

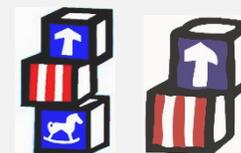
# MISSION NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS, INC.



Children's Services  
Division

Mission Head  
Start/Early Head  
Start Grantee

**Annual Report**

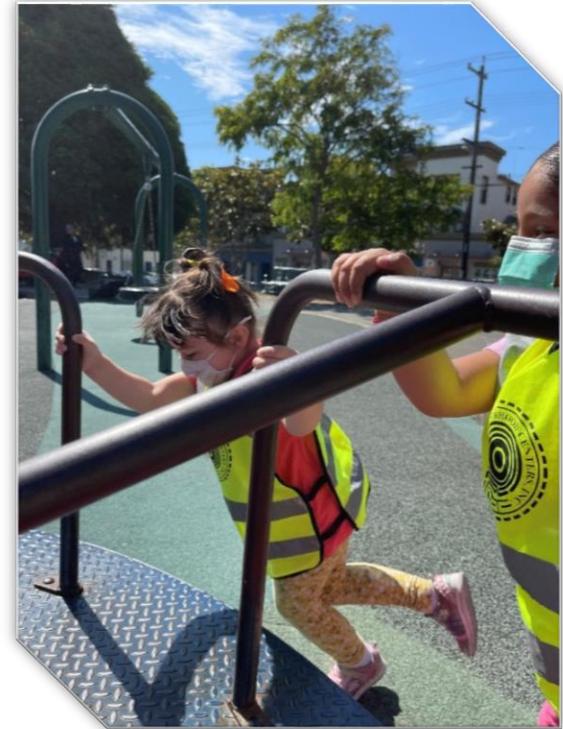


2020 - 2021



362 CAPP STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110

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## Greetings!

Good Day, to the families we serve, whose inspiration and success mirrors MNC’s 124-year-old values and commitment to the success of our community. On behalf of our Board of Directors, and the entire MNC team, we want to offer our gratitude for those who have invested in our mission to inspire success in all we do together as the MNC Family.

Of our 16 San Francisco Campuses, 11 are devoted to providing the highest quality early care and education possible. I want to recognize our dedicated MNC Team members who work with our children and families; teaching staff, coaches, and family services for their efforts in assisting and supporting our children and their families, as they find new pathways to success in their lives.

MNC’s children’s services team demonstrates the sense of character that always aims to put smiles on our children’s faces and hope into our parents’ hearts.

Even with a local and national shortage of qualified teachers, MNC staff members have risen to the occasion, providing on-site care since June 2020, adapting, and improving distance learning, and finding creative ways to keep our campuses fully enrolled.

Please read and enjoy the report our team has prepared. You will get an idea of how much planning, effort and diligence goes into creating positive results.

MNC serves our families with honor and compassion while intentionally finding ways help them create inspiring and successful futures. We continue to strive for excellence in our work and in the results produced with our families and their precious children.

In Gratitude,  
Richard Ybarra

**2020 - 2021 Board of Directors:**

*Beverly Hayon, President  
Chris Collins, Vice President  
Christian de Guzman  
Christine Nevarez  
Claudia Garcia, HS Parent  
representative  
Erich Schulz, Treasurer  
James Quadra  
José Cartagena  
Jose Quiñonez  
Kelly Ehrenfeld  
Maria Guillen  
Nancy Arevalo  
Zonia Lei*

**2020 - 2021 Parent Policy Council  
Leadership:**

*Lourdes Cruz, President  
Oneida Arevalo, Vice President  
Liliana Meza, Secretary  
Alicia Callejas, Treasurer  
Claudia Garcia, Parliamentarian and  
Board of Director’s Rep  
Ana Manzanares, Community  
Representative*

**2020 – 2021 Executive Staff:**

*Richard Ybarra,  
Chief Executive Officer  
José A. Rodriguez,  
Chief Operating Officer  
Dr. Liliana Rossi,  
Chief Program Officer  
Sebastian Alioto,  
Chief Financial Officer  
Cyndee Nieves,  
Senior Director, Children’s  
Services*

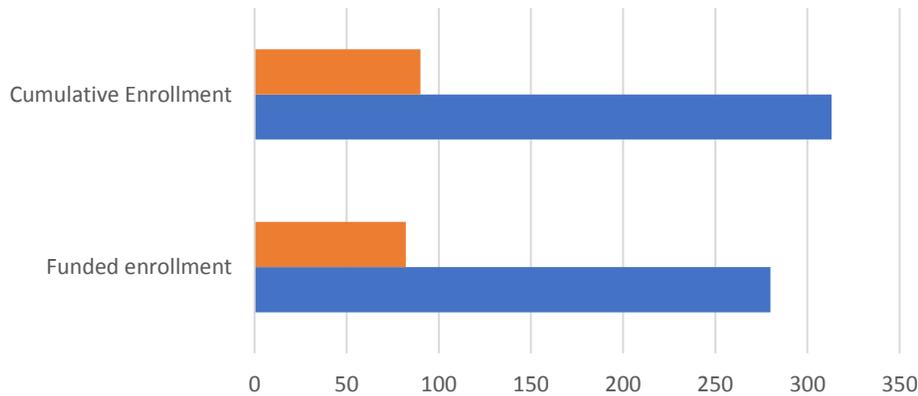
## Who We Are

Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc. (MNC) has provided comprehensive child development services in San Francisco for over 50 years and became a Head Start/Early Head Start Grantee in 2014. For the 2020 - 2021 program year MNC was funded to serve 362 children. We also received funding from the California Department of Education, the SF Office of Early Care and Education, and the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund to provide full day/year care and program enhancements. MNC has eleven child development sites in the Mission, Excelsior, Bayview-Hunter’s Point, and Mission Bay neighborhoods. The target neighborhoods served are home to largely Spanish speaking, immigrant, and/or low-income working families.

