

# Early Childhood: Reaching for the Future Children's Aid 0 to 5 Programs



## Children's Aid ACF Funded Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

Annual Report July 2018-June 2019

## Early Childhood Programming: From Pregnancy to 5 years

Children's Aid continued to provide high-quality early childhood programming to children and families during fiscal year 2019 (July 2018 through June 2019).

Children's Aid Early Head Start home-based programs served 195 infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers in three locations in Washington Heights (P.S. 5, P.S. 152, and P.S. 8), two locations in the South Bronx (Bronx Early Childhood Center and C.S. 211), and one location in East Harlem (P.S. 50).



Each family in the program receives four visits per month from our home-based teachers. These visits include assessing with families the developmental milestones of their child, reviewing health and nutrition, as well as checking in with families about any outstanding needs they are facing. In addition, families in the home-based program come together with their children at the site for socializations twice a month.

We also served 16 center-based Early Head Start families in the South Bronx (Bronx Early Childhood Center and C.S. 211).

The Children's Aid direct federal Head Start programs served 88 children through center-based preschool services at PS 8 in Washington Heights and the Bronx Early Childhood Center in the South Bronx. Children's Aid also provided Head Start Programming as a delegate agency under the NYC Administration for Children's Services' Early Learn program.



Our center-based program is rooted in our Tools of the Mind curriculum, which fills each day with learning through play techniques. From activities like “Play Plans” to “Buddy Reading,” kids in the Children’s Aid Early Childhood program are developing their cognitive, social/emotional, and gross motor skills with very intentional methods in our classrooms.

## Funding Summary

Early Head Start Programming: In fiscal year 2019, \$2,931,936 was expended on the Early Head Start Programming at P.S. 5, P.S. 8, P.S. 50, P.S. 152, Bronx Early Childhood Center (BECC) and C.S. 211 – serving 195 children and families.



Of those funds, \$2,628,670 was spent on personnel expenses (including indirect costs), \$49,549 on supplies, \$6,000 on consultants, \$58,614 on training, and \$189,103 on other expenses.

The contracted budget for this program was \$2,459,848. In-kind and private sources for the 20% non-federal match totaled \$614,964.

### Direct Head Start Programming:

In fiscal year 2019, \$1,118,615 was spent on the direct Head Start programming at P.S. 8 and the BECC Head Start Collaboration program – serving 88 children and families.

Of that, \$992,479 was spent on personnel expenses (including indirect costs), \$11,816 on supplies, \$13,075 on training and \$101,245 on other expenses.





The contracted budget for these programs was \$914,029. In-kind and private sources for the 20% non-federal match totaled \$228,533.

## Performance and Outcomes Summary

Total number of children and families served and the average monthly enrollment, (as a percentage of enrollment, and the percentage of eligible children served):

The Children's Aid Early Head Start programs (P.S. 8, P.S. 5, P.S. 152, P.S. 50, BECC, C.S. 211, and East Harlem Center) enrolled 210 children and the average monthly enrollment was 210 children. The percentage of eligible children served was 100%.



At the P.S. 8 Head Start and Bronx Early Childhood programs, 88 children and families were enrolled during the 2016-2017 fiscal year and the average monthly enrollment was 88 children. The percentage of eligible children served was 100%.

**The Results of the Most Recent review by the Secretary and the financial audit:** The most recent A-133 audit of the Children's Aid consolidated financial statements have been completed by the independent auditing firm of Grant Thornton for the year ended June 30, 2018 and there were no material weaknesses cited. Children's Aid did not receive any Federal audits in FY2019.

### **The Percentage of Children Enrolled that received Medical and Dental Exams:**

Through partnerships with medical providers in our communities, we achieved our goal of having 100% of the children enrolled in our Early Childhood Programs to receive medical and dental exams 100% by the end of the program year. And 100% of our children received their flu shot.

### Information about Parent Involvement Activities:

Children's Aid Early Childhood has conceptualized its work with families to align with the Head Start Parent Family and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework in the seven main family outcomes: (1) ensuring family well-being, (2) promoting positive parent-child relationships, (3) encouraging families as life-long learners, (4) assisting parents in achieving their own learning interests, (5) engaging families through the transition process, (6) connecting families with peers and the community, and (7) engaging families in leadership opportunities.



To achieve these outcomes the Children's Aid EHS and HS programs have developed a multitude of programmatic strategies.

First, the mental health team offers family counseling to all families who are in need of support via one-to-one sessions either at the home or at the center.

Throughout the year, Children's Aid staff offer parenting supports, such as home visits, parent workshops utilizing evidence-based curricula and activities and ongoing communication. Classroom-based teachers are also trained to engage families in the classrooms through constant bi-directional communication, providing parent volunteer opportunities and offering family fun days throughout the year.

