



Mission

Partnering with families to help them solve life's problems— we do this by always finding a better way to provide: accepting environments, diverse services and proven results.

YDI is a family and community based agency that improves lives.

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Youth Development, Inc.

Early Childhood Education & Family Development

2020-2021 Annual Report to the Community



A Year in Review From Debra Baca, Vice President, Early Childhood Education & Family Development

Dear Parents, Staff, Partners and Community Leaders:

The YDI Early Childhood Education and Family Development Division is pleased to share with you the 2020-2021 Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Annual Report on services for families in Bernalillo, Rio Arriba and Taos Counties.

The year was challenging with the sudden closures of classrooms in March 2020 as per the Governor's Orders. YDI, our children and families all had to readjust to a new virtual or remote learning model and the world of technology became our link to the outside world. However, by July of 2020 YDI had retooled, developed new health policies to protect staff and children, ordered personal protective equipment, and began the very important work of educating our children in-person to enable families to work and keep our economy moving.

Thank you for entrusting YDI to educate and care for our future leaders. The YDI staff are honored and privileged to have assisted over **1,120** children and **934** families this past school year.

The key to YDI's success is the outstanding staff who never wavered in their focus and commitment to the ever changing needs of our children and families during the greatest health pandemic our generation has encountered. In September of 2020, YDI reinstated in person services, had to briefly resort to virtual services again and then reopened in 2021, and has remained open for in person services. We have learned that careful precautions can limit the spread of this virus.

- Throughout the pandemic, YDI provided information to families and staff on the benefits of **vaccinations** as demonstrated by the science and research from the Center for Disease Control. As a result of YDI's vigilance to keep our children safe, **93%** of our entire staff are vaccinated and receiving boosters.
- YDI has developed safety measures, policies, procedures and protocols in every area of service from transportation, nutrition, education, health and mental wellness, and family engagement and continues to seek and use the latest science as we develop our program safety measures.
- Staff have engaged in **115** training hours to better serve children and families in both remote and in person classroom instruction.
- During the COVID pandemic families received over **4,140** services for food, housing, clothing, household items, parent training, indicators of abuse and neglect, financial literacy, stress management, job search skills, child development training, employment, and much more.
- Throughout the pandemic, YDI was able to maintain **65%** enrollment and continued to serve families with in person services for the majority of year.

YDI has also made a concerted effort to promote family and staff wellness. Families have participated in breathing exercises, listening sessions with our mental health director who assists with referrals for counseling. Reflective listening sessions, incentives, and wellness training for staff have been incorporated into our everyday activities.

In closing, I am pleased to share that despite COVID -19, our families and staff continue to thrive and move forward. Thank you for your continued support!

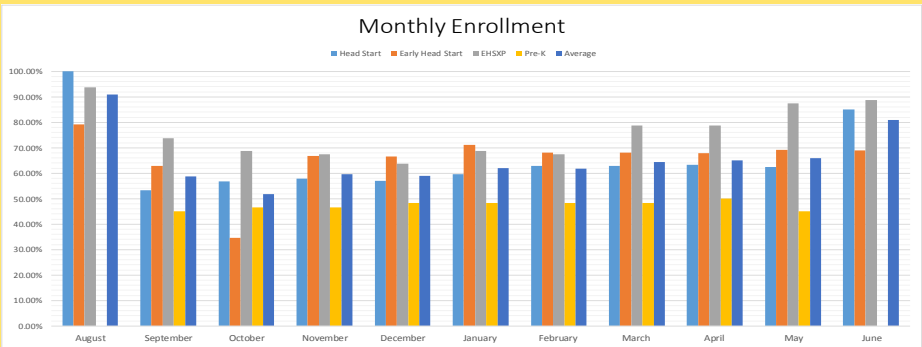
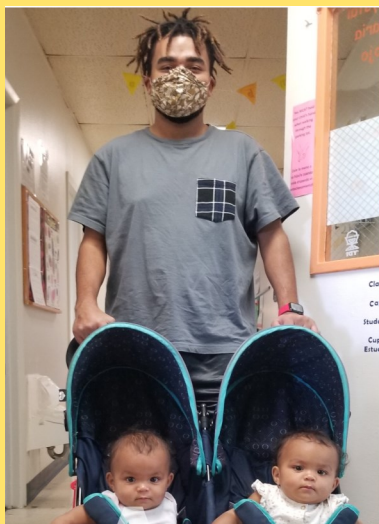
Stay Healthy and Be Well.