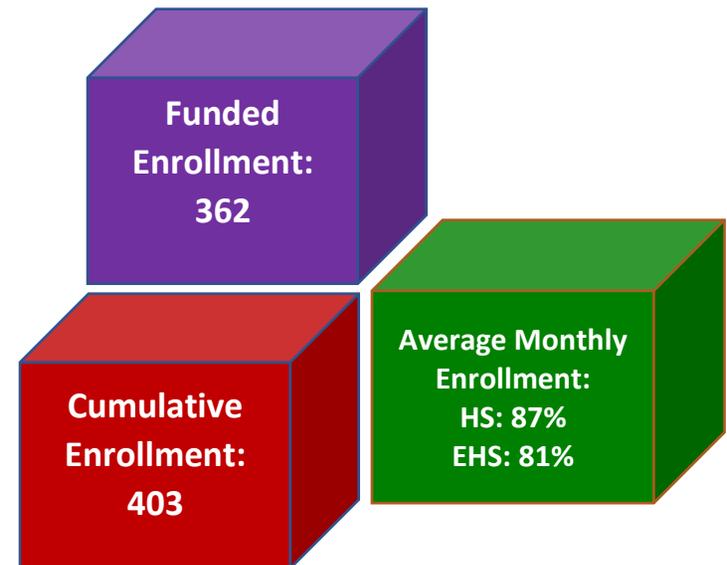


### Our Core Values: Respect, Integrity, Inclusion, Compassion, Empowerment

**Our Philosophy:** MNC provides nurturing early childhood learning environments that strive to authentically include the values, home languages, and cultural identities of the children served. Teachers actively engage children in age-appropriate, stimulating experiences to bring about optimal learning for all children to grow to their fullest potential. Further, MNC is committed to ongoing dialogue with children, families, and staff to develop skills that actively challenge bias and disrupt systemic inequities.

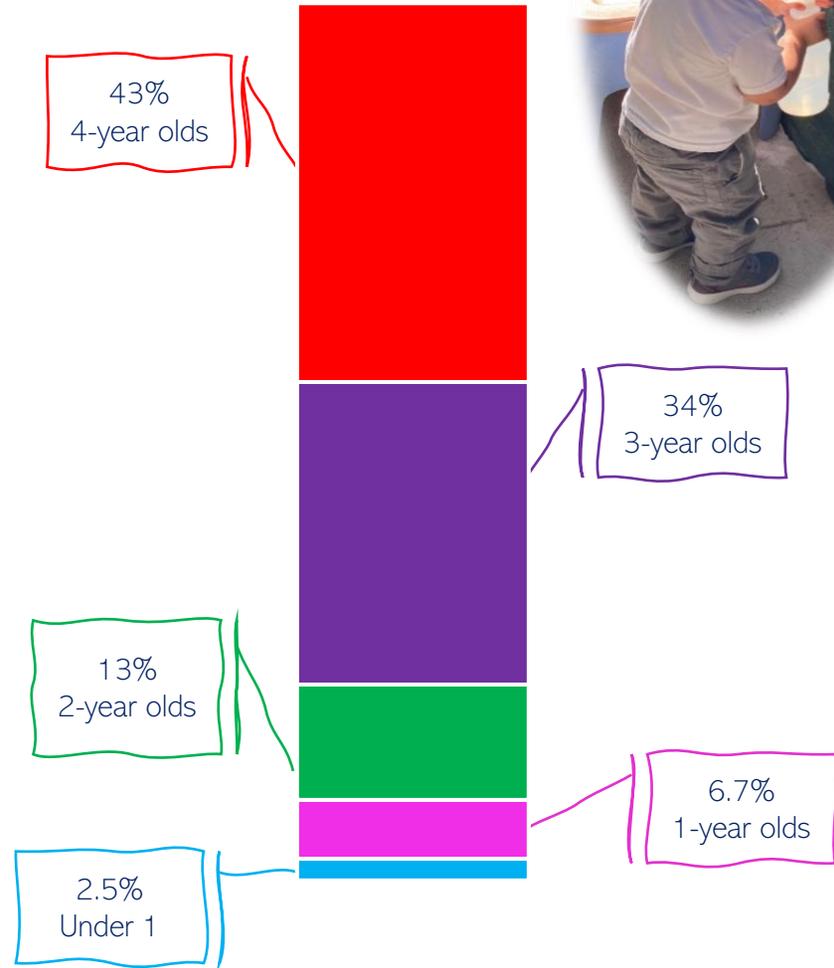


	Funded enrollment	Cumulative Enrollment
Early Head Start	82	90
Head Start	280	313

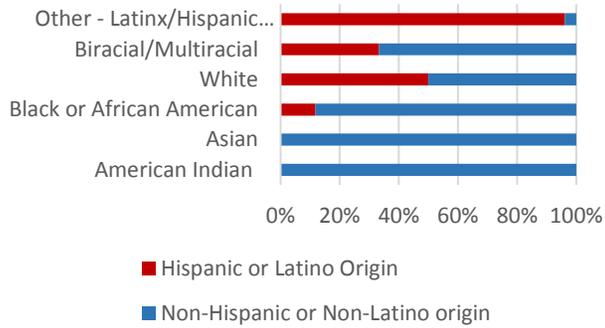


## Our Children and Families...

...are multi-cultural and multi-lingual. Our families are primarily low income and recent arrivals to the United States. As a result of their socio-economic standing, and exasperated by the ongoing pandemic, they are in critical need of high-quality, culturally relevant services for them and their children. Despite being under tremendous environmental and social stressors, they are resilient and resourceful and take on active roles in their children's learning.

