

CHILDREN SERVICES
DIVISION
2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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Introduction

DFSS Mission Statement

Working with community partners, we connect Chicago residents and families to resources that build stability, support their well-being, and empower them to thrive.

Chicago Early Learning Programs

The City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) manages a comprehensive human service delivery system to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable residents. DFSS coordinates programs and administers resources to children and families, unsheltered homeless residents, survivors of domestic violence, workforce development for ex-offenders, youth, veterans, and senior services. In the core area of children services, DFSS provides children across the city with access to high-quality early learning through a citywide network of community-based programs known as Chicago Early Learning (CEL).

Chicago Early Learning Programs

Currently, DFSS' Children Services Division (CSD) administers funding for all community based CEL programs through small and large delegate/sub-recipient agencies and their partners. CSD's efforts to build this strong system of services are guided by three priorities:

- Maximize access to high quality early learning programs by matching investments to the needs of local communities and reducing the barriers to entry for children and families.
- Improve the comprehensiveness and quality of early learning across all programs to ensure that children and families' needs are met, and children are kindergarten ready.
- Create a strong system of service providers by increasing support and reducing the administrative burden for community-based providers of early learning.

The CEL program models and options include the following federal, state, and local funding streams:

- Head Start, Early Head Start
- Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership and Expansion
- State Pre-K and Prevention Initiative
- Site-Based Child Care Assistance Program



Through these programs DFSS serves approximately 15,000 children annually through a network of 26 federally funded sub-recipients and an additional 72 Preschool for All, Prevention Initiative, and Child Care delegate agencies. The CEL programs operate full year, full day (12-month) and School Year offerings from September to August. Children and families can enroll in center-based full day care, full day licensed family childcare home care, or home-based/home visiting programs. Different funding streams run on different fiscal year cycles as outlined in the Fiscal Year 2021 section.



Program Year 2020-2021 Highlights

Emergency Child Care for Essential Workers

Childcare centers were included as one of the essential businesses allowed to remain open if they applied for and received an emergency license by following regulations specifically enacted for emergency day care programs for children of essential workers--employees exempted from the Executive Order. These employees needed to have childcare in order to continue essential duties during the initial onset of COVID-19. Although some childcare and day care agencies were permitted to continue operations, the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation suspended other operations such as family childcare homes and entities not listed in the executive order and emergency childcare act. At the same time, the Federal Office of Head Start ordered the closing of all Head Start in-person operations. Only CEL community-based learning centers not receiving Head Start funding could continue to provide in-person services if they received an emergency license from Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS). About 10 of DFSS's CEL agencies were permitted to continue daily operations.

Remote Operations and Learning for Families

CEL agencies continued services remotely during the statewide Stay-at-Home-Order. Agencies were expected to maintain communication with families and implement remote services that meet the needs of families during the stay-at-home order. DFSS issued guidance to agencies for remote learning and providing family engagement support. These guidelines included an array of e-learning resources that programs could share with parents to help parents support child learning from a distance. Free resources were provided through links sent in the CSD Updates to agencies, such as Ready Rosie toolkits that include learning at home activities, prevention, care methods, and supports for emotional wellbeing. Resources for teachers to share with parents included activity suggestions for remote learning, sample schedules to replicate a typical preschool day and experiences at home, and letters to families that explained key things to consider as parents help their children transition to spending their days at home. Early learning educators and child development experts at DFSS and CPS created a webpage for parents to easily find resources to support their children's development and learning during the pandemic. The website contains guidelines and activities tailored for individual age groups, infants, toddlers, and pre- school aged children. Families could also discover resources on the website



such as learning resources, health and wellness, news & updates, technology guides for families, and diverse learner resources. Educators could access the site to find resources such as E-learning strategies, remote learning tools, professional development, and other administrator resources. The website is integrated with Spanish language preference. For more information and direct resources for Chicago Pre-Learning, please visit: <https://www.chicagoprelearning.org/childrens-portal/children#infants-ID>.



