

2021



HEAD START &
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT

MEETING FAMILIES' NEEDS DURING A PANDEMIC

The 2020-2021 program year was a year of adaptation, flexibility and innovation at ABCD Head Start & Children's Services. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, ABCD Head Start & Children's Services staff worked diligently and steadfastly to provide high-quality services to the children and families of our community. Due to the ongoing pandemic, ABCD Head Start was compelled to adapt our typical program model in order to prioritize the health, safety and wellness of our staff, children and families to align with the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and Office of Head Start (OHS) COVID-related regulations.

By early fall 2020, all of our 35 ABCD and partner program sites were re-opened fully for both in-person learners, while simultaneously offering virtual enrollment and services for those families not yet comfortable sending their children into a center-based care environment. Hybrid schedules, reduced program hours, staggered drop off and pick up times, daily health screenings for staff and children, combined with robust and rigorous health and safety policies allowed our services to continue as safely as possible. We continued to adapt to offer families the best possible support, investing heavily in technology infrastructure and training for staff on virtual engagement with children and families. Teachers worked tirelessly to provide children with stable, consistent and high-quality education for children virtually and in person. Support staff worked to ensure that our most vulnerable children received the services that they needed at a critical time. Our family service staff illustrated their continued dedication to supporting families with direct services and referrals responsive to their needs, focused on combating food insecurity and the economic hardships families faced, exacerbated by the pandemic.

In the 2020-2021 program year ABCD Head Start centers, along with our partner programs (Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Horizons for Homeless Children, Infants and Other People, John F. Kennedy Family Service Center, and Nurtury) had a cumulative funded enrollment of 2,289. Together, we represented 29 current centers and 6 family child care programs dedicated to providing services to pregnant women, children birth through age five, and their families:

2020 - 2021 at a Glance

GRANT	AGES SERVED	PROGRAM OPTIONS	FUNDED ENROLLMENT
Early Head Start 01CH011235.200	Pregnant women, children birth through 2.9 years	Pregnant Women, Center-Based	298
Head Start 01CH011235.000	Children 2.9 through 5 years	Center-Based	1,867
Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships 01HP000057	Children birth through 4 years (FCC) Children birth through 2.9 years (Center-Based)	Family Child Care, Center-Based	124
TOTAL			2,289

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 L. Jones, *Chair*
Sean Daughtry, *First Vice Chair*
Marie Greig, *Vice Chair*
Edward Katz, *Vice Chair*
Rev. Dr. Florence King, *Vice Chair*
James 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

Brenda Shea, *Roslindale/Hyde Park*

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Dannette Lopez, *Dorchester HS*

SECRETARY

Yee Mon, *Allston/Brighton*

TREASURER

Jessica Frazier, *Harrison Ave*

MASSACHUSETTS HEAD START
ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE
Joseph Lee, *Dorchester EHS*

ABCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REPRESENTATIVE
Zainab Hmito, *Everett HS*

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WE SERVE

Funded Enrollment

EARLY
HEAD START *

HEAD START

422

1867

TOTAL
2289

Cumulative Enrollment

EARLY
HEAD START *

HEAD START

526

1475

TOTAL
2001

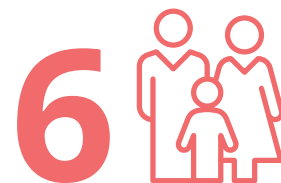
* FUNDED FOR 8 PREGNANT WOMEN AND 10 WERE SERVED.



29
Centers



162
Classrooms



6
FCC Providers

NEIGHBORHOODS SERVED

- Boston
- Malden
- Everett
- Medford
- Stoneham
- Winchester
- Melrose
- North Reading
- Reading
- Wakefield