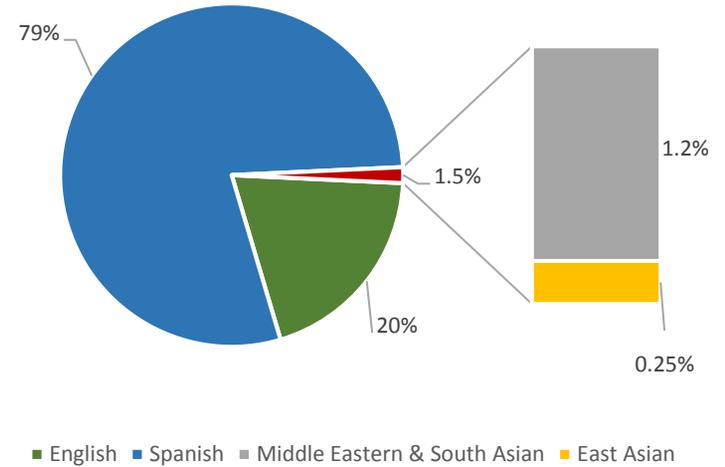


### Children and Families' Ethnic Identity



81% of our children are eligible to receive services through Head Start/Early Head Start based on eligibility criteria

### Primary Languages of Children and Families



28 Families Experiencing Homelessness

Three Foster Children



26 Families Receive Public Assistance Such as SSI or TANF



By the end of the program year 100% of our children had health insurance and accessible medical and dental care

## Education Services



At the start of the 2020 program year, we continued to provide educational services in a hybrid format. Due to social distancing restrictions and space limitations, we had 100 children receiving onsite instruction and 262 children receiving virtual learning. Distance learning teachers connected with children and families via Zoom and ClassTag a minimum of twice weekly. Families received tablets and hot spots if needed so children could access their online classes. We also gave children supplies such as crayons, books, and manipulatives.

Over the course of the year, we gradually welcomed more children into our classrooms, per Department of Public Health guidelines and parent interest. By the end of the program year, in July 2021, all children were back onsite!



**Over 600 Virtual Zoom Classes and over 100 one-to-one sessions for individual child support!**

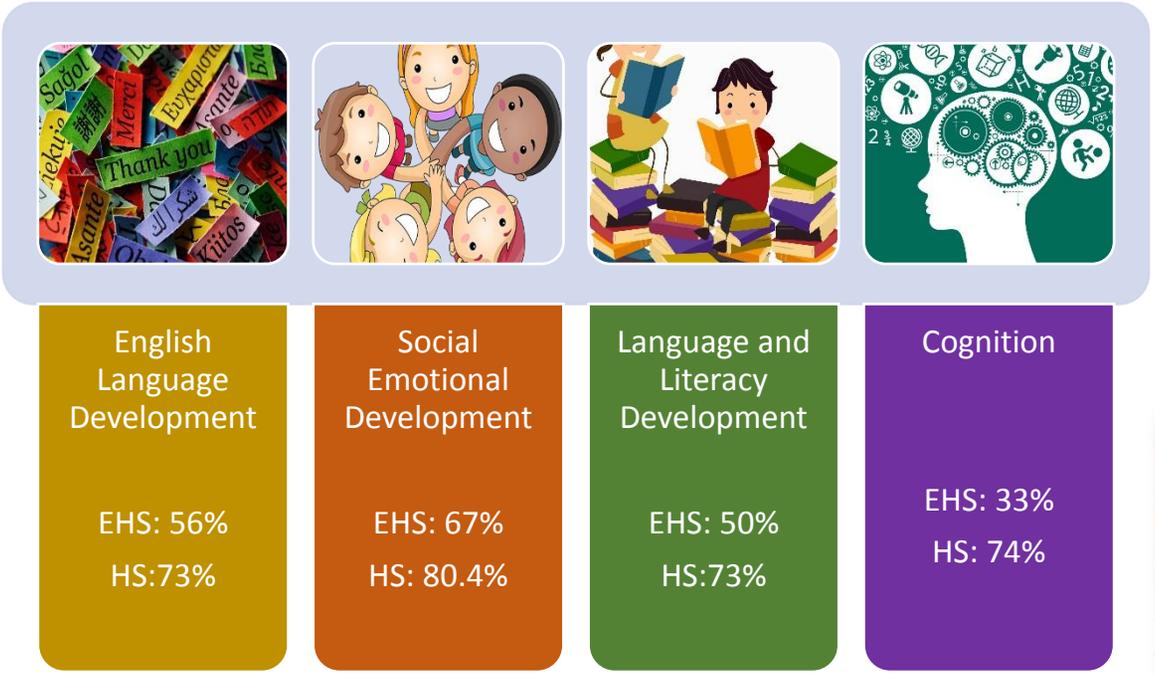


# School Readiness Goals & Child Outcomes - Desired Results Developmental Profile 2015

Our Education staff use the Creative Curriculum, the HS Early Learning Outcomes Framework, and the CA Preschool Foundations as a basis to comprehensive lesson plans that address children’s individual learning needs. We have developed School Readiness Goals to define our expectations for the skills and/or developmental levels children should achieve by the time they transition from Early Head Start to Head Start and to Kindergarten.