Looking Ahead

Ensuring Needs of Families

In 2020, DFSS conducted several surveys during the early pandemic to better understand that needs of agencies and their families. DFSS released an emergency needs survey to identify the type and quantity of supplies that would be needed by agencies' families with infants and toddlers and to distribute those supplies. Supplies included diapers, wipes, formula, and nutritional drinks for infants & toddlers. The survey was analyzed for a quick turnaround and the requests were promptly processed for ordering and timely distribution of supplies to agencies to distribute to families.

DFSS also conducted a survey to understand the most requested resources by families during the pandemic. The top requested resources were:

- Housing rental assistance
- Mental health resources
- Assistance needed for formula/diapers/wipes
- Food/nutrition support

DFSS continued to provide information to agencies via its CSD Update to connect agencies with resources that could meet the needs of their families. Lastly, in preparation for reopening, DFSS surveyed its agencies to understand how the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) decision to reopen virtually would impact agency staff, especially those with children in CPS, which might impact parent work schedules in the fall.



Children and Families Served in Program Year 2020-2021

Eligibility and Enrollment

The 2020-2021 program year was a challenging one for enrollment. The year began with center-based sites facing reduced capacity due to COVID-19 group size restrictions, with many children receiving services remotely. DFSS was able to work with COPA, CSD's primary information systems vendor, to develop a method to track remote participation in addition to traditional in-person attendance, but overall participation remained below traditional levels. It was challenging to convince parents on the value of remote services or the safety of in-person services.

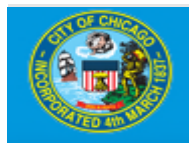
Enrollment and attendance improved throughout the fall and winter, particularly among Early Head Start programs, as the city slowly re-opened, but plateaued in the spring with enrollment numbers significantly below the pre-pandemic norm.

Health Services

Collaboration and communication with parents on the procedures for health services begins during the enrollment process. Every child must have a medical home, dental home, and health insurance that will allow the family to access appropriate medical and dental care for the child. The following table shows the percentage of immunizations, insurance, medical care, and dental care received at enrollment and at the end of enrollment for three Head Start programs.

Head Start 2020-2021

<i>Services to All Children at Beginning of Enrollment Year Compared to End of Enrollment Year (based on Cumulative Enrollment)</i>	<i># at Beginning of Enrollment Year</i>	<i>% at Beginning of Enrollment Year</i>	<i># at End of Enrollment Year</i>	<i>% at End of Enrollment Year</i>
Children with health insurance	5,406	84.2%	5,955	92.7%
Children with accessible health care	5,835	90.8%	5,920	92.2%
Children with up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date, or exempt	5,948	92.6%	5,823	90.7%
Children with accessible dental care	5,319	82.8%	5,629	87.6%



Early Head Start 2020-2021

<i>Services to All Children at Beginning of Enrollment Year Compared to End of Enrollment Year (based on Cumulative Enrollment)</i>	<i># at Beginning of Enrollment Year</i>	<i>% at Beginning of Enrollment Year</i>	<i># at End of Enrollment Year</i>	<i>% at End of Enrollment Year</i>
Children with health insurance	1,646	75.7%	1,827	84.0%
Children with accessible health care	1,833	84.3%	1,762	81.0%
Children with up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date, or exempt	1,813	83.4%	1,710	78.6%
Children with accessible dental care	1,437	66.1%	1,611	74.1%

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership 2020-2021

<i>Services to All Children at Beginning of Enrollment Year Compared to End of Enrollment Year (based on Cumulative Enrollment)</i>	<i># at Beginning of Enrollment Year</i>	<i>% at Beginning of Enrollment Year</i>	<i># at End of Enrollment Year</i>	<i>% at End of Enrollment Year</i>
Children with health insurance	805	87.2%	873	94.6%
Children with accessible health care	831	90.0%	855	92.6%
Children with up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date, or exempt	837	90.7%	843	91.3%
Children with accessible dental care	702	76.1%	822	89.1%

Early Head Start- Expansion 2020-2021

<i>Services to All Children at Beginning of Enrollment Year Compared to End of Enrollment Year (based on Cumulative Enrollment)</i>	<i># at Beginning of Enrollment Year</i>	<i>% at Beginning of Enrollment Year</i>	<i># at End of Enrollment Year</i>	<i>% at End of Enrollment Year</i>
Children with health insurance	126	64.3%	164	83.7%
Children with accessible health care	146	74.5%	148	75.5%
Children with up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date, or exempt	159	81.1%	130	66.3%
Children with accessible dental care	125	63.8%	130	66.3%



Parent Involvement

An important part of Head Start is family engagement in education and child development services.