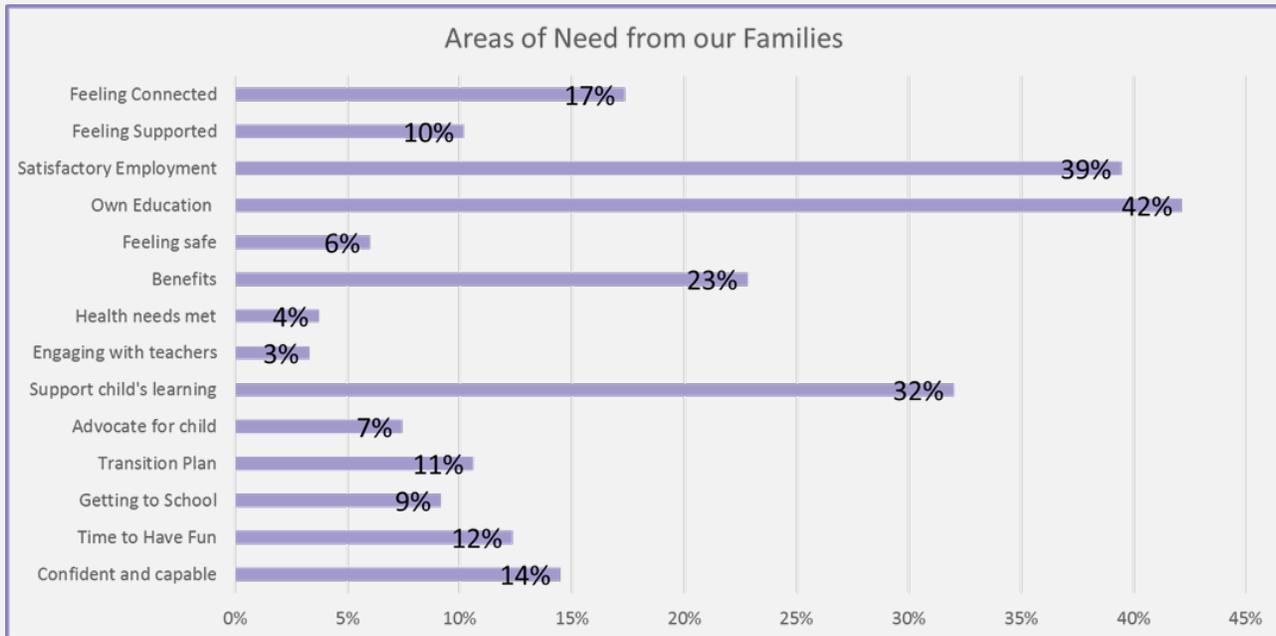


Finally, families are engaged in leadership activities at the classroom and center-level as well as agency-wide. The Children's Aid's Parent Policy Council was instrumental in driving quality throughout the entire program year as well as encourage family participation in their child's education. The Council also became strong participants in early childhood advocacy efforts at the State capital.

Children’s Aid Early Childhood Department developed a system to accurately understand the best support needed by parents and to effectively track families’ growth toward self-sufficiency. All families are interviewed by a Children’s Aid Family Advocate (FA) using the Family Partnership Assessment (FPA) protocol. The FPA helps to build relationships with parents and to develop individualized family services. The family partnership team at each program sits with a family and goes over assessment questions in each of the PFCE Framework domains. The FPA is completed online and creates scores for each family. This process allows Children’s Aid staff to work with families to develop goals, enhance strengths, and understand family issues or concerns that need attention.



The below graph shows the specific needs that our families communicated to our FAs last year. This helped guide us in selecting which community partners to bring into our work.



Our FAs worked with our families to produce SMART Goals:

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable

- **A**chievable
- **R**elevant
- **T**ime bound

From getting food for the week, to creating moments in the day to connect with their child, SMART goals help break goals into more manageable parts in order to not be another stressor for families, but a solid plan of stepping stones.

This year our 736 SMART Goals were completed with our families. Children's Aid established a set of goals for every family, which includes: obtaining a library card, making at least four library visits over the course of a program year, visiting two cultural institutions with the use of a free pass called a "Cool Culture" card, and establishing a regular routine for reading at home.

### **The Agency's Commitment to Prepare Children for Kindergarten**

Goals for the Children's Aid Early Childhood programs (0-5 years old) are set to reflect developmentally appropriate practice. These goals are aligned with the following guidelines: (1) The Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (2) NYS Pre-K Foundation for the Common Core (3) NYS Early Learning Guidelines [Birth to 5 Years] (4) the CAS Keeping the Promise Outcomes Goals & Objectives (5) Teaching Strategies GOLD Child Assessment Objectives for Developing & Learning and (6) The Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework. The goals of our program are consistent across domains & reflect typical development by age group.

#### **Goal 1: Approaches to Learning**

- Develop the ability to solve problems by finding multiple solutions to questions, tasks, and challenges.
- Develop curiosity and the ability to be flexible in actions and behaviors.

#### **Goal 2: Social & Emotional Development**

- Develop the ability to regulate emotions and behavior.
- Demonstrate the ability to participate cooperatively and constructively in group situations.
- Develop adaptive social behavior related to empathy.

**Goal 3: Language & Literacy**

- Demonstrates listening skills and comprehension.
- Demonstrates conventions of social communication.
- Demonstrates emergent writing skills. Develops comprehension of books/stories.