To measure child outcomes, the Desired Results Developmental Profile Assessment is used. The DRDP-2015 assessment tools measure progress within specific developmental domains against identified measures (developmental levels). Children are assessed during three cycles: fall, winter, and spring. After each cycle, the data is analyzed to determine where extra classroom support or professional development is needed. Due to the hybrid learning this year, we used the Modified Essential DRDP tool and assessed children in four key areas.

## Percentage of children who met the goals

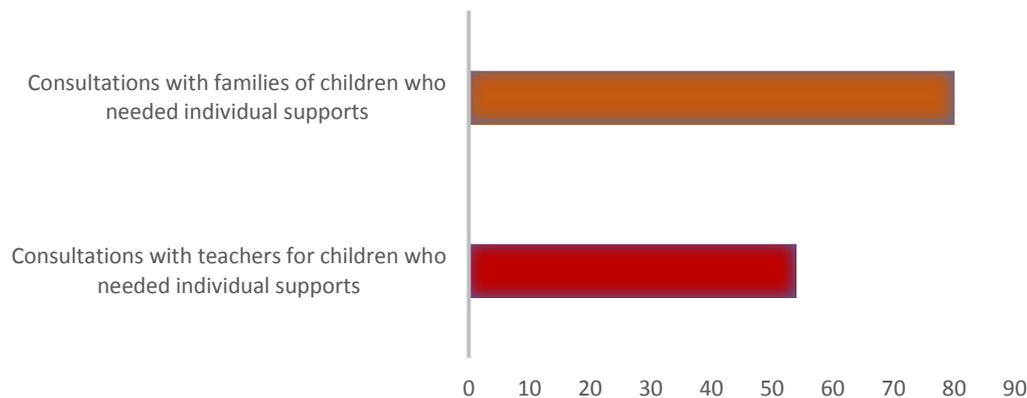


## Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, and Disabilities

We address the health and wellness of children by working closely with families to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and resources necessary to make decisions on their child’s well-being. This includes providing direct support in applying for medical insurance, securing medical and dental homes, and facilitating referrals. We also provide two nutritious meals, one healthy snack, and gross motor opportunities daily. We practice self-care habits and incorporate tooth brushing and hand washing in the daily activities.



We partner with the SF Unified School District and the Golden Gate Regional Center for assessments of, and services for, children with disabilities. In addition, through a partnership with Instituto Familiar de la Raza, we provide mental health consultation to staff and parents on supporting children, particularly those exhibiting challenging behaviors, in the classroom and at home. All services were provided in a hybrid format.

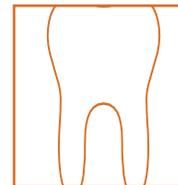


**Through our partnership with Imperfect Foods, 175 families received food boxes through our biweekly giveaways!**



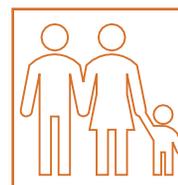
17% of enrolled children up to date on a schedule of appropriate preventive and primary health care

97.2% were up -to-date on immunizations



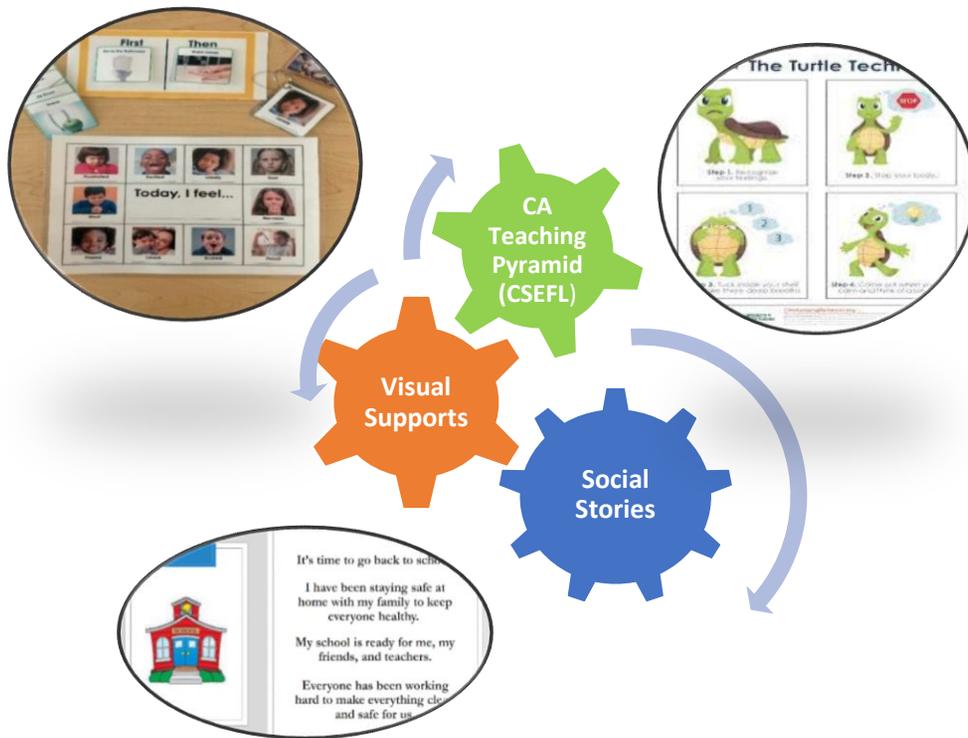
33% of children received preventive dental care