Respectfully,

Debra Baca

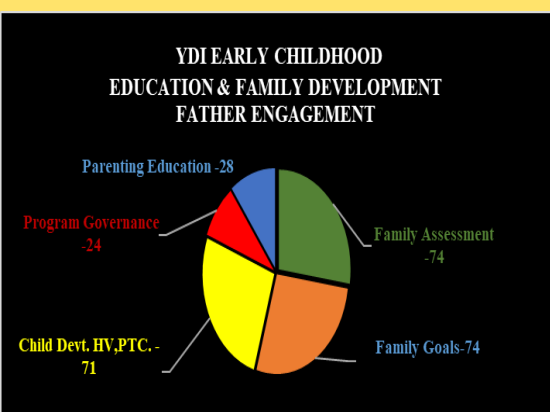
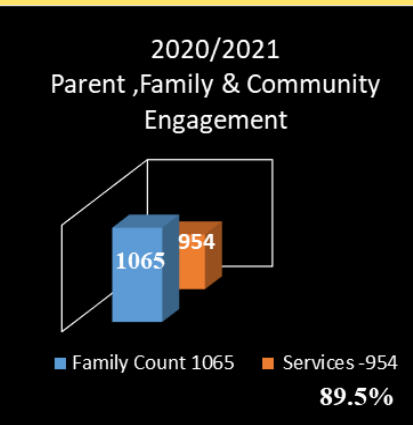
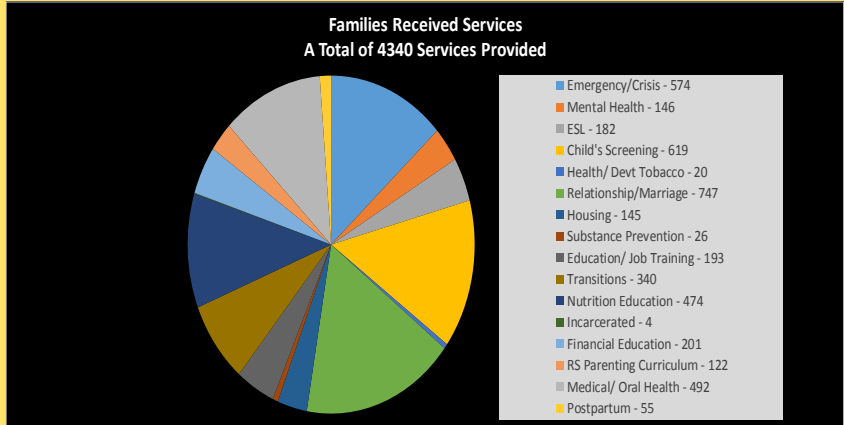


Children and Families Served



Families Receiving Services

Here at YDI HS/EHS we work with the **WHOLE CHILD**. What does that mean? A child cannot succeed unless we connect with the parents. Our Parent, Family ,and Community Engagement is developed to provide a variety of opportunities for parents to see where they are as an individual, what they want for their child's education and where do they see their family in the future. Once parents identify their strengths, need and wants they are offered resources, trainings on parenting, advocacy, health/ nutrition, child development, etc. These are just a few opportunities mentioned that we offer. It is proven that when a parent is school ready, the child will succeed. Here in our Early Childhood Education & Family Development Division, staff make a commitment to parents, children and the team that when our children and families leave this program, the outcome will be that families and children are school ready now and in the future.