To further support family and parent engagement, DFSS collaborates with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Center for Literacy Parent & Family Engagement Programs on multiple year-round initiatives. Each initiative is aligned with the national Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework.

Due to COVID-19, the UIC Center for Literacy FAST Programs shifted focus to strategize how to continue providing support services to Chicago Early Learning sites and families. Many sites faced closures and families endured financial, health, and emotional hardships. UIC shifted services and workshops virtually to ensure continued support and engagement of parents.

DFSS and its delegates offer parents many ways to be involved with their children's development, as illustrated in the table.

Parent Involvement Activities	Number
Number of parents who participated in career coaching with Career Transitions staff members	83
Number of fathers/father figures involved in Parent Outreach workshops that were centered around the importance of male involvement in a child's life	104
Number of parents who participated in High School Equivalency (HSE) courses that were offered in person and virtually	201
Number of families who attended CFL's Parent Outreach workshops covering family literacy, employment readiness, and financial literacy	591

The framework addresses family outcomes in seven areas: Family Well-being, Positive Parent-Child Relationships, Families as Lifelong Educators, Families as Learners, Family Engagement in Transitions, Family Connections to Peers and Community, and Families as Advocates and Leaders.

Major program year highlights include:

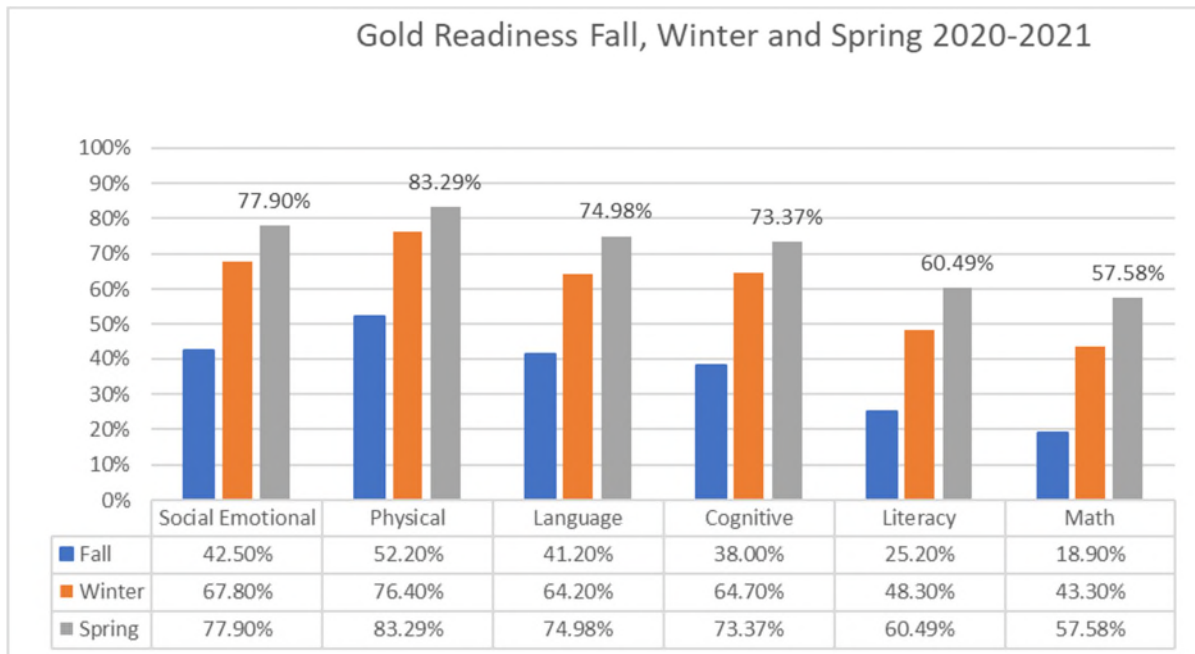
- Parent Outreach offered workshops at 85 different Chicago Early Learning Sites.