14% of preschoolers had an IEP during the program year (Head Start requires 10%)



12% of our infants/toddlers had an IFSP during the program year (Head Start requires 10%)

Our social emotional specialists have been using an array of strategies and resources for our children and families. They continuously collaborate with teachers and families to find strategies to best support children’s needs within the classroom and home environment. Strategies such as CSEFEL, social studies, and visual supports, supports children and promotes self-regulation, understanding and navigating through difficult situations, and understanding activities or instructions. Our team worked with children both onsite and virtually.



Through a longstanding partnership with Project Commotion, our children receive gross motor, dance, and movement sessions specifically designed for children zero to 5. Our teachers receive training in how to incorporate movement and dance into their lesson plans. Project Commotion reports that during the 2020-2021 program year they accomplished:



## Family Supportive Services

Every fall, families are asked to complete a Family Interest Survey. This survey asks questions about the needs of families, the level of need, their concerns, and what they are interested in learning for themselves and their children. Based on the survey we update, plan, and implement referral and educational services for the year. In addition to the services below, we assisted over twenty families with rent and utilities funding through the federal and state rent relief program.

Specific Services Offered	No. of families received	% of families received
Asset Building Services	7	2.0%
Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	8	2.3%
English as a Second Language (ESL) Training	17	5.5%
Education on relationship/marriage	25	5.9%
Research-based parenting curriculum	29	8.8%
Housing Assistance	54	16.3%
Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	66	16.9%
Education on nutrition	59	18.9%
Mental Health Services	91	25.7%
Education on preventive medical and oral health	112	32.9%
Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	155	37.1%
Supporting transitions between programs	222	61.9%
Emergency or Crisis Intervention	327	84.0%

By these means I want to make a very special thanks to the SF rent relief program. I want to let you know this money was very helpful for me since my job reduced my hours due to pandemic. I was on the waiting list for some time and had not received any news about receiving aid until Miss Natalie (Family Services Specialist) called me to ask me how I was doing with my rent and if I was behind. I let her know that I was very worried because I still owed a lot. I want to especially give thanks to the Mission Head Start Program, that through them I received the help I needed, infinite thanks! The amount I received was \$10,200 to cover previous months of rent. Thank you Mission Head Start; I am very grateful for your support. Thank you, Natalie, for walking me through this whole process and making sure my family was okay. Infinite thanks to you! With the SF Rent Relief Program, I was able to pay three months of rent. For that I am grateful! – D. Ullola

93% of our families received at least one family service



I was a parent with 2 kids that attended Mission Bay preschool for a total of 4 years consecutive. Besides my kid's education, I was also met with financial and emotional support. Isabela (Family Services Specialist) has found ways to help and connect me with resources for clothes, food, hygiene and cleaning supplies. Just recently Isabela applied for assistance to help with my rent and was awarded with over \$7,000 for both back and future rent. Even now with my youngest being out of the program and in kinder I can still reach out to Isabela for inquiries and feel confident knowing I'm being pointed in the right direction. I feel extremely blessed to have landed in such amazing hands!! – D. Soto

## Parent Engagement and the Parent Policy Council (PPC)

Parent Workshops and Family Chats focus on arming parents with the information needed for them to step into the power of them acting as their child’s first teacher and to be an advocate on behalf of their children. These sessions occurred virtually this year. The average attendance for each session last year was 10 – 25 parents. Classes are offered through our strong partnerships with agencies such as Support for Families, Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Project Commotion, San Francisco State University, and Linguistic Connections, as well as through our staff trained in family development.

Topics included:

Financial Literacy    Health & Safety    Cultural Celebrations  
 Pathways to Citizenship    Child Development Milestones    Healthy Relationships  
**Abriendo Puertas**    Fatherhood Groups  
 Oral Care    Kinder Faire    COVID-19    Nutrition  
 Disabilities and Inclusion    Adult Relationships  
 Conflict Resolution & Communication



Our Parent Policy Council is one of two governing bodies for our program. The council is comprised of parent representatives from each of our early care centers. They approve budgets and program expenditures, help set program goals, and participate in the Annual Self-Assessment and Community Assessment. This year we had 9 parents complete the PPC 20-21 term which runs from November to October.

Members shared how happy they are with the program and that their children have learned and advanced so much during their time with us. Members also shared how much they have learned being part of the PPC. They have learned how important it is for parents to be involved in the development of their children.