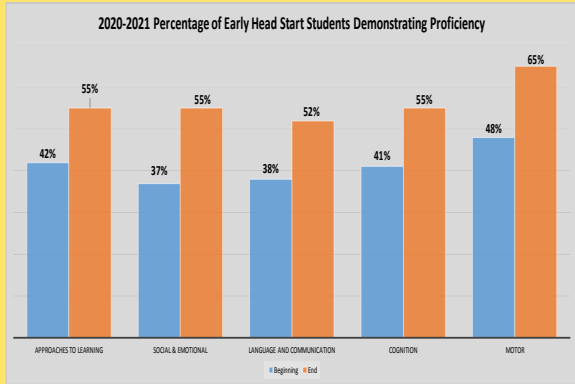


SCHOOL READINESS AND BUILDING FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

School readiness supports both students and families in building the necessary developmental skills to be prepared for future education.

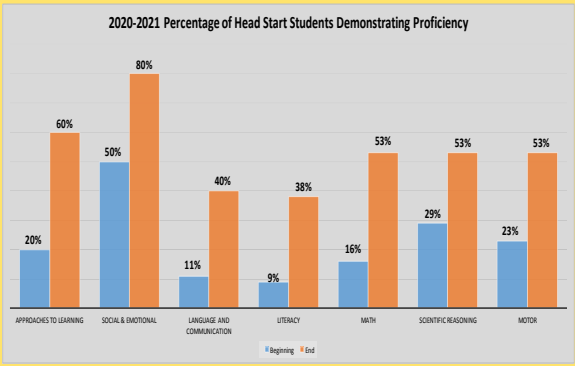
The Head Start Approach to School Readiness means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children’s learning and schools are ready for children. Youth Development, Inc. has established goals for school readiness and future learning success. These goals are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF) and the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines. Aligning with Head Start Performance Standards and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, Teaching Strategies GOLD supports authentic observation-based assessment to build on each individual child’s learning and development.

*EHS children received remote services July-December 2020. Assessments were based on ELAP Assessments
**HS children received in person services September-October 2020. Assessments were based on LAP-3 Assessments.



Increase in Proficiency HS	
Approaches to Learning	40%
Social & Emotional	30%
Language & Communication	29%
Literacy	29%
Math	37%
Scientific Reasoning	24%
Motor	30%

Increase in Proficiency EHS	
Approaches to Learning	13%
Social & Emotional	18%
Language & Communication	14%
Cognition	14%
Motor	17%



Implementation of Teaching Strategies: GOLD and the Creative Curriculum

Teaching Strategies GOLD is a system for the assessment of children birth through kindergarten. Teaching Strategies GOLD follows 38 objectives that predict school readiness as well as a seamless alignment between Head Start Early Learning Framework and the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines. Teachers are able to assess the learning and development of the children in their classroom through ongoing authentic documentation and assessment. This assessment allows teachers to thoughtfully lesson plan and implement the Creative Curriculum building on the strengths and needs of each individual child.

The Creative Curriculum is based in the belief and knowledge that the way to help children succeed is to teach them to be creative and confident thinkers. That by allowing and offering hands on opportunities to discover and learn that children will build lifelong critical thinking skills and grow their confidence. Activities are planned thoughtfully based on their development, classrooms are organized to promote exploration, daily schedules are implemented to provide consistency while allowing flexibility, materials are selected for encouraging learning and communication and support of children is paramount in their development and a successful start to school.

Local Agency Partnership:

Of the 102 Head Start children with an IEP, 34 were co-enrolled in developmental preschool through the Local Education Agency. This indicates that YDI is serving a high proportion of children (33%) with significant developmental needs. However, due to the virtual aspect of COVID-19 many of these children did not utilize their services and chose to wait until face to face services were able to be provided again. Meanwhile, our staff succeeded in providing highly individualized teaching and lesson plans to serve these children while they were home doing virtual learning and again when we made the return to our in-person classrooms. YDI looks forward to getting our children with developmental preschool services back up and running with their support services as we enter the new school year and get back to a sense of normalcy in the current pandemic world.

