



# 2020



HEAD START &  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

## ANNUAL REPORT



# A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER

## MEETING FAMILIES' NEEDS DURING A PANDEMIC

It was a year unlike any other, a year of converging crises. When Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency in March to address the escalating coronavirus pandemic, ABCD Head Start and Early Head Start centers may have closed, but the organization mobilized.

In short order, Head Start educators and staff adapted to a newly “contactless” world to ensure that the program’s comprehensive services continued uninterrupted. The team connected with parents by phone and email and provided weekly activities for Head Start and Early Head Start children, never losing sight of the importance of family engagement.

Importantly, ABCD also responded to families suddenly dealing with even greater economic strain and health impacts by seeing to it that Head Start children had enough to eat as well as essentials like diapers, formula, and PPE.

In July 2020, all ABCD Head Start & Children’s Services programs began the process of reopening in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care guidance and regulations. Families were offered the opportunity to return to in-person care or continue virtual enrollment.

Following the strict guidelines of the Office of Head Start, the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, Governor Baker and other officials, the program implemented policies, procedures, and practices to make learning experiences and environments as safe as possible for children, families and staff.

In the 2019-2020 program year ABCD Head Start centers, along with our partner programs (John F. Kennedy Family Service Center, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Horizons for Homeless Children, Infants and Other People, and Nurtury) had a cumulative funded enrollment of 2,289. Together, we represented 28 current centers and 6 family child care programs dedicated to providing services to pregnant women, children birth through age five, and their families:

## 2019 - 2020 at a Glance

GRANT	AGES SERVED	PROGRAM OPTIONS	FUNDED ENROLLMENT
<b>Boston Early Head Start</b> 01CH011235.200	<b>Pregnant women, children birth through 2.9 years</b>	<b>Pregnant Women, Home-Based, Center-Based</b>	<b>298</b>
<b>Boston Head Start</b> 01CH011235.000	<b>Children 2.9 through 5 years</b>	<b>Center-Based</b>	<b>1,728</b>
<b>Malden/Everett Head Start</b> 01CH10003	<b>Children 3 through 5 years</b>	<b>Center-Based</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships</b> (EHS-CCP) 01HP000057	<b>Children birth through 4 years (FCC) Children birth through 2.9 years (Center-Based)</b>	<b>Family Child Care, Center-Based</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2,289</b>

## Who We Are

One of the core programs of President Lyndon Johnson's Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Head Start remains an exemplary family development program that each year serves more than a million disadvantaged children nationwide. In 1965, ABCD (Action for Boston Community Development) was designated as one of the program's original demonstration projects.

Since then, ABCD Head Start & Children's Services has served tens of thousands of children and families in Boston and the Mystic Valley area, offering comprehensive education, health, dental, nutrition and related services for children from birth to age five, as well as for pregnant mothers. Parent participation is a cornerstone of the program. In addition, we strive to meet each child's needs while reflecting the community's ethnic and cultural values.

## Our Mission

ABCD Head Start & Children's Services, a family development program, is committed to providing opportunities and services to the diverse low-income children and families of Boston and the Mystic Valley area, to support them with school readiness, self-sufficiency and success in life.

## ABCD Leadership

### OFFICERS

Yvonne Jones, *Chair*  
Sean Daughtry, *Vice Chair*  
Marie Greig, *Vice Chair*  
Edward Katz, *Vice Chair*  
Rev. Dr. Florence King, *Vice Chair*  
James A. Owens, Jr., *Vice Chair*  
Patricia Washington, *Treasurer*  
Andres Molina, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Julia Hardy Cofield, Esq., *Clerk*

### ABCD SENIOR STAFF

John J. Drew  
*President/CEO*  
Sharon Scott-Chandler, Esq.  
*Executive Vice President/COO*  
Yvette Rodriguez  
*Vice President, Head Start & Children's Service*

## Leadership and Governance: ABCD Head Start Policy Council

Parents are an integral part of program planning by participating in meetings and providing feedback on the services we provide. Many parents serve as members of the Parent Policy Council. Policy council members are responsible for the direction of the agency's Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

### ABCD HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### CHAIRPERSON

Anthony Nunziato, *South Boston*

#### VICE CHAIRPERSON

Dawn Duncan, *Walnut Grove*

#### SECRETARY

Yee Mon, *Allston/Brighton*

#### TREASURER

Jessica Frazier, *Harrison Ave*

#### MASSACHUSETTS HEAD START ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Angelica Gomez, *Dorchester*

#### ABCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPRESENTATIVE

Kimberly Cook, *Horizons for Homeless Children*

#### MHSA/BOD ALTERNATE

Cara Craig, *Mattapan*

# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WE SERVE

## Funded Enrollment




## Cumulative Enrollment



**28**  
Sites



**159**  
Classrooms



**7**  
FCC Providers

## NEIGHBORHOODS SERVED

Boston  
Malden  
Everett  
Medford  
Stoneham  
Winchester  
Melrose  
North Reading  
Reading  
Wakefield