## A New Look – Reimagining Outdoor Spaces – Southeast Families United Center

### BEFORE

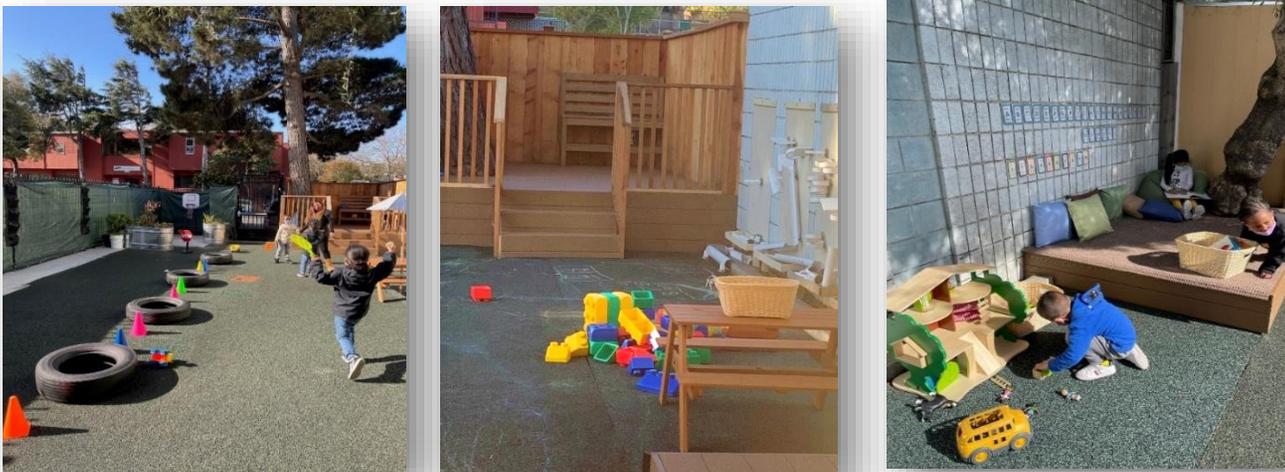


We were able to transform our playground with the generous support of the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund and our donors. Children and staff love the new play yard – there is more space to run around and have a variety of educational activities like playing with cars, blocks, tires, sports, reading and writing. We rotate our outdoor materials to stimulate the children’s interests. We have added planter boxes, a bench, and a language and literacy corner.

These improvements were completed:

- Added 380 square feet by moving the fence outward
- Built a deck in an area that was unusable before
- Installed a new kitchen sink for outdoor water play
- Removed the outdated play structure and purchased new furniture and materials to make room for a variety of outdoor activities

### AFTER



## A New Look – Reimagining Outdoor Spaces – Jean Jacobs Center

### BEFORE



With funding and consultation from First 5 San Francisco, Jean Jacobs committed to reimagining their outdoor space. What started with modest goals to provide more flexible spaces and materials with more opportunities for active play, sensory play, and dramatic play became a complete remodel.

These improvements were completed:

- Replacement of canopy with a deck for dramatic play
- Replacement of water damaged wall with white board painted wall section
- Cover of drainage ditch
- New ramp materials
- Updated mud kitchen
- Area rebuilt and redesigned for block play and obstacle courses
- Weatherproof outdoor storage

Children now can play together in focused areas, wait to take turns with the inner tube ramp, exercise their imagination in the dramatic play area, and to investigate art, water, and physics in many areas.

### AFTER



## A New Look – Reimagining Outdoor Spaces – Centro de Alegria Center

With funding and consultation from First 5 San Francisco, staff worked to create a warm environment for children by adding dramatic play, nature, and reading areas.

These improvements were completed:

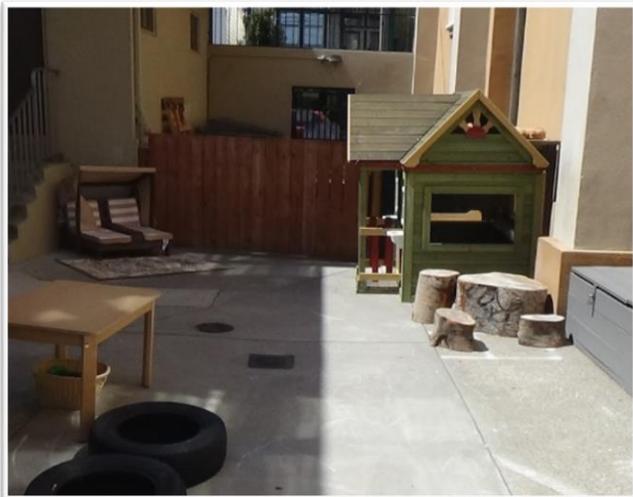
- Moved storage sheds to more convenient places
- Added a wood dramatic play Victorian house with lounge chairs
- Installed a sharing library with a rug and several bean bags nearby
- Hung up chalkboards
- Used discarded tree logs for a table and chairs
- Expanded the garden area and restocked gardening supplies
- Added a swing chair

The children are more focused outside with more choices and better designed areas for different activities. They have more access to nature and are learning how to take care of plants. They love the dramatic playhouse. The teachers are especially proud that the children are now reading outside.

### BEFORE



### AFTER



## Our Newest Center: MNC Mission Campus!

We were excited to open our newest Early Learning facility - MNC Mission Campus - in June of this year!

In order to address the high need for infant and toddler care in the Mission, and to provide our Capp St. children with a facility more suitable to their development, we embarked on a multi-year process to secure and build-out a state of the art, early care facility with ample outdoor space. It was a dream of staff and administrative managers, that with this space expansion, we would be able to provide onsite services to an additional 22 infants and toddlers and address a critical need for this population in the community.

### The Capp classroom:

Our Capp St. classrooms had no outdoor space and only a half wall dividing the two classrooms.



In addition to the preschool classroom, the new site has two toddler classrooms, one infant classroom, and a large outdoor learning environment dedicated to each age group.





Loading in boxes and setting up classrooms!



