

Through the Looking Glass' Early Head Start Program Annual Report to the Public for 2014

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, for a total of 72 families (reduced to 68 families through sequestration during a portion of this period).

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.

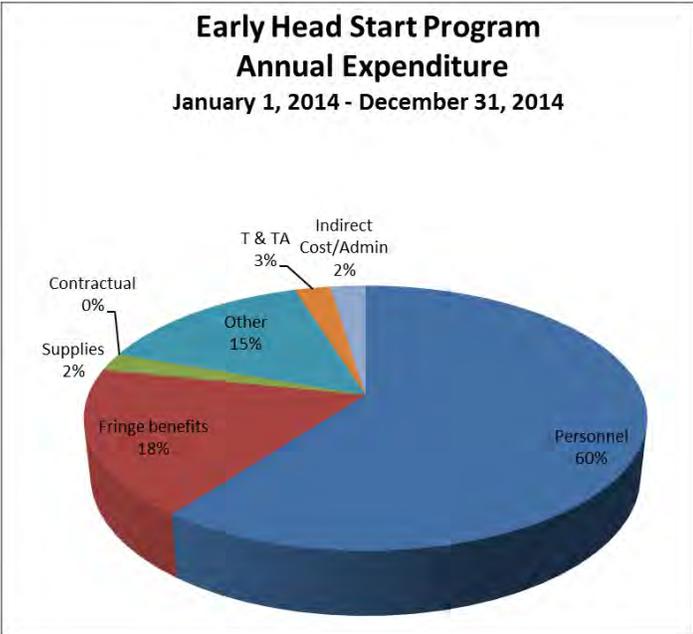
The program's authorized service area is widespread in Alameda County. Oakland is the approved service area for the EHS Center. Albany, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo and Union City are the approved service areas under the home-based option. The program specializes in serving families with disabilities and transportation is often difficult for such families. Other TLG funding provides travel consultation and 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.

Despite these challenges the program had an average of monthly full enrollment, with waiting lists, in 2014. 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. In 2014 there was a critical lack of early preventive developmental services throughout California, due to cutbacks in the Regional Center system funding Part C early intervention. Though some Regional Center financial cutbacks for preventive intervention were restored in January 2015, babies and toddlers of parents with intellectual disabilities 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, 2014 to December 31, 2014, was \$967,064 and the annual expenditure during this time period was \$967,064, with the following distribution of expenditures:

**Through the Looking Glass Early Head Start Program
Annual Expenditure January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014**

Category	Percent
Personnel	60.26%
Fringe benefits	17.97%
Supplies	2.19%
Contractual	0.01%
Other	15%
T & TA	2%
Indirect Cost/Admin	2.41%



The annual financial audit, like all previous TLG audits since its founding in 1982, had no findings. The program's first triennial site review had one finding which was corrected, that Policy Council reports had not been distributed monthly to the Board since the Board met every other month. Monthly reports indicate that on average there was full enrollment (72 families, but 68 during sequestration).

In 2014, the program was permitted by Region IX to submit the PIR (Program Information Report), for September 30, 2013-August 31, 2014, in order to establish consistency between the PIR due date and program timeframe in future years. During the September 30, 2013- September 29, 2014 period TLG's Early Head Start program served 102 participants—92 children and 10 pregnant women. In the program year 48% of the center families and 54% of the home-based families served had disability, deafness or medical issues. 33% of the 10 pregnant women served had disabilities. The families were also culturally and linguistically diverse: of the 102 participants, 38 identified their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino; 31 identified their race as African American/Black, 18 Biracial/Multi-racial, 15 White, 8 Asian, 2 as Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and 28 as Other. Twenty-eight of the 102 participants spoke a language other than English at home, with 19 speaking Spanish.

100% of children enrolled in the program completed vision/hearing screenings by the end of the program year. 100% of children in the center-based program had a medical/dental home and had the required physical exam with 86% of the children up to date by the end of the program year. 100% of children in the home-based program had a medical/dental home with 72% of children up to date by the end of the program year.

Overall, the program is particularly 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 advocacy, infant mental health, and family support services. TLG's EHS participated in Co-learning as part of an Alameda County's SAMSA grant. *"Co-learning is a 'promising' practice of intentionally bringing together family members and providers outside of their traditional roles to strengthen their capacity to partner to support early childhood wellness. A facilitated process, Co-learning engages providers and family members in jointly developing training, tools, practices and policies that are family driven and culturally and linguistically responsive."* In 2014 the Co-Learning team of Center parents and staff worked together to develop training on positive discipline, and successfully presented this training to EHS staff, parents and TLG intervention staff.

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 2014 developmental data using the DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile for Infants and Toddlers) for the center-based program and the HELP (Hawaii Early Learning Profile) analyzed by Kindercharts for the home-based program, the program was successful in reaching or exceeding all but two of its School Readiness Goals. Staff training and consultation are being provided by PITC (Program for Infant Toddler Caregiving) to improve outcomes. The program is also 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 2013, their most recent update. They identified high priority zip codes for expansion of infant/toddler care: the two highest priority zip codes were 94544 in Hayward, with only 15% served of children qualified for free or subsidized care, 85% or 768 children unserved, and zip code 94601 in Oakland, with only 22% qualified children served and 78% or 616 children unserved. Five additional zip codes (in Oakland and Hayward) were in the next level of priority, with a total of 1768 children 0-36 months unserved. All of these seven prioritized zip codes with a total of 3152 infants and toddlers are in TLG's current EHS service area. Kidsdata.org cites that in 2012, 32% of child care was available in relation to the potential demand. 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.