## PARTNERS

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center  
Horizons for Homeless Children  
Infants and Other People  
John F. Kennedy  
Family Service Center  
The Kennedy Center  
Nurtury





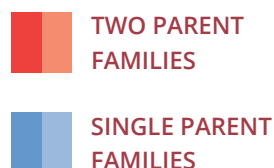
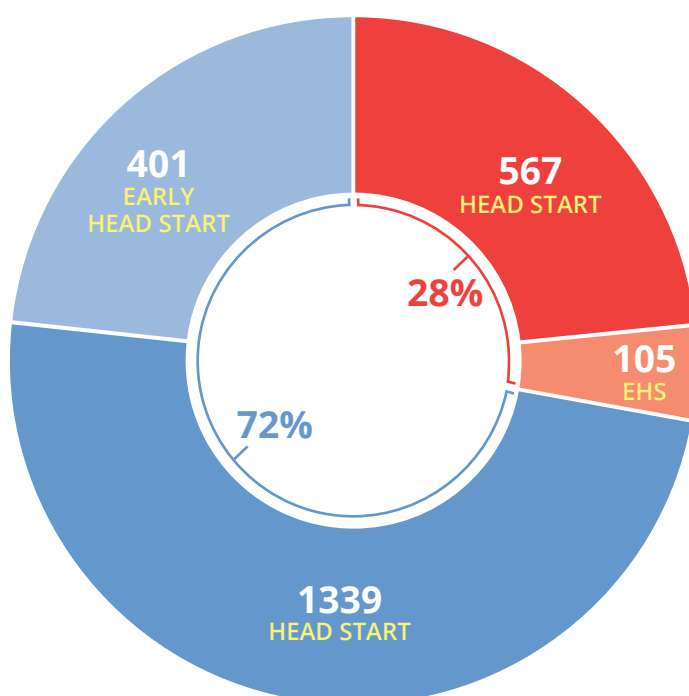
*"Thank you to the amazing teachers for all that they are doing for my daughter during this difficult time, and for the food and the diapers and the gloves. It's not easy but these things are helping a lot! It was nice to see staff waving from our apartment."*

— Petra, Dorchester Head Start Parent



## Family Composition

2412 TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES





# 2,000

families across Boston and  
Mystic Valley were served by  
our food distribution services

## FAMILY NEEDS

# 74%

FAMILIES  
RECEIVING WIC  
1793

# 71%

FAMILIES RECEIVING  
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE  
1720

# 65%

FAMILIES  
RECEIVING SNAP  
1560

# 16%

FAMILIES EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS  
378

# 10%

CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES  
264

# 1%

FOSTER  
CHILDREN  
30

*"Zoom was difficult, but still, the virtual came with some good. I can see that my kids are more familiar, more at ease with using technology. Not just in games, or entertainment, but school, how they can handle zoom, mute and unmute themselves. They understand the logic of using technology in a responsible way."*

— Zainab, Everett Head Start Parent

## Race and Ethnicity of Children

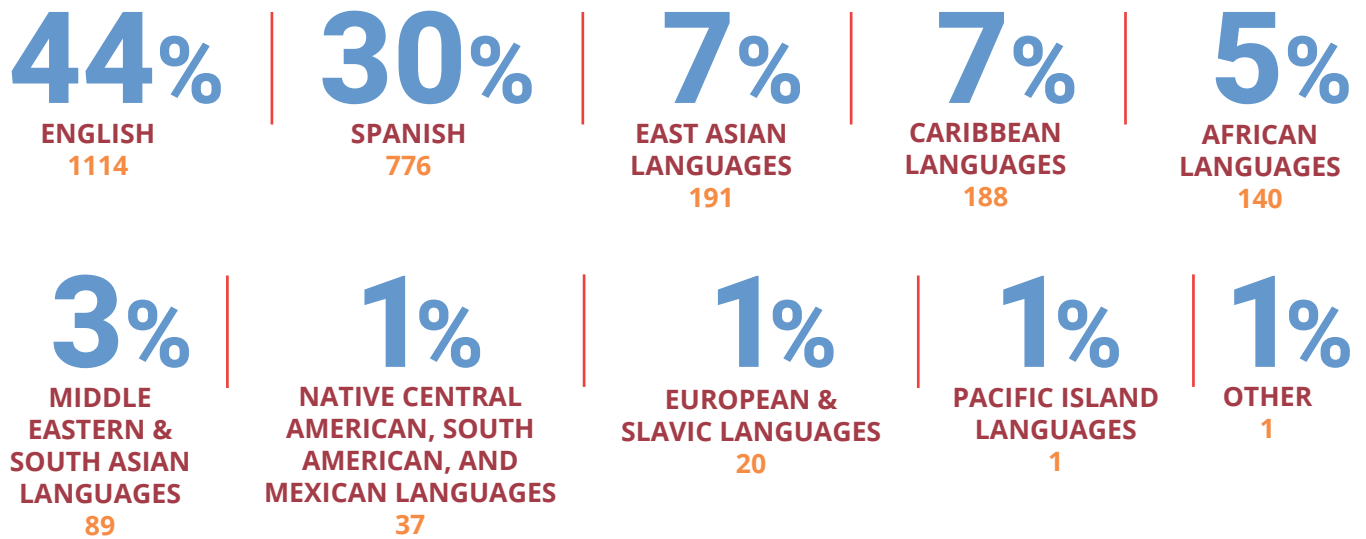
	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	WHITE	BI-RACIAL/ MULTI-RACIAL	OTHER
HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	1	0	43	29	127	956
NON-HISPANIC OR NON-LATINO ORIGIN	1	233	929	144	73	21