Infant Room



Toddler Room 1



Preschool Room



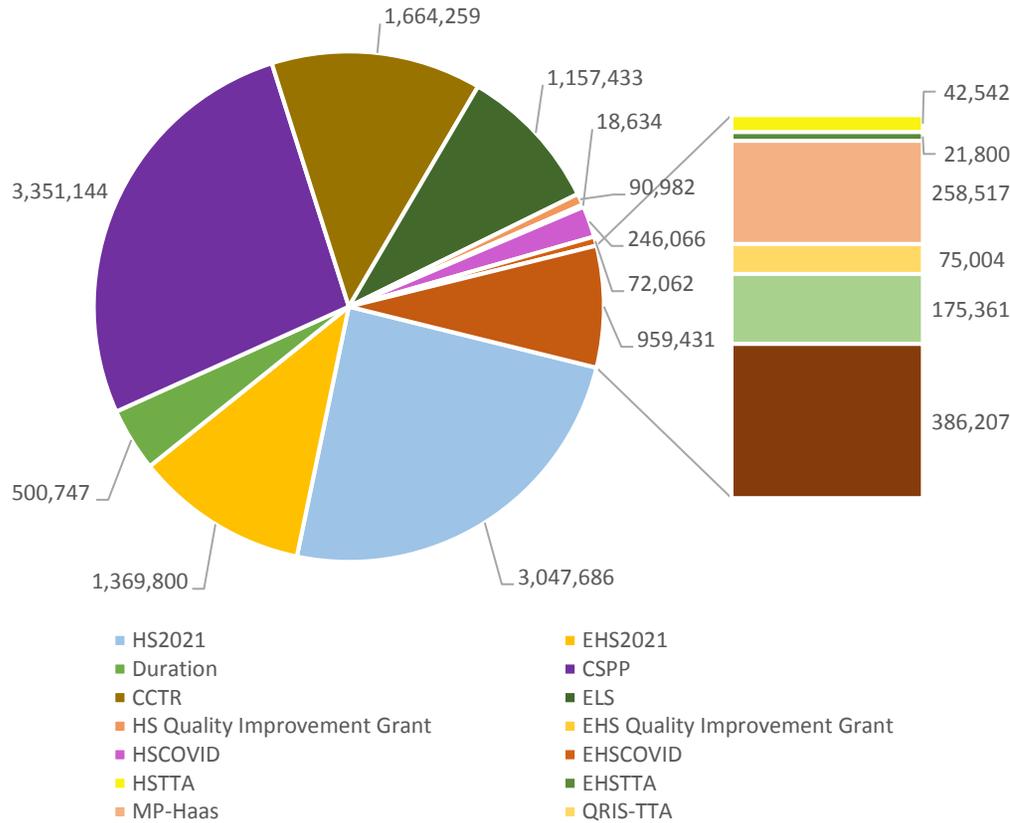
Toddler Room 2



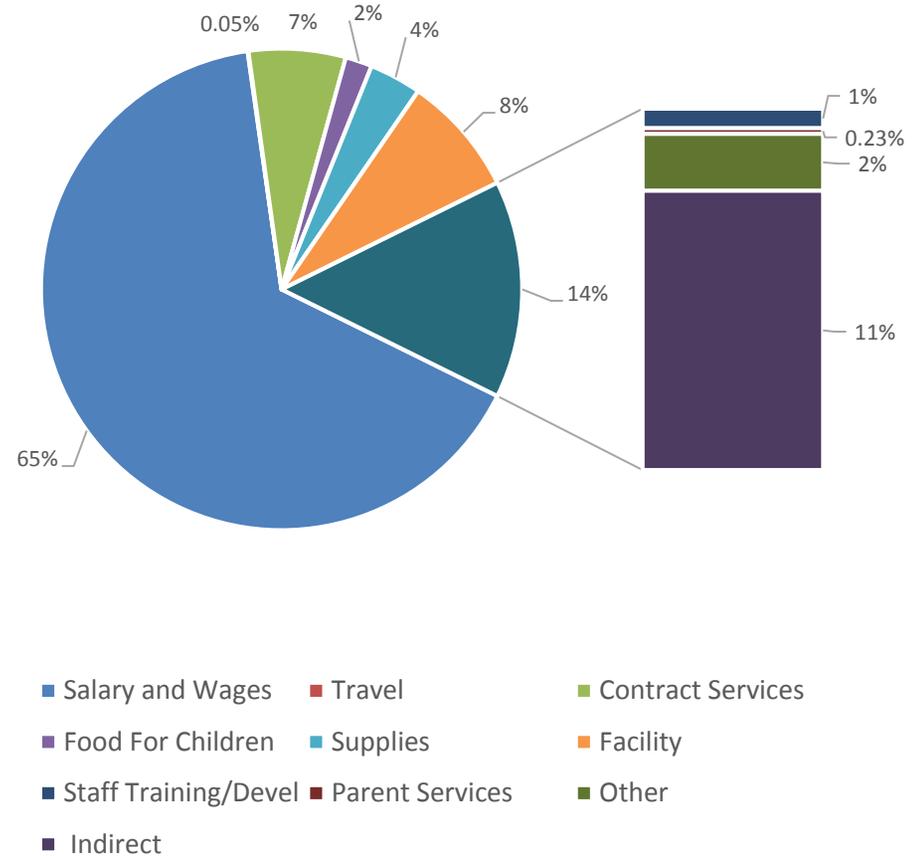
## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House with Special Guest, Mayor London Breed



