begin serving children in September 2019. Additionally, one of the child care partner sites chose not to renew its EHS-CCP contract at the end of the program year. The net result at year-end was eight centers under contract for a total of 190 slots. Fully 100% of children served were eligible for EHS-CCP services.



PERFORMANCE REVIEW

At the beginning of the 2018-19 program year, CCRI was under-enrolled with fewer than 270 funded slots under contract to local child care partner sites. As a result, the Office of Head Start reduced CCRI's contracted slots to 196 effective January 2019. CCRI was able to successfully maintain full enrollment for the duration of the program year.

HEALTH, DENTAL, AND NUTRITION SERVICES

Access to health, nutrition, and dental services are a hallmark of the EHS-CCP program. 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:

- 95% (219/230) of children received medical exams at least once.
- 100% (230/230) of children had a medical home.
- 100% (230/230) of children had medical insurance, with nearly all (225/230) having Medicaid or CHIP. Less than 2% (6/230) of children had private health insurance.
- 93% (126/136) of eligible toddlers received dental screenings.
- 27% (63/231) of infants and toddlers received services or referrals for mental health.
- 218 vision screenings and 216 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 program. Additional activities such as reading events, spring and fall festivals, and father involvement activities took place. Highlights from the program year include:

- Families of 214 children completed the Ages and Stages Social Emotional Questionnaire.
- Families at each center elected at least one parent to serve on the Policy Council; a total of 14 parents served.
- Nearly all (190/203) families completed Family Partnership Agreements.
- A total of 200 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 Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold to assist teachers in creating classroom and individualized lesson plans, as well as in using the curriculum-based assessment tool to support children's learning.
- Children's learning was on track. Comparing Fall 2018 to Spring 2019, all children made gains in their knowledge and development. Based on Teaching Strategies Gold formal assessment, 73% of children met or exceeded widely held expectations across all domains.
- EHS-CCP provided 63 teacher training hours on topics such as: Flip It training, the Pyramid Model, parent teacher interactions, serving parents who are incarcerated, team building, father/male engagement, CLASS, serving children with special needs, 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 210 children with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3rd edition (ASQ-3), and family support specialists assisted 210 families with completing the ASQ-SE (social-emotional screenings) at enrollment.
- 186 children received developmental screenings within the first 45 days with a cumulative total of 210 children receiving developmental screenings. Goals, objectives, and outcomes were developed for 164 children.
- 75 children received two home visits, and 102 children received one home visit. Of those families not visited twice, some refused home visits, while others were not enrolled in EHS-CCP long enough to have two home visits completed during the program year.
- Families of 128 infants and toddlers participated in two parent teacher conferences, and 177 participated in one parent teacher conference. Of those families not participating in two conferences, some declined and others were not enrolled long enough to have two conferences.
- 41 children (20.9%) had Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs) and received services according to their treatment plans.
- 14% (13/91) of teachers had BA degrees in early childhood or a related field.
- 59.3% (54/91) of teachers had Associate's degrees in early childhood or a related field.