## Race and Ethnicity of Educators

	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	WHITE	BI-RACIAL/ MULTI-RACIAL	OTHER
HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	0	0	3	24	8	99
NON-HISPANIC OR NON-LATINO ORIGIN	1	33	93	42	3	4



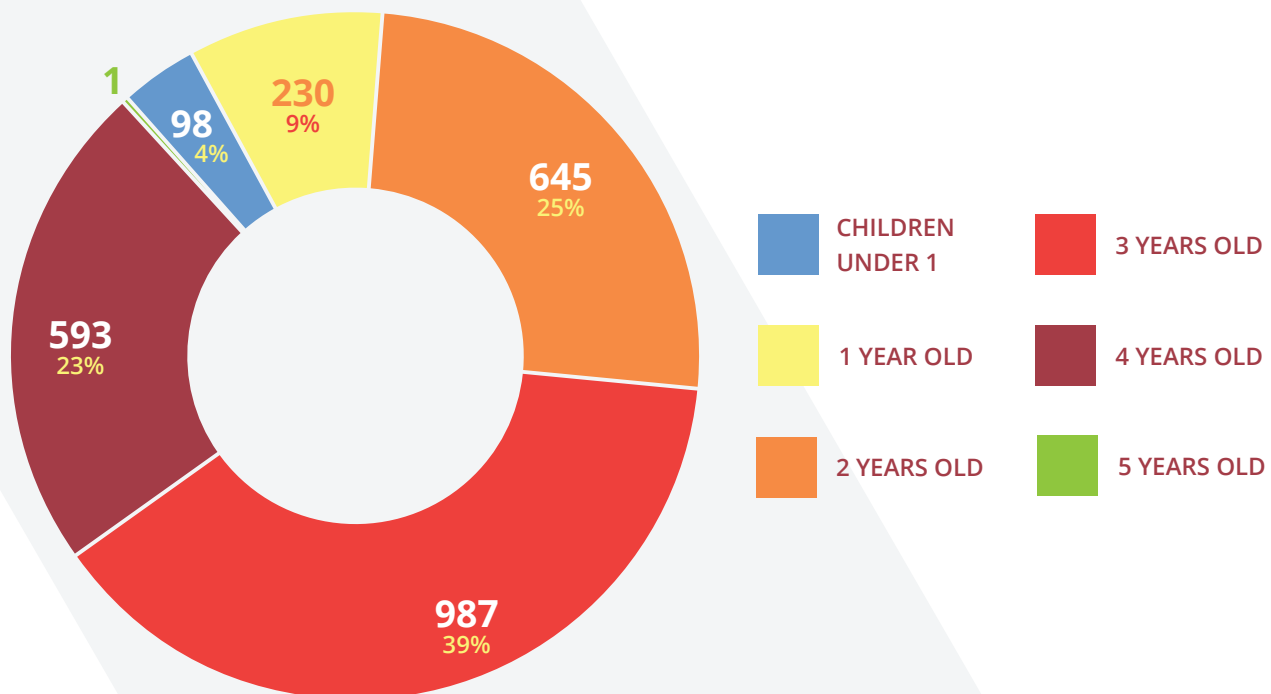
## PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF CHILDREN



**25** consecutive weeks, families received educational resources calendars in **6 different languages** to help engage children in learning activities.

## Age of Children

**2554** TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN



# RESILIENCE AND DEDICATION

Since this devastating and life-changing pandemic began, ABCD Head Start and Early Head Start staff have shown remarkable but not surprising resilience and dedication. They met the moment to meet our families' needs. They prepared food packages, delivered diapers, and offered information about critical resources.

Staff continued to provide all of our usual services to children and families virtually, including online educational lessons. They worked quickly and tirelessly to make sure that our community continued to receive the comprehensive support services that make Head Start so unique.

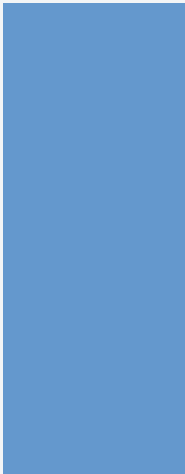
In other words, they did whatever it took to be there for our children, their families, and our community. I could not be more proud or more grateful for their compassionate efforts.

Together we are moving forward with our children's well being and happy, healthy, and successful futures as our unwavering goal.

## **Yvette Rodriguez**

*Vice President, ABCD Head Start & Children's Services*







**HEAD START &  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

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