

**The Community Group
Early Head Start Child Care Partnership
Annual Report to the Public
July 2020-June 2021**



Our Mission

The Community Group (TCG)'s mission is to create, manage and nurture high-quality programs focused on education and related services that support children, families and educators.

Background

Established in 1970 as a preschool center to serve the childcare needs of working families, TCG has steadily expanded its programs in response to the education, childcare, training and enrichment needs of children and families in Lawrence and Methuen, MA. In 2015, TCG was awarded an Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant that brought EHS programming and funding into existing community-based early childhood programs. In 2019, TCG was awarded a second EHS-CCP grant in order to provide comprehensive EHS services to 72 children through enrolment in TCGs early education and care programs. These programs include Family Child Care homes, Community Day Early Learning Center and the Teen Parent Infant/Toddler program at Lawrence High School. All 72 children are integrated into infant, toddler and preschool classrooms that meet Massachusetts Early Education and Care (EEC) licensing standards, while simultaneously benefiting from specialized services provided to EHS children. These services include comprehensive, health, nutrition and wellness programming, and case management, including assistance with medical, dental, mental health, employment, housing and other identified needs. The primary goal of TCG's EHS program is to nurture the relationship between the child and his or her parent(s) and to focus on the strengths of each and every family.

July 2020- June 2021

The global COVID-19 pandemic continued to present significant challenges to our EHS-CCP service delivery. As of June 30, 2021, the city of Lawrence, MA was reporting just over 20,000 cumulative Covid cases.¹ EHS-CCP classrooms began to re-open in late July 2020, under strict health and safety protocols established by the MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), but Covid continued to impact daily operations. Although our program remained fully enrolled, many parents were understandably reluctant to send children back into family childcare or center based settings, especially since vaccines remained unavailable to children in our EHS-CCP age group of infancy to 2.9 years.

As a result of Covid related attendance disruptions, classroom closures and the need to wear masks (for the health and safety of all), we noted decreased scores in language literacy

¹ <https://cityoflawrence.com/796/Lawrence-COVID-19-Case-Count>

progression from the fall of 2020 to the spring of 2021. Our staff also noted an increase in developmental delays such as delayed self-feeding and fine and gross motor skills. Despite these challenges, our EHS-CCP program made great strides. Our staff strengthened existing relationships with partners including two local early intervention agencies and health clinics, and we continued to participate in the Mayor's Health Task Force. Through policy council meetings, parents let us know they were struggling to log in with their iPhones or other small devices and we were able to purchase Chromebooks and create a lending library to ensure parents were able to effectively and efficiently attend virtual PC meetings. Our family engagement team collaborated with four local agencies to provide clothing for EHS-CCP children. In addition, the family engagement team worked with EHS-CCP families to secure Emergency Housing Payment Assistance (RAFT) as well as to secure housing for two families experiencing homelessness.

From May 17, 2021 to May 21, 2021, the Administration for Children and Families conducted a Focus Area Two monitoring review of the Community Day Care Center of Lawrence, Inc. Early Head Start program. This report noted numerous program strengths including monitoring, implementing quality family, community engagement services, monitoring and implementing quality health service and monitoring, and implementing fiscal infrastructure.

ANNUAL FUNDED ENROLLMENT
<u>Early Learning Center (Ballard Way): 16</u>
<u>Lawrence High School Teen Parent Center: 8</u>
<u>Family Child Care: 48</u>

CHILDREN SERVED (cumulative) 129
Under 1 year: 35
1 year old: 39
<u>2 Years old: 31</u>
3 Years Old: 24
<u>Total Children: 129</u>
Total Families: 129

<p>AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT JULY 2020-JUNE 2021 69.7</p>

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

Children with Health Insurance: 129

Children up-to-date with physical exams: 111 (as determined by a healthcare professional)

Children up-to-date with immunizations: 89

Children with a dental home: 78

Children up-to-date on a schedule of preventive and primary oral health care: 16

SCHOOL READINESS

TCG’s approach to school readiness is “children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children’s learning, and schools are ready for children.” There were no changes to our school readiness goals through June 30, 2021.

Domain	Center Based and Family Child Care
Social and Emotional	<p>Children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage in positive interactions through secure relationships with consistent known adults ● Develop personal and playful relationships with other children ● Manage, understand and express emotions ● Begin to develop a sense of identity and sense of belonging to a family and group of peers
Approaches to Learning	<p>Children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrate interest and curiosity in the exploration of their environment ● Show creativity and imagination in play, learning and interactions with others ● Manage actions and behavior with the support of familiar adults
Language and Literacy Development	<p>Children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attend to, understand, respond to, and learn through communication and language experiences ● Use nonverbal communication and oral language or a communication system (e.g., sign language) to express needs and wants and engage in conversation with others ● Demonstrate basic literacy skills (e.g. recognizing pictures/symbols/words from stories)
Cognition	<p>Children will:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of strategies to solve problems, including reasoning and planning ahead • Use beginning math concepts during daily routines and experiences, including sense of number and quantity, spatial awareness, and classification • Actively explore their environment to discover what objects and people do, how things work and how to make things happen.
Physical Well-Being and Motor Development	<p>Children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop control of large muscles for movement, exploration and self-help • Develop control of small muscles for exploration, play and daily routines • Begin to demonstrate healthy and safe behaviors with the support of an adult • Use perceptual information to guide actions in exploring objects, experiences and interactions

PROGRAM INCOME AND EXPENSES

<u>EHS Annual Report for the FY20 Continuation (FY21) Application</u>				
		Actual FY20 (July 20- June21)		Projected FY21 (Jul 21- Jun 22)
<u>Funding Source Department of Health and Human Services</u>				
Early Head Start Partnership Funds		\$981,001.50		\$1,261,782.00
Training & Technical Assistance		\$26,928.88		\$27,660.00
Total Federal EHS-CCP Grant Funding		\$1,007,930.38		\$1,289,442.00
EHS State Supplemental Grant (Non-federal Share)		\$116,741.00		\$116,741.00
EHS COVID One Time		\$63,274.00		\$21,670.00
American Rescue Plan		\$0.00		\$86,148.00
Total:		\$1,187,945.38		\$1,514,001.00
<u>Early Head Start Partnership Expenses</u>				
		<u>Amount</u>		<u>Amount</u>
Personnel		\$475,563.21		\$708,757.00

Fringe Benefits		\$123,295.10		\$197,848.00
Supplies		\$100,883.36		\$65,919.00
Contractual - Family Partners		\$221,697.33		\$235,810.00
Contractual - Other		\$50,136.13		\$37,660.00
Other		\$84,202.27		\$86,703.00
Indirect		\$132,167.98		\$181,304.00
Total		\$1,187,945.38		\$1,514,001.00
Non Federal Share Obtained		\$139,110.00		TBD
Non Federal Share Required				\$318,558