Referrals and Outcomes:

In the 2020-2021 school year, YDI referred 42 Head Start children for services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Of those 42 children, 9 received an Individualized Education Program (IEP), and 7 did not qualify for services under IDEA due to no diagnosed disability or delay. Due to the school closures and virtual aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic, 25 of the children we referred are still in process with Child Find in Bernalillo County, either waiting for a face-to-face evaluation or waiting for a post-evaluation MET/IEP meeting to determine eligibility.

Primary Disability	Children Receiving Special Education Services
Speech Language Impairment	48
Developmental Delay	39
Autism	12
Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness	1
Orthopedic Impairment	1
Intellectual Disability	1

Program	Children with Diagnosed Disabilities	Percentage of Cumulative Enrollment
Head Start	102	12.6%
Early Head Start	44	14.1%
Early Head Start and Child Care Partnerships and Expansion	18	22.5%

Meals and Nutrition

YDI helps to ensure children receive a variety of healthy meals and snacks to promote health, nutrition and school readiness.

The past year has been a time of uncertainty for our families. It has changed family routines, closed schools and childcares, and even changed where we get our meals. When Youth Development, Inc. (YDI), Head Start closed, children lost access to meals at our Head Start centers. Families with fragile finances lost an essential safety net; they had to think about shopping and preparing for meals for their children that were previously eaten outside of the home. This increased burden on low-income families may have forced them to ration food, skip meals or other critical needs, such as medication or utilities. A pandemic in our time is unprecedented, and YDI had to pivot in order to meet the needs of the children and families.

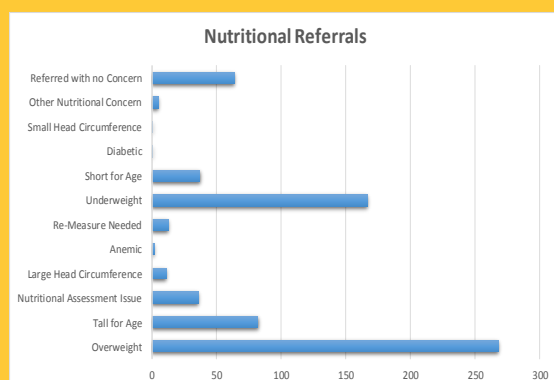
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided waivers, allowing schools to adopt innovative approaches to providing meals. There were “Grab-n-Go” meals sites throughout the state, deliveries to school bus

stops and even some homes. YDI was able to partner with school to provide meal solutions for our families in need though meals at our Head Start sites were reduced. The Albuquerque Public Schools provided meals to children in the community from their “Grab-n-Go” sites for children under the age of 18. The Espanola Municipal Schools sent meals out on the bus routes, while the Taos and Penasco Schools had established pick-up sites.

USDA implemented waivers to ensure that the nation’s children were fed, they also waived the meal pattern requirements as the food supply has been disrupted. During the height of the pandemic, with so many children relying on USDA feeding programs, children’s nutritional needs have been put at risk. The results may be seen as we track referrals and children’s nutritional needs over the next year.

Young children can generally eat what everybody else eats, a variety of healthy foods, such as lean meats, poultry, seafood, eggs, and legumes, whole grains, dairy, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Some children that develop food allergies or intolerance may need to avoid the foods that make them sick. During the 2020-2021 school year YDI had 110 children enrolled in center-based services with menu modifications to meet their nutritional needs.

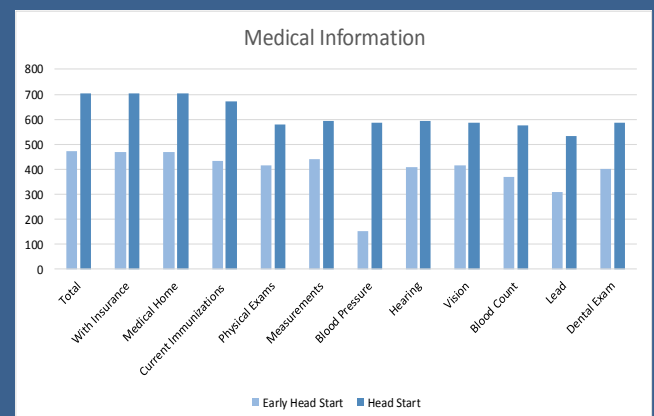
Meals Served	July 2020-June 2021
Breakfast	38,189
Lunch	39,018
PM Snack	36,138
Total	113,345



Child Health and Wellness

YDI understands that healthy children make better learners, the program's goal is to help children and families engage in healthy lifestyles and practices.