- 99% of employment readiness and financial literacy workshop attendees reported that they learned concepts and skills that will support and improve their family's well-being
- Added two (2) new additional workshop topics; **Discover Your Inner Strengths** and **Stress Resilience**
- Continued the use of the 24/7 Dads Fatherhood Initiative curriculum for our Dads Reading Daily (DRD) program
- The Social Service Department was utilized by a total of 226 adult learning parents who sought social emotional services and/or resources.
- The Resource Center for Autism and Developmental Delays (RCADD) provided training to 1,334 attendees, and when given a retrospective pre/post evaluation 89% of training participants demonstrated an increase in knowledge

Kindergarten Readiness

DFSS and its delegates use Teaching Strategies Gold™ (TSG) Online Assessment System to track children's development in six developmental categories against widely held expectations for the child's age group. Specifically, the TSG Comparative Report/Gold Readiness report is used to compare children's scores to a readiness benchmark for kindergarten entry. The following chart shows the percentage of children whose skills, knowledge, and behaviors are emerging (below benchmark value) or accomplished (at or above the benchmark value).



Fiscal Year 2021

Head Start Program Budget and Expenses

Chicago Early Learning Programs are funded through four major funding streams: federal Head Start Programs, state Early Childhood Block Grant (include Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative), state Child Care Assistance Program, and local (city) Ready-to-Learn funding. DFSS is the recipient of four Head Start federal grants from the US Department of Health and Human Services: Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership, and Early Head Start Expansion. DFSS has a contract with the State of Illinois Department of Human Services to provide Site-Administered Child Care through two program models: Head Start-Collaboration and Child Care Only. In addition, DFSS receives City of Chicago corporate dollars, under the city's Ready-to-Learn Initiative, to enhance and expand the early childhood services it offers. DFSS receives funding for early childhood programs under four distinct fiscal years, as illustrated in the following table:

Funding Stream	Fiscal Year
Head Start	12/01 – 11/30
Early Head Start	12/01 – 11/30
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership	12/01 – 11/30
Early Head Start Expansion	12/01 – 11/30
State – Early Childhood Block Grant (PFA/PI)	07/01 – 06/30
Start – Site-Administered Child Care	07/01 – 06/30
Corporate – Ready-to-Learn	01/01 – 12/31

During Fiscal Year 2021, DFSS was awarded a total of \$ **245,935,666.59** million to provide services across all community-based Head Start and PFA/PI programs in the city of Chicago.



FY 2021 Actual Received Budget and Expenditures

Programs	Actual Budget	Actual Expenditures
Head Start	80,166,848.00	70,337,314.83
Early Head Start	31,963,222.00	25,614,033.60
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership	16,854,132.00	13,569,566.98
Early Head Start Expansion	3,733,695.00	3,057,778.63
State – Early Childhood Block Grant (PFA/PI)	81,200,000.00	69,557,271.77
Start – Site-Administered Child Care	21,000,000.00	6,186,931.15
Corporate – Ready-to-Learn	11,017,769.59	10,760,270.07
Total	\$ <u>245,935,666.59</u>	\$ <u>199,083,167.03</u>

FY 2021 Head Start Expenses

Federal Budget Categories	Actual Budget	Expended	Expended/Actual Budget
Personnel	3,339,613.00	2,772,743.86	83.03%
Fringe Benefits	1,648,045.00	1,335,414.79	81.03%
Contractual	73,112,644.00	64,441,418.21	90.52%
Travel	4,576.00	0.00	0.00%
Supplies	223,580.00	35,843.51	16.03%
Equipment			
Indirect Costs	1,838,390.00	1,751,894.46	95.30%
Total	\$ 80,166,848.00	\$70,337,314.83	87.74%

Non-federal share Budget Amount \$ _____ 0 _____



FY 2021 Early Head Start Expenses

Federal Budget Categories	Actual Budget	Expended	Expended/Actual Budget
Personnel	1,396,783.00	954,476.27	68.33%
Fringe Benefits	704,527.00	224,444.77	31.86%
Contractual	29,067,756.00	24,003,881.92	50.03%
Travel	3,400.00	0.00	0.00%
Supplies	131,825.00	3,721.81	2.82%
Equipment			
Indirect Costs	658,931.00	427,508.83	64.88%

