



YOUTH & FAMILY
SERVICES

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SGA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES
A Start Early- Early Head Start/Head Start Partner Agency

Program Name: SGA Youth and Family Services

Agency Address: 11 E. Adams, Suite 1500 Chicago, IL 60603

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Head Start Director Name: Betty Diaz

Head Start Director Email: bdiaz@sga-youth.org

Agency Web Site Address: www.sga-youth.org

Agency Type: Social Service Agency/ Not-for-Profit

SGA Youth & Family Services supports the emotional and social development of Chicago area children, adolescents, and young adults by providing fee-free therapy, case management, and other supportive services for individuals and their families. SGA's mission: SGA helps children, families, and communities facing great challenges to realize their potential. SGA's vision is to lead the evolution of services to transform challenged neighborhoods in the greater Chicago area into healthy communities. SGA Youth & Family Services partners with Start Early to provide comprehensive Early Head Start and Head Start home based services to families.

The agency services 120 Early Head Start and Head Start eligible children.

Site Location:

SGA Home Visiting Office
3501 W. 48th Place
Chicago, IL 60632

Community Areas Served:

Brighton Park
McKinley Park
New City

OVERALL GRANTEE BUDGET 2020

Total Public and Private Funds Received: \$1,535,779

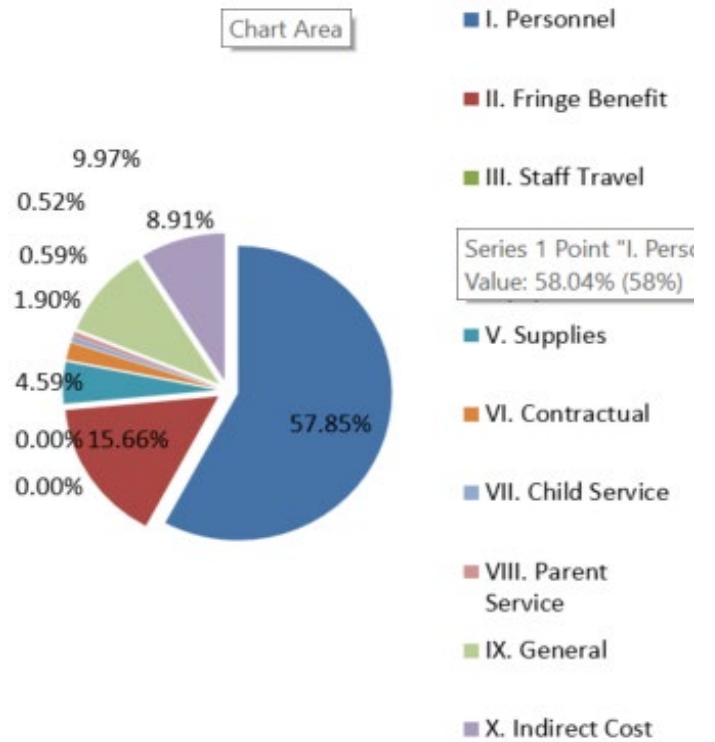
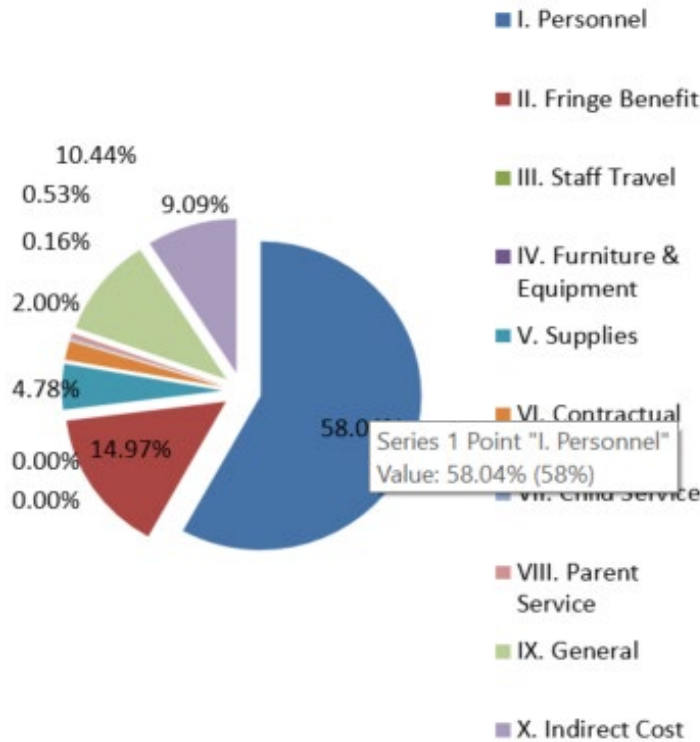
Public Fund		Private Funds	
Source	Amount	Source	Amount
Federal	\$ 1,102,870	Individuals, Corporations, Foundations, etc.	\$ 148,580
State		In-Kind	\$ 284,329
Local School District			
Total	\$ 1,102,870	Total	\$ 432,909