99.6% of Head Start and Early Head Start children had health insurance and 99.5% had a medical home. 93.9% were up to date on their immunization schedule with 84.3% up to date on their annual physicals. 87.6% had completed their measurements. Because blood pressure is not required until three years of age, 62.6% had completed their blood pressure screening. Vision and hearing screenings were completed at 84.8%. Blood count is not required until age one, 80.1% were completed. Lead Tests are required at 12 and 24 months. Because physicians vary in their opinions of lead tests, lower testing requirements are seen with only 71.5% of tests completed. Parents favor the finger prick test as opposed to a medical lab drawn intravenous lead test. 83.6% of children completed their Dental Exam.



Mental Health Services

Social Emotional Development is the foundation of all learning and Child Development happens within the context of relationships.



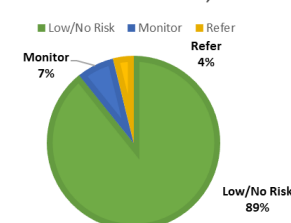
Screening:

Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional-2

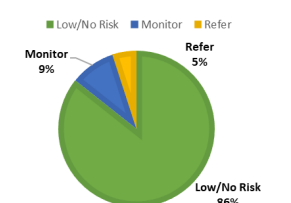
YDI uses the Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional-2 tool to screen children’s social and emotional development (ASQ:SE-2). Every child is screened within 45 days of the new school year and within 45 days of enrollment (for children who start YDI during the year). The items within the ASQ:SE-2 screening tool are categorized within the seven behavioral areas: self-regulation, compliance, adaptive functioning, autonomy, affect, social-communication, and interaction.

Most screenings of children in both YDI Head Start and Early Head Start Programs scored within the Low/No Risk area. Less than 10% of screenings of children in YDI Head Start and Early Head Start programs scored within the Monitor zone. About 5% of screenings of children in YDI Head Start and Early Head Start programs scored above the cut-off, indicating a need for referral.

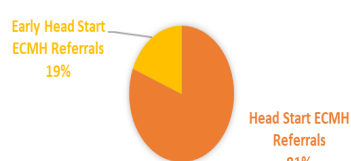
ASQ:SE-2 RESULTS-HEAD START, PY 2020-2021



ASQ:SE-2 RESULTS-EARLY HEAD START, PY 2020-2021



EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH REFERRALS (HS AND EHS), PY 2020-2021



Staff Wellness: Peer to Peer Reflective Sessions

Peer-To-Peer Reflective sessions occurred virtually and provided an opportunity for staff to: have ongoing access to mental health services; decrease social isolation by allowing for peer-to-peer engagement and interaction; experiential opportunities to learn techniques for personal mindfulness and meditation; and increase knowledge in topics related to staff wellness, self-care, and prevention. Sessions focused on the following topics throughout the reporting period: Emotional Intelligence, Gratitude, Stress Management and Self-Care, Reflections of 2020, Mindful Self-Compassion, and Self-Love. Reflective Sessions happen monthly with a Home Visitors group, a Mentor Coaches group, and a group for all staff.

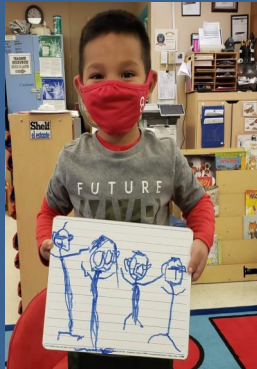
NAEYC