**Goal 4: Cognition**

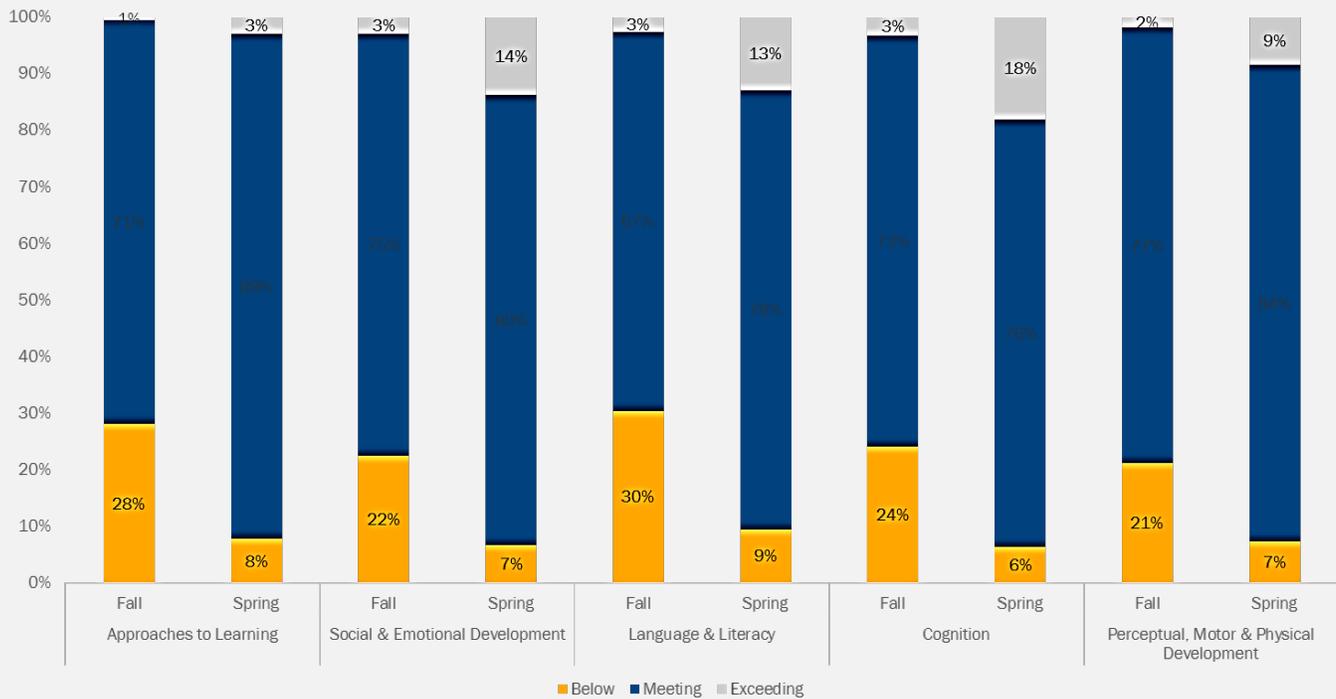
- Demonstrate ability to use recognition and recall memory.
- Develop ability to use objects or symbols to represent something else.
- Demonstrate knowledge of numbers and counting. Uses scientific inquiry skills.

**Goal 5: Perceptual, Motor, & Physical Development**

- Demonstrates fine motor skills.
- Demonstrates gross motor skills.
- Demonstrates sensorimotor skills – perceptual development.

Children in the Children's Aid EHS and HS programs made tremendous progress toward these goals during the 2018-2019 program year. For both Head Start and Early Head Start, an analysis of the data from Teaching Strategies Gold assessment shows that for 0-5 year-olds, there is an increase in children's development over the year in all development domains (See charts below). The total average of students meeting or exceeding developmental milestones after one year in the Children's Aid Early Childhood Program.

**0-5 year old Education Outcomes by School Readiness Goals**



## What's in Children's Aid Early Childhood?

New



The Children's Aid Early Childhood Division organized three plans to carry our work through the year, which is guided by our mission.

**The Action Plan** is based on SMART Objectives that hone in on the specific outcomes our Division wants to focus on. From achieving 90% attendance for the year to having at least 1 parent workshop a month at each site, this plan kept our Division grounded.

**The Annual Plan** specifies all funding deadlines, education checkpoints, internal audit schedules and monthly events.

**The Training Plan** specifies all professional development sessions during each In Service day for teachers, cooks, custodians, directors and regional business and operations managers.

## Children's Aid ACF Funded Locations

### **Bronx Early Childhood Center**

1515 Southern Boulevard  
Bronx, NY 10460  
718-764-2409

### **C.S. 211**

1919 Prospect Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10457  
347-821-4222

### **P.S. 50**

433 East 100<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10029  
646-627-7450

### **P.S. 5 Ellen Lurie**

3703 Tenth Avenue  
New York, NY 10034  
212-567-5787

### **P.S. 8 Luis Belliard**

465 West 167th Street  
New York, NY 10032  
212-740-8655

### **P.S. 152 Dyckman Valley**

93 Nagle Avenue  
New York, NY 10040  
212-544-0221