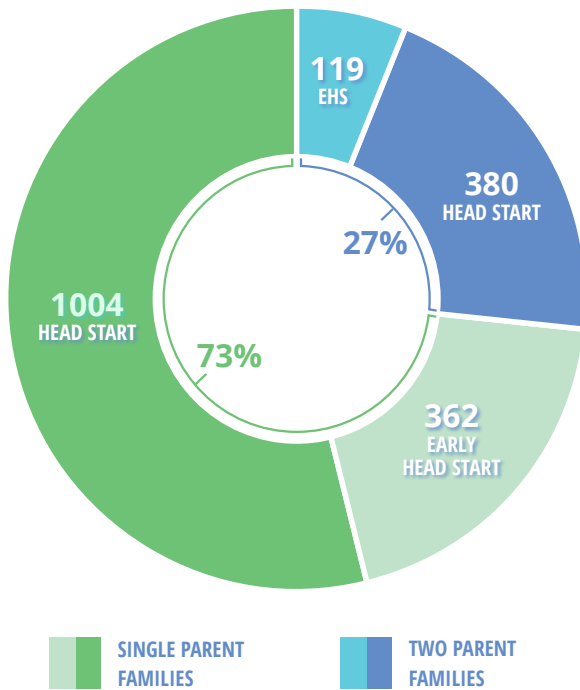
PARTNERS

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



Family Composition

1865 TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES



FAMILY NEEDS

76%

FAMILIES RECEIVING WIC
1418

23%

FAMILIES RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
430

67%

FAMILIES RECEIVING SNAP
1244

15%

FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
284

8%

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
194

3%

FOSTER CHILDREN
49

PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF CHILDREN

46%
ENGLISH
918

28%
SPANISH
566

8%
CARIBBEAN
LANGUAGES
170

7%
EAST ASIAN
LANGUAGES
147

5%
AFRICAN
LANGUAGES
97

3%
MIDDLE
EASTERN & SOUTH
ASIAN LANGUAGES
54

2%
NATIVE CENTRAL
AMERICAN, SOUTH
AMERICAN, AND
MEXICAN LANGUAGES
32

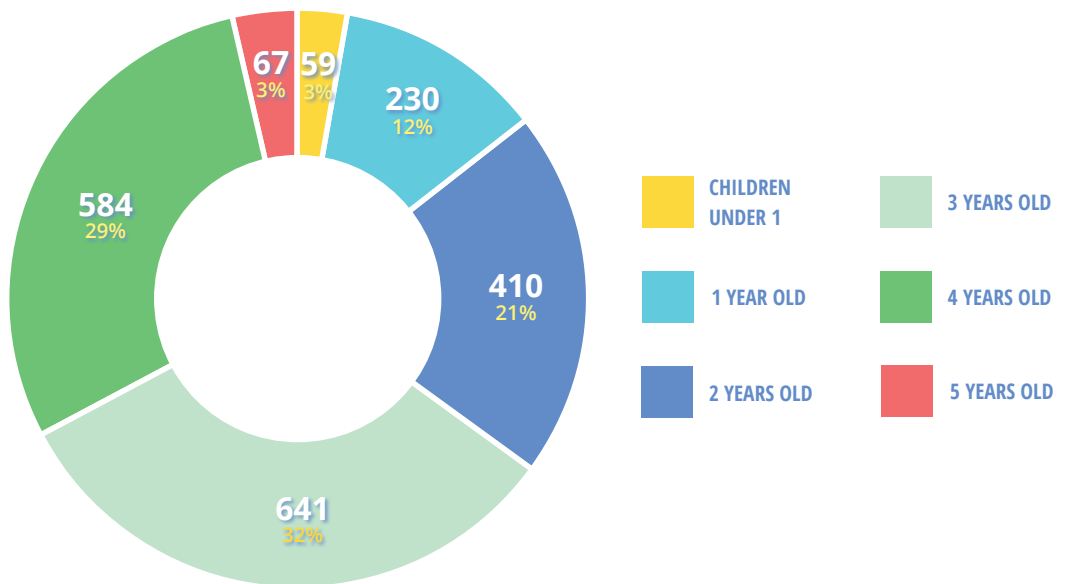
1%
EUROPEAN &
SLAVIC LANGUAGES
14

0%
PACIFIC ISLAND
LANGUAGES
1

0%
OTHER
2

Age of Children

1991 TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN





Race and Ethnicity of Children

	NON-HISPANIC OR NON-LATINO ORIGIN	HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	1	0
ASIAN	164	0
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	792	46
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	1
WHITE	100	30
BI-RACIAL/ MULTI-RACIAL	58	100
OTHER	4	701
UNSPECIFIED	3	1

Race and Ethnicity of Educators

	NON-HISPANIC OR NON-LATINO ORIGIN	HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	0	0
ASIAN	35	0
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	109	3
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0
WHITE	55	29
BI-RACIAL/ MULTI-RACIAL	3	10
OTHER	5	102
UNSPECIFIED	1	3

RESILIENCE AND DEDICATION

It has been another rewarding year at ABCD Head Start & Children's Services. We navigated a full program year, facing the challenges of an ongoing pandemic head on. Our ABCD Head Start & Children's Services staff again rose to the occasion, displaying an enormous amount of dedication, passion, and resilience. Our families partnered with us to ensure that we could safely navigate the ongoing pandemic to keep the children in our care safe.

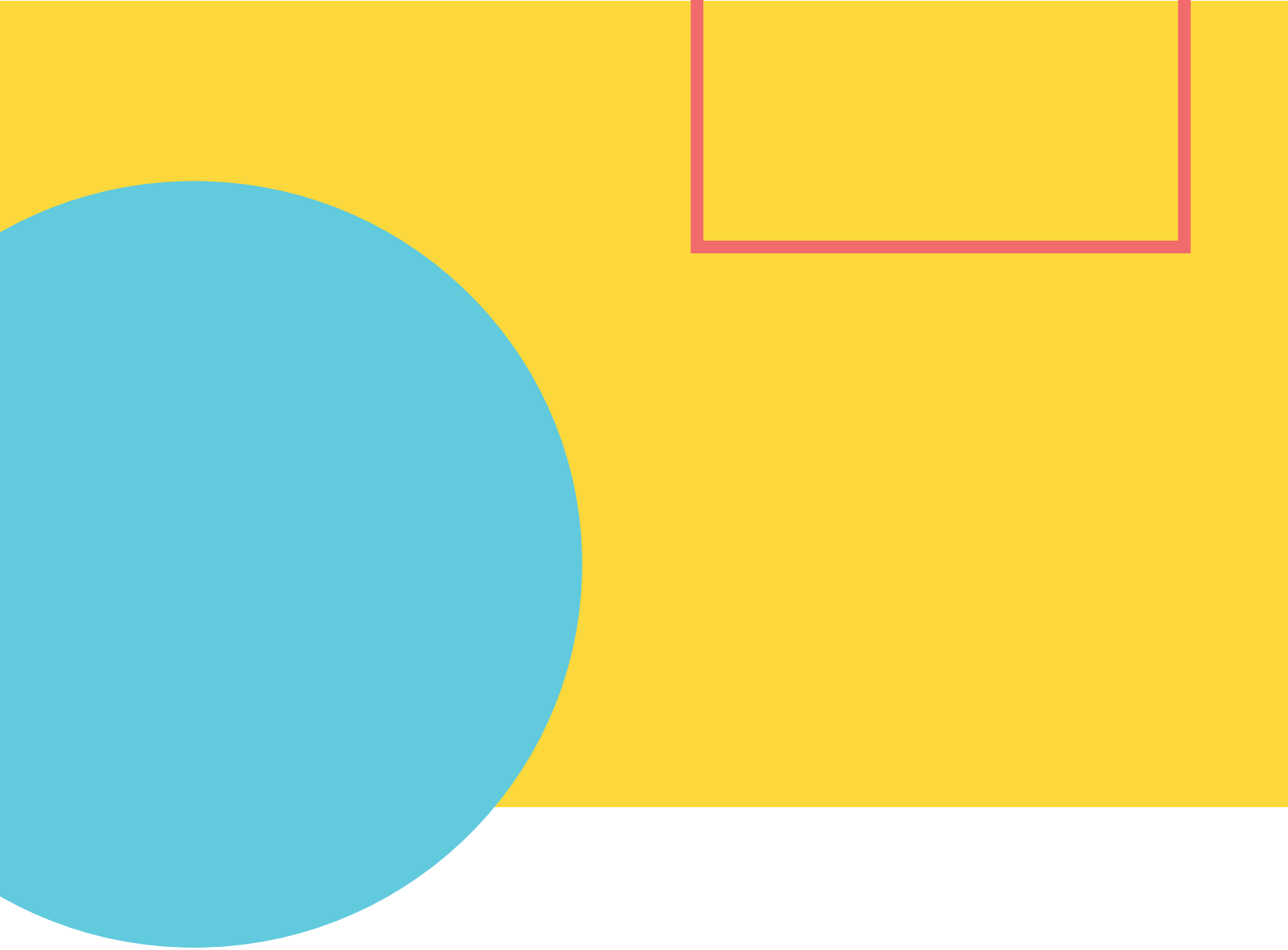
We are grateful for the dedication of our staff, as well as the grace and patience that our families have shown as we find our way forward during these unprecedented times. I could not be more proud of the staff who work tirelessly every day for our community. I am thankful for the families that continue to choose ABCD Head Start & Children's Services to care for their children daily. We cannot do what we do without your partnership.

Together, we will continue to move forward. We will continue to face hurdles, no doubt, but we will continue to focus on the health, happiness and future of the children we serve.

Yvette Rodriguez

Vice President, ABCD Head Start & Children's Services





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CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

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