Total **\$31,963,222.00** **\$25,614,033.60** **80.14%**

Non-federal share Budget Amount \$ ____ 0 ____

FY 2021 Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Expenses

Federal Budget Categories	Actual Budget	Expended	Expended/Actual Budget
Personnel	659,206.00	641,286.64	97.28%
Fringe Benefits	328,176.00	324,619.04	98.92%
Contractual	15,390,694.00	12,132,105.30	22.73%
Travel	2,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Supplies	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Equipment			
Indirect Costs	471,556.00	471,556.00	100.00%

Total **\$ 16,854,132.00** **\$13,569,566.98** **80.51%**

Non-federal share Budget Amount \$ ____ 0 ____



FY 2021 Early Head Start Expansion Expenses

Federal Budget Categories	Actual Budget	Expended	Expended/Actual Budget
Personnel	88,687.00	65,139.88	73.45%
Fringe Benefits	50,401.00	27,837.17	55.23%
Contractual	3,518,919.00	2,918,782.85	25.09%
Travel	5,600.00	0.00	0.00%
Supplies	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Equipment			
Indirect Costs	68,588.00	46,018.73	67.09%
Total	\$ 3,733,695.00	\$3,057,778.63	81.90%

Non-federal share Budget Amount \$ 0



Summary of Audit Findings

Financial audit findings will be available after September 2022.

Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget

This Fiscal Year 2022 proposed budget below supports all direct and indirect costs anticipated to operate the Head Start programs.

FY 2022 Proposed Budget for Head Start Programs

Federal Budget Categories	Head Start	Early Head Start	Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership	Early Head Start Expansion
Personnel	2,591,320.00	2,207,420.00	523,206.00	87,687.00
Fringe Benefits	1,344,895.00	1,145,651.00	275,176.00	50,401.00
Contractual	18,137,277.00	25,586,348.00	15,654,694.00	3,519,828.00
Travel	2,000.00	0	2,500.00	5,600.00
Supplies	25,000.00	339,474.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Equipment				
Indirect Costs	440,504.00	581,705.00	396,556.00	68,588.00
Other				
Total	\$ 22,540,996.00	\$ 29,860,598.00	\$ 16,854,132.00	\$ 3,733,604.00

Non-federal share \$ ____0____ \$ ____0____ \$ ____0____ \$ ____0____



Delegate Agencies

Head Start Delegate Agencies

Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc.

Albany Park Community Center, Inc.

Allison's Infant & Toddler Center, Inc.

Asian Human Services, Inc.

Board of Trustees of Community College District
#508, County of Cook and State of Illinois

Breakthrough Urban Ministries, Inc.

Carole Robertson Center for Learning

Center for New Horizons, Inc

Chicago Child Care Society

Chicago Commons Association

Chicago Youth Centers

Chinese American League, Inc.

Christopher House

Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago, Inc.

El Hagor Del Nino

El Valor Corporation

Erie Neighborhood House

Gads Hill Center

Gia Group Inc. dba The Learning Tree II

Henry Booth House

Higher Learning Daycare & Education Center Inc. &
Education Center Inc. dba High Learning Childcare &
Development

Howard Area Community Center

Hobby Horse Nursery School Ltd dba Lake Shore
Schools

It Takes a Village Child Care Services, Inc.

Judah International Outreach Ministries Inc

Kimball Daycare

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services Inc dba St.
Vincent DePaul Center

Mary Crane League

Metropolitan Family Services

N & K Corporation

New Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church dba New
Pisgah Daycare

Northwestern University Settlement Association

Onward Neighborhood House

Serendipity Child Care, Inc.

SGA Youth & Family Services NFP

Shining Star Youth & Community Services dba
Shining Star Early Learning Academy

The Hana Center

The Montessori Network

The Salvation Army

Trinity United Church of Christ Child Care Centers,
Inc.

Young Achievers Academy Inc.

Young Men's Christian Association of Chicago

Hobby Horse Nursery School Ltd dba Lake Shore
Schools

It Takes a Village Child Care Services, Inc.

