

Through the Looking Glass' Early Head Start Program Annual Report to the Public for 2023

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 parents, infants and toddlers and their families, and at any one time is able to serve 72 families: 22 children under three years in the center, and 50 children under three years or pregnant parents 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. Its location in the universally designed Ed Roberts Campus provides "one stop shopping" for families and individuals with disabilities. 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

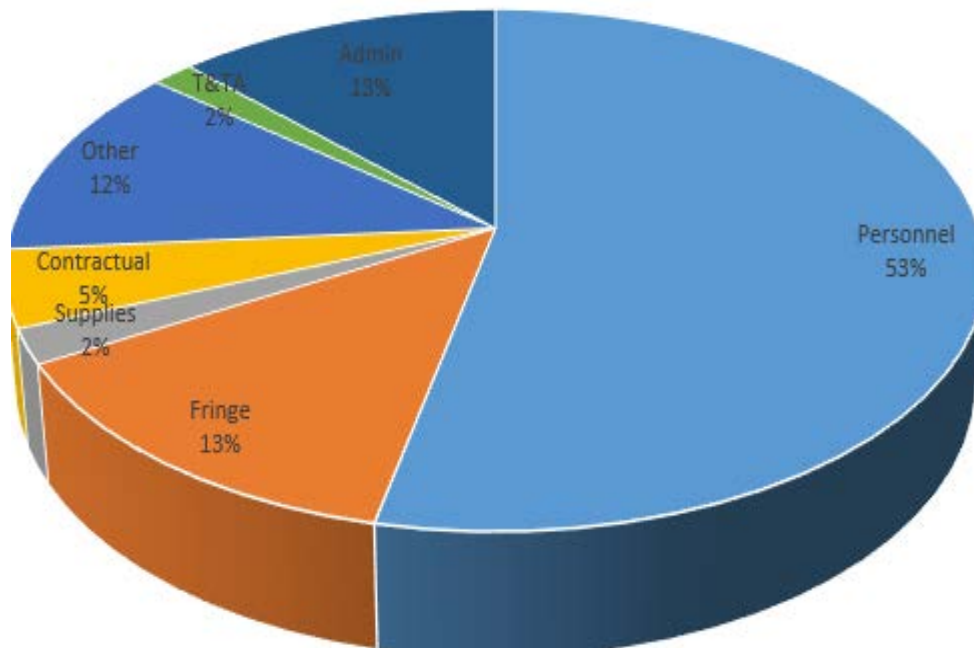
approved service area for the EHS Center, which is located in Berkeley, though families with disabilities from other cities who can benefit from its unique services have been allowed to use the center services. Albany, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo 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. In 2023, the program was open and provided in-person and remote services, but had somewhat lower than full enrollment, due to hiring challenges.

The total amount of the program's funding from Early Head Start from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, was **\$1,284,801** consisting of Program Operations = \$1,116,179, T &TA = \$23,292, Supplemental (COLA) = \$92,866 and Amendment = \$52,464. The annual expenditure during this period was **\$1,380,841**, with the following distribution of expenditures:

Through the Looking Glass Early Head Start Program Annual Expenditure January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Category	Percent
Personnel	53.39%
Fringe benefits	13.41%
Supplies	2.14%
Contractual	4.77%
Other	12.21%
T & TA	1.61%
Indirect Cost/Admin	12.48%



In 2023, as reflected in the PIR (Program Information Report) for the program year, TLG’s Early Head Start program served 88 participants—80 children, and 8 pregnant people, 4 of whom were medically high-risk. In the program year, 18 of the 76 families had SSI and 35 parents had disabilities. Out of the 80 children, 15 children had IFSPs; 18 were in foster care; 7 children in 7 families were unhoused. In 35 of the 76 families, the parents were unemployed, retired, or

disabled. Single parents headed 41 of the families. The families were also culturally and linguistically diverse: of the 80 children, 39 were Hispanic/Latino, 31 African American/Black, 15 Biracial/Multi-racial, 6 White, and 4 Asian. Out of the 76 families 21 were Spanish speaking, 6 spoke East Asian languages, 2 spoke Middle Eastern or South Asian languages. Out of the 80 children, 41 were dual language learners.

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 or exceeding almost all of its School Readiness Goals. Staff training and consultation are 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.

In terms of the percentage of eligible children served in the community, according to the 2022

Alameda County Early Care Education Licensed Facilities Assessment (First 5 Alameda), “85% of infants and toddlers in working families do not have access to a licensed space”, there is a 21.3% under-enrollment in licensed care, with a 6.9% decrease in infant/toddler capacity from 2019 to 2011. Identified high priority zip codes with high percentages of unserved infants and toddlers were all in TLG’s current EHS service area.