2020 BUDGET AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

2020 Budget and Actual Expenditures

Budget

Actual



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

Grantee Funded Enrollment

	Head Start Enrollment	Early Head Start Enrollment
Center-based Program		
a. 5 days per week		
1. Full-day enrollment		
2. Part-day enrollment		
b. 4 days per week		
1. Full-day enrollment		
2. Part-day enrollment		
Home-based Program	36	84
Unallocated Slots		
Total:	36	84

Site:

Total Children Served: 121 Total Families Served: 107

Average monthly enrollment (as percentage of funded enrollment): 88%

Number of Eligible Children in Community, ages 0-5	3,162
Percentage of children served in agency	4%

HEALTH

Percentage of enrolled children who received medical and dental exams

	Received Medical Exams	Received Dental Exams
SGA	50%	58%

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Each year, Start Early conducts a community assessment to highlight the strengths and needs of the communities SGA serves as they relate to Head Start eligible children and families. This information is used for program planning purposes. Start Early's last full community assessment was conducted in 2018. Below you will find a summary of the updated community assessment that was published May 2021.

Community Assessment Summary:

Status of Illinois' Early Childhood Programs

- Preschool for All, MIECHV home visiting programs and referrals to the Early Intervention services had also declined.
- Interviews with parents by Action for Children found that parents were hesitant to return their children to early childhood programs because of health and safety issues
- But lack of childcare also caused stress and challenges for those parents who were essential workers and had to miss work because of no childcare

Recruitment of Early Head Start and Head Start – Children Not Served, 0-2

- In many communities the supply of early childhood programs that serve infants and toddlers continues to be insufficient but does meet the needs in other communities
- Our recruitment areas had more eligible children not served in Early Head Start, Prevention Initiative or in childcare

Recruitment of Early Head Start and Head Start – Children Not Served, 3-5

- Looking at just Chicago, the number of Preschool for All funded slots already exceeds the number of eligible preschoolers
- Four current recruitment community areas had eligible children that were not served in Head Start or in Preschool for All – Fuller Park, Hermosa, New City and Oakland; the number of children not served in Fuller Park and Oakland is largely the result of no programs operating in those two community areas.
- The number of children eligible for Head Start may increase in the next year or two as a result of the unemployment and economic recession due to the pandemic

Health

Uninsured

- An estimated 120,000 Illinois children were uninsured in 2019, a 46% increase since 2016; Latinx children had the highest rate of uninsured at 5.6% compared to all other children at 4.0%
- The increase in the uninsured came just before the COVID pandemic started, leaving more children without health care insurance

Child Health and COVID

- While inequities existed in health care for high-risk groups prior to COVID, the pandemic has exacerbated these differences and reflects the disparities prevalent in the adult population; nationally there has been a disproportionately higher infection rate occurring in Latinx children than in White or Black children
- Additionally, children were falling behind on vaccinations for chicken pox and measles among others, which could lead to future additional illnesses and medical problems