Funding Sources FYE 2021 - 12.5M



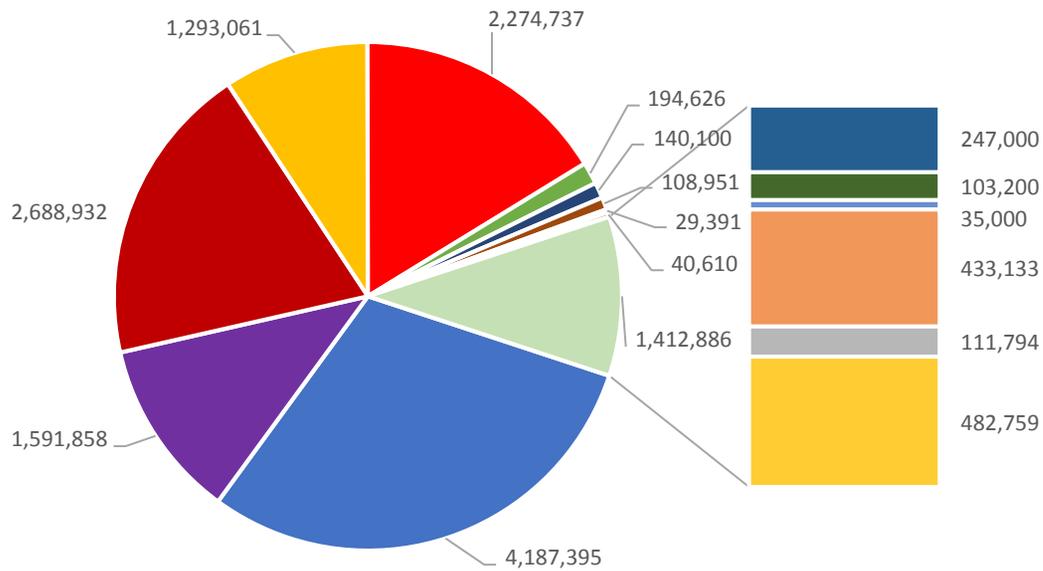
Expenditures FYE 2021 - 12.3M



## Audit Results

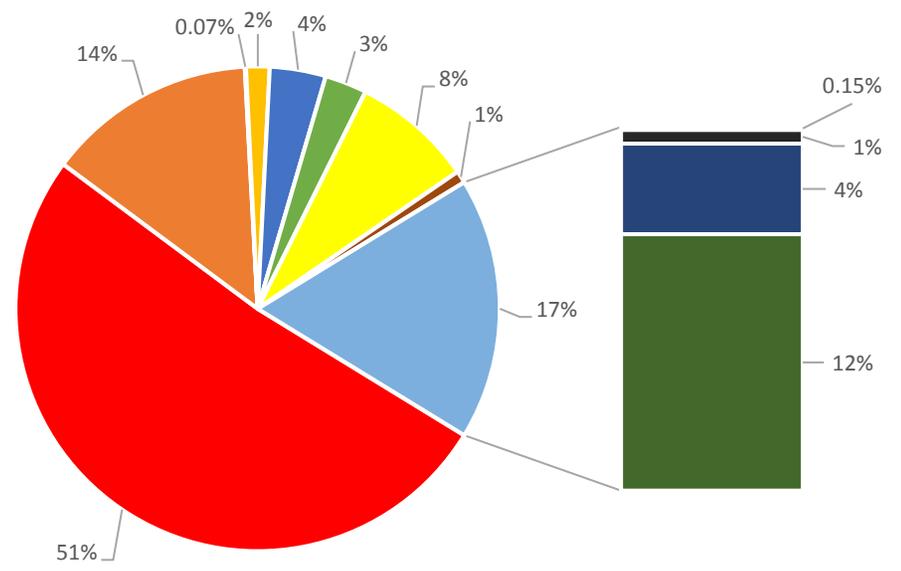
The FYE 2021 Audit was conducted by Harswal and Company LLP. Their report was unmodified and showed no findings, weaknesses, deficiencies, or out of compliance areas.

Estimated Funding FYE 2022 - 13.9M



- HS2022
- CCTR
- HS Program Improvement
- EHSSTTA
- CDRESTRICT
- CACFP
- EHS2022
- ELS
- HSCovid
- MPHaaS
- HS ARP
- CSPP
- Duration (1240 Rm2)
- HSTTA
- QRISTTA
- HS Start-Up (1240)

Estimated Expenditures FYE 2022 - 13.9M



- Salary and Wages
- Taxes and Benefits
- Contract Services
- Supplies
- Food For Children
- Facility
- Parent Services
- Other
- Staff Training/Development
- Insurance
- Indirect/Admin Costs
- Travel

## In Memoriam

We are dedicating this annual report to the memory of Dr. Liliana Carnero-Rossi who we lost this year. While Liliana joined MNC leadership as our Chief Program Officer in January 2020, she had been an instrumental part of MNC since 1998 when she joined the Board of Directors. For over twenty years, Liliana provided direction, oversight, advice, and resources that strengthened the core of MNC and the services we provide.



Liliana led with passion and heart; dedicating her life to support children, families, and marginalized communities. Her steadfast support of the San Francisco community, and the MNC community, ensured the success of MNC over the years. We are forever grateful for her many contributions to our community and will miss her greatly.



**“Keeping the Distance Through the Children’s Eyes”**

## CONTACT

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