

## **Through the Looking Glass' Early Head Start Program Annual Report to the Public for 2021**

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 in 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 as well as a community medical clinic.

TLG's Early Head Start Program integrates babies, toddlers and parents with and without disabilities. Its location in the universally designed Ed Roberts Campus, provides "one stop shopping" for families with disabilities, as well as a medical clinic. TLG's Early Head Start services have been developed within TLG, a disability culture-based agency that has provided trauma-informed infant mental health, family support, developmental early intervention and disability resources and adaptations since 1982. TLG has also provided mental health consultation to other Early Head Start and Head Start centers since 2002. The expertise of TLG provides diverse training, consultation, assessment, wrap-around or supplemental services and 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, which is located in Berkeley, though families with

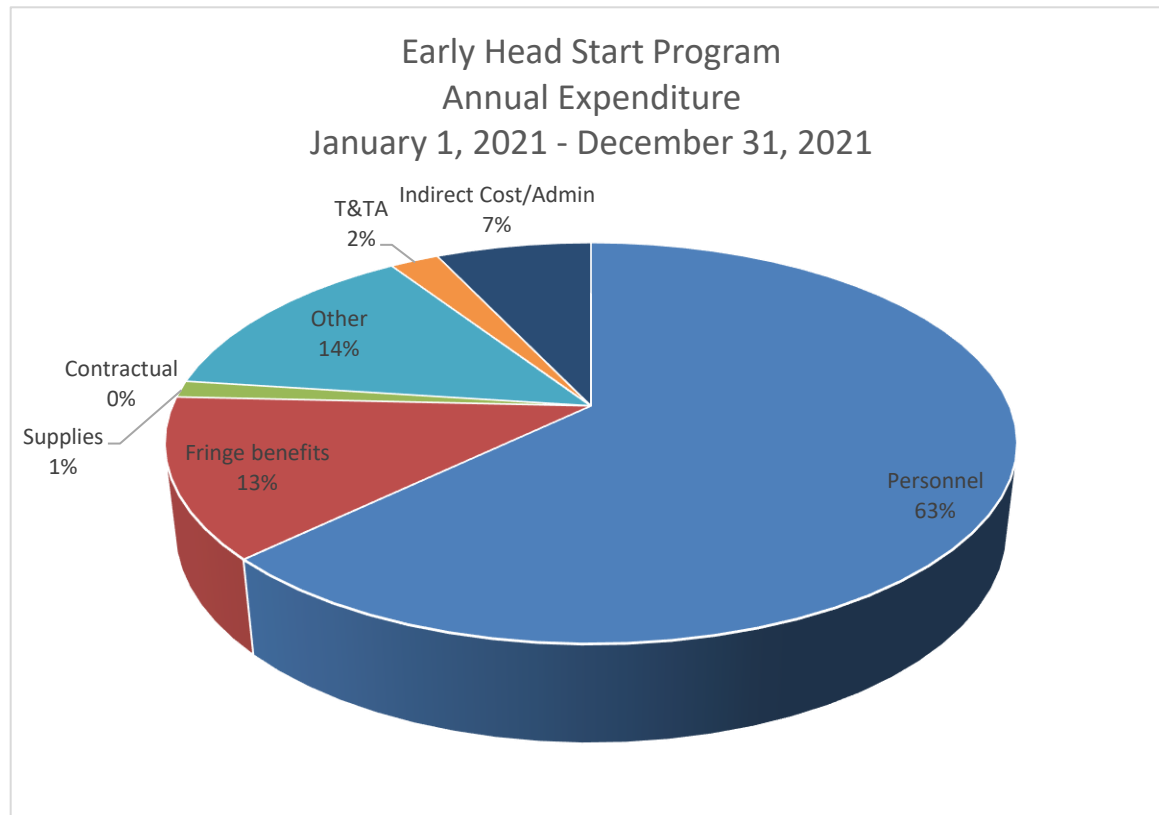
disabilities from other cities who can benefit from its unique services have been allowed to use the center services. Albany, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo and Union City are the authorized service areas under the Home-based Option.

The program had an average of monthly full enrollment, with waiting lists, prior to COVID-19. We were close to full enrollment during remote services through promptly using zoom meetings and circle times, facetime, and a variety of approaches to serve the children and families. From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the program has been particularly thorough about precautions of all kinds, continuing remote services as necessary and appropriate. Prior to the center reopening in September 2021 we also offered home deliveries to families, including diapers and wipes, thermometers, masks, produce, as well as children's books, developmental toys, and information about safety.

The total amount of the program's funding from Early Head Start from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 was \$1,161,203 and the annual expenditure during this time period was \$1,050,052, with the following distribution of expenditures:

**Through the Looking Glass Early Head Start Program Annual Expenditure January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021**

Category	Percent
Personnel	62.85%
Fringe benefits	12.89%
Supplies	1.34%
Contractual	0.00%
Other	13.66%
T & TA	2.22%
Indirect Cost/Admin	7.04%



The annual financial audit, like all previous TLG audits, had no findings.

In 2021, as reflected in the PIR (Program Information Report) for the program year, TLG’s Early Head Start program served 92 children, and 8 pregnant women. In the program year, 26 of the 84 families had SSI, and 43 families (36 of whom were served by home-based services) had at least

one parent with a disability. Out of the 92 children, 7 children had IFSPs and 20 had chronic conditions; 10 children were in foster care; 6 children were homeless. In 40 of the 84 families, the parents were unemployed. Single parents headed 41 of the families. The families were also culturally and linguistically diverse: Out of the 92 children, 39 were dual language learners. Of the 100 participants (children and pregnant women) 42 were identified as Hispanic/Latino, 32 as African American/Black, 19 Biracial/Multi-racial, 7 as White, 3 Asian, 1 Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander. 38 were in the Other category, mostly because of identifying with country of origin. Out of the 84 families, 25 were Spanish speaking, 5 spoke East Asian languages, 2 spoke Middle Eastern or South Asian languages.

Overall, the program emphasizes empowerment and nurturing parent/child relationships, both outcomes of family engagement. Its home visitors are mental health professionals, and the program is embedded in an agency, Through the Looking Glass, focused on infant mental health and family services, child development, social justice and equity, as well as disability resources, advocacy and training in support of disability appropriate practice. Many EHS families engage with the “wraparound” services provided by Through the Looking Glass.

Family engagement and goal directed relationships with families have been integrated into the School Readiness Goals and Implementation Plan. Based on the three annual analyses of 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 almost all of its School Readiness Goals. Staff training and consultation are being provided to improve the outcomes regarding all goals. 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, which has been particularly high during COVID, due to decreased availability of other appropriate community resources.

In terms of the percentage of eligible children served in the community: First 5 Alameda ranks Alameda County as California's 2<sup>nd</sup> most racially disparate county for access to early childhood education (Child & Family Data for Action, 2021). Availability of licensed childcare has been declining since 2007, escalated by COVID. Infant/toddler care is particularly scarce, with licensed capacity for fewer than one out of ten infants and toddlers. In 2019 there were 110 licensed providers with infant capacity, 2,209 with infant/toddler capacity. The 2021 Alameda County ECE Needs Assessment (based on 2018 & 2019 data) reported there were 55,374 children from birth to two in the county but only 5,563 spaces for this age group. The cited available programs includes providers charging fees; there is significantly less infant/toddler care available for low-income families. The Alameda County Early Care and Education reports for 2020 and 2021 identified high priority zip codes with high percentages of unserved infants and toddlers that were all in TLG's current EHS service area.