Social-Emotional Health

- Mothers, especially Black, Latinx and single mothers, have borne a great deal of stress during the pandemic; the stress and mental health crises that many mothers face is seen and felt by their children
- A positive consequence of the pandemic is resultant smaller class sizes that have contributed to a decrease in behavioral challenges of the children and made it easier for teachers to handle behavioral difficulties

Immigrant Families

- While threats to immigrants have eased recently, it may take time for immigrants to feel comfortable accessing needed health care and other services due to fear of deportation by the government
- Immigrants, particularly women, often work in low wage-earning jobs and industries which have been hardest hit with lay-offs and unemployment

PARENT ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

PARENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Our home-based program has a parent committee who elects officers each year to represent and take on roles within our program policy committee. Representatives are also elected from our Early Head Start and Head Start program to represent on behalf of SGA in Start Early's Parent Policy Committee. Each elected officer and representative play a crucial role as advocates for our programs and representatives of all participating parents of our home-based program. Both SGA's and Start Early's Parent Policy Committee meet once a month to review Head Start Policy updates and changes and gain insight to program deliverables and review of program expenditures. Parents participate in annual training on topics such as Head Start 101, self-assessment processes, agency procedures and program planning, standards of conduct, selection criteria, and personnel policies and procedures.

HEALTH: SGA has a nurse consultant who assists the family support team in obtaining well child exams. Family Support Specialists track and monitor well child exams and dentals and make continuous efforts to contact parents to inform them of submission of well-child exams documentations or of upcoming exam that will be needed. The nurse consultant is also registered in I-Care to get immunization information for the children in the early and head start programs. The nurse also facilitates parent workshops around immunization and health. SGA's nutrition consultant monitors children's nutritional assessments. One-on-one sessions take place for children identified as under or over-weight. A nutritional plan is completed for all children over or under-weight. Meal Plans, information and resources are provided to parents. Nutrition consultant also facilitates parent workshops. One of the parent workshops focused on helping parents understand how to appropriately read food labels, to make educated decisions when purchasing groceries. We want to support our families in providing healthy and nutritious meals for their families. Parents were able to ask our nutritionist questions in regard to certain ingredients listed and nutritionist provided information and tips on how to avoid

sugars, high sodium, and unhealthy fats. Due to COVID-19, SGA was not able to offer onsite Hearing and Vision assessments. Program continuously provided families with resources to assure their children were being assessed in a timely manner. Program increased contact with parents to follow up on needed resources throughout our virtual service delivery model. Although SGA was not able to provide the assessment directly for the children, through the strong community connections, we were able to assure 80% of the children had a completed hearing and vision screening.

MENTAL HEALTH: This year SGA Early and Head Start programs are working with an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant that is available to meet with parents and provide workshops. The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant is fully bilingual. Our Mental Health Consultant conducts socialization observations and provides feedback to staff on how they can continue to support families and children. Our Mental Health Consultant is available to meet with families for 3 sessions to provide mental health services. Our partnership with St. Anthony's Hospital is helpful in providing any additional mental health services needed. This year, SGA highly focused on assuring we were able to provide the needed resources to our staff and parents in regard to mental health. As COVID-19 brought on many changes it also brought on many emotions. Our Mental Health Consultant was able to provide weekly support and check-ins with staff to help navigate changes that were occurring and enhance their skills in supporting their families and children during this pandemic. Our mental health consultant provides continuous parent workshops on topics such as information relating to COVID-19, COVID-19 vaccinations, CDC updates and mandates, and stress management.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Internally SGA has a program called WIOA that provides youth opportunities to find employment as well as obtain a credential or GED. SGA also partners with One Summer Chicago, to offer employment and internship opportunities to youth and young adults ages 14 to 24. We have referred families to these programs from our early and head start programs.

Below is a list of partnerships:

Dr. Linares- Medical Services
Smile Lee Faces (Dentist Andrea Lacayo) - Dental Services
Instituto del Progreso Latino- Adult Education Programs
DCFS Recruitment Resource Department- Crisis Training/Resources
Telpolchcalli School- Education Services
Children Home + Aid- Education Programs
Healthy Parents and Babies- Doula Services
Latino Resource Institute of IL- Counseling Services/Latino Services
Fussy Baby Network
Logan Square Neighborhood Association- Resources for families
Brighton Park Community Council
Universidad Popular- Counseling/ Education Services
Chicago Lawn Public Library- Literacy Workshops
Community Wellness Program of St. Anthony Hospital- Behavioral Referrals/Wellness Promotion
Sinai Outreach Coalition Connectivity Network- Behavior and Wellness Promotion
Ideas Magicas, LLS- Mental Health Services
CFC Agencies/CPS/LEA- Early Intervention Services
Heartland Human Care Services- Domestic Violence Services
Davis Health & Wellness Clinic with UIC- Medical Services

EDUCATION AND LITERACY: This past year, families were able to complete virtual home visits and socialization groups utilizing different platforms including but not limited to Zoom, WhatsApp, Google Duo, Messenger, and FaceTime due to COVID-19. Parent Educators focus on encouraging parents to complete weekly developmentally appropriate activities to help children meet or exceed their goals that included problem solving, pretending, alphabet knowledge, building relationships, reading, counting, patterns, physical and personal self-care during virtual home visits and socializations. Parent Educators individualize and modify the activities from the Parents as Teachers Curriculum by including activities based on IFSP and IEP goals during virtual home visits and socialization groups to meet the needs of children with disabilities. Program also utilizes the COR Advantage Assessment tool to track child’s progress towards school readiness goals. This assessment is completed three times a year. Child and program outcomes are shared with parents after each checkpoint period. Parent Educators work with the parent and child’s outcomes to modify lesson planning to focus on areas where the child may need more focus on. The goal is to assure the child is developing at a school-ready level by the age of 5. Program also assures that at each virtual home visit and socialization group a book is read to the child. Parent educators continue to incorporate literacy activities during their individual virtual home visits. This past year SGA hosted two book fairs for families. Parents were able to receive various books in their home language to build a home-library and encourage language/literacy development in their home. For the “Dia del Nino/Day of the Child”, program hosted a literacy event with the theme of the story, “We are Going on a Bear Hunt”. Children learned to develop memory and language skills, creative thinking and enjoyed the art, movement, and literacy activities of that day. Program also assures that at each home visit and socialization a book is read to the child. Parent educators continue to incorporate literacy activities during their individual home visits. These literacy activities continue to emphasize the importance of reading to children to foster literacy and word development.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

SPECIAL EFFORTS TO PREPARE CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN:

SGA’s Early Head Start & Head Start programs utilized the research-based Parents As Teachers curriculum in its work with infants, toddlers and their families. This model emphasizes the importance of the parent as the child’s first teacher and the home environment as a nurturing space for infants and toddlers to learn and grow through nurturing play and self-care routines. The E & HS programs screen all children for developmental delays and provide appropriate referrals and interventions to help children “get on track” once they enter pre-school and kindergarten. Early detection of developmental delays is one of the best ways to help prepare children for school. Finally, the E & HS programs help support the social-emotional development of infants and toddlers by working with parents to set appropriate boundaries and positive discipline techniques to teach children self-regulation and control. This past school year the mental health consultant provided training on the development of social emotional skills in children.

TRANSITION ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE KINDERGARTEN READINESS:

SGA provides group socialization activities to help children integrate and interact with other infants and toddlers and teach them to work in a shared environment. Children utilize the skills they are learning in their home visits and incorporate them in a group setting. Parents are provided an opportunity to network, gain additional resources, and observe their children in a social setting. Program also provides an informational session for parents of transitioning children called “Options for knowledge”. Parents gain an understanding of what they should expect and prepare for as their children transition from Head Start to Kindergarten.

SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE SECRETARY

The Ounce Board of Directors and Policy Council were given brief summaries and links to all Program Instructions and Information Memorandums