

Through the Looking Glass' Early Head Start Program Annual Report to the Public for 2016

Through the Looking Glass' Early Head Start was established as a new ARRA-funded program, and began enrollment in May 2010. The program provides both center and home-based services for pregnant women, infants and toddlers and their families, with 22 in the center and 50 through home visiting.

Through the Looking Glass (TLG) and its Early Head Start Center are located at the Ed Roberts Campus, at a public transit hub, the Ashby BART station in Berkeley. The campus is a model of universal design, and has many empowerment-oriented resources for people with disabilities. TLG's Early Head Start Program integrates babies, toddlers and parents with and without disabilities and provides "one stop shopping" for families with disabilities. These specialized Early Head Start services have been developed within TLG, a disability culture-based agency that has provided infant mental health, family support, developmental early intervention and disability resources and adaptations since 1982. The expertise of TLG provides diverse training, consultation, assessment and services resources for the Early Head Start program.

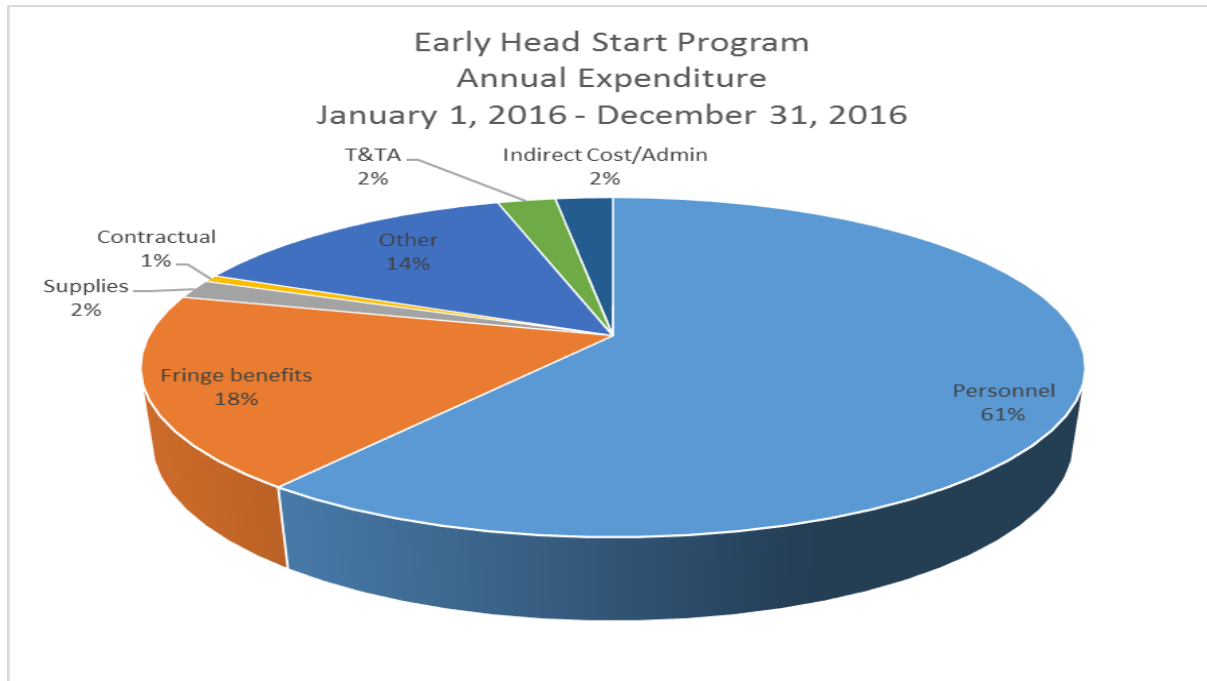
The program's authorized service area is widespread in Alameda County. Oakland is the approved service area for the EHS Center. Albany, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo and Union City are the approved service areas under the Home-based Option. The program specializes in serving families with disabilities and transportation is often difficult for such families. Other TLG funding provides adaptations for families with disabilities to help support attendance at the center and socializations. The center is located in Berkeley but cannot provide center-based services for Berkeley families—only home visiting. Only Oakland families are eligible for the center but are not eligible for home visiting. To alleviate some of these difficulties, permission was granted by Region IX for pregnant women in Oakland to receive home visits prior to their children attending the center, and there can be some exceptions for families with disabilities whose needs can be uniquely met by Through the Looking Glass' Early Head Start.

Despite these challenges the program had an average of monthly full enrollment, with waiting lists, in 2016. TLG and its Early Head Start program have unique expertise and resources particularly for families in which a parent has a disability or a child has a developmental delay, so the community continues to urge service delivery area exceptions. Though some Regional Center financial cutbacks for preventive intervention have been restored in California, babies and toddlers of parents with intellectual disabilities in Alameda County still are not funded for early developmental intervention until they develop significant delays, resulting in a continuing community need for this program's specialized services.

The total amount of the program's funding from Early Head Start from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, was \$984,052 and the annual expenditure during this time period was \$986,936, with the following distribution of expenditures:

**Through the Looking Glass Early Head Start Program
Annual Expenditure January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016**

Category	Percent
Personnel	60.54%
Fringe benefits	18.41%
Supplies	1.8%
Contractual	0.66%
Other	13.87%
T & TA	2.37%
Indirect Cost/Admin	2.35%



The annual financial audit, like all previous TLG audits, had no findings. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted an Environmental Health and Safety review 1/12/2016 and found no concerns or areas of noncompliance.

In 2016, as reflected in the PIR for the program year (Program Information Report—September 30, 2015-September 30, 2016), TLG’s Early Head Start program served 124 participants—109 children and 15 pregnant women. In the program year 24% of the 101 families had SSI, 17 children had IFSPs and 17 children were referred because of high lead levels. The families were also culturally and linguistically diverse: of the 124 participants, 48 identified their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino; 31 identified their race as African American/Black, 24 Biracial/Multi-racial, 12 White, 3 Asian, and 52 as Other, focusing on nation of origin rather than race. Forty-five of the 124 participants spoke a language other than English at home, with 23 speaking Spanish.

In terms of family engagement the program made particular strides in involving fathers, with a 25% increase of fathers participating in services. Overall, the program is especially focused on empowerment/advocacy and nurturing parent/child relationships, both outcomes of family engagement, since its home visitors have therapy training and the program is embedded in an agency focused on infant mental health and family services, as well as advocacy and training in support of disability appropriate practice.

Family engagement and goal directed relationships with families have been integrated into the School Readiness Goals and Implementation Plan. Based on our 3 annual analyses of 2016 developmental data using the DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile for Infants and Toddler) for the center-based program and the HELP (Hawaii Early Learning Profile) analyzed by Kindercharts for the home-based program, the program has been successful in reaching or exceeding almost all of its School Readiness Goals. Staff training and consultation are being provided to improve the outcomes regarding all goals. For instance the program is participating in Alameda County's "Quality Counts Grant" QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) coaching system receiving supports in professional development and instructional support. It has been important for the program outcomes analysis to take into account the prevalence of disability and developmental issues in program children and parents.

In terms of the percentage of eligible children served in the community, Alameda County Child Care Planning Council sites 621 children served by Early Head Start programs in the county for 2014, their most recent update. All of the high priority zip codes they identified for expansion of infant/toddler care are in TLG's current EHS service area. The Oakland Reads 2020 Baseline Report, citing data from the Alameda Childcare Council, said that 10,734 of preschool-aged Oakland children qualified for subsidized care and that 59% of low-income children were unserved.