

Through the Looking Glass' Early Head Start Program Annual Report to the Public for 2020

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 and a community medical clinic.

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, 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. 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 parenting, attendance at the center, and socializations. The center is located in Berkeley but usually 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.

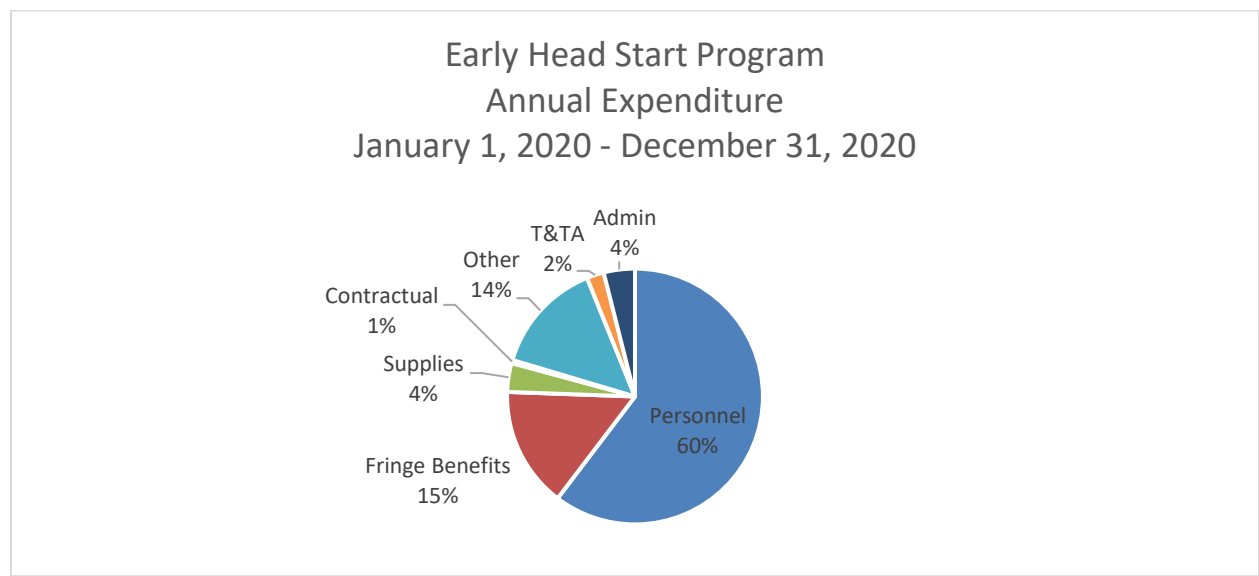
TLG and its Early Head Start program have expertise and resources particularly for families in which a parent has a disability or a child has a developmental delay or vulnerability, so the community continues to urge service delivery area exceptions. Though some Regional Center financial cutbacks for 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 program had an average of monthly full enrollment, with waiting lists, in 2020 prior to COVID-19 and the shift to remote services in March. We were close to full enrollment during remote services through promptly using zoom meetings and circle times, face-time, and a variety of approaches to serve the children and families. 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, 2020 to December 31, 2020, was \$1,036,512 and the annual expenditure during this time period was \$1,078,930, with the following distribution of expenditures:

**Through the Looking Glass Early Head Start Program
Annual Expenditure January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020**

Category	Percent
Personnel	60.34%
Fringe benefits	15.23%
Supplies	3.65%
Contractual	0.39%
Other	14.27%
T & TA	2.18%
Indirect Cost/Admin	3.94%



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

In 2020, as reflected in the PIR (Program Information Report) for the program year, TLG's Early Head Start program served 127 participants—115 children and 12 pregnant women, 11 of whom were medically high-risk. In the program year 30 of the 93 families had SSI, including 26 families that had at least one parent with a disability. Out of the 115 children, 21 children had IFSPs and 34 had chronic conditions (including 8 with high lead levels, 12 with asthma); 11 were in foster care; 6 children in 6 families were homeless. In 52 of the 93 families, the parents were unemployed. Single parents headed 48 of the families. The families were also culturally and linguistically diverse: of the 127 participants 54 were Hispanic/Latino, 27 African American/Black, 18 Biracial/Multi-racial, and 14 Asian. Out of the 93 families 32 were Spanish speaking, 10 spoke East Asian or South Asian languages, 8 Middle Eastern 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 our 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. 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, according to the Alameda County Early Care and Education Program's 2020 Unmet Needs Report, 91.4% of 0-3 children had an unmet need for childcare—23,463 infants and toddlers. Identified high priority zip codes with high percentages of unserved infants and toddlers were all in TLG's current EHS service area. Reports from kidsdata.org indicated 66.1% of children of working families did not have available childcare spaces in 2017. There were 50,907 spaces available in county licensed facilities in 2019. Fifty percent of requests for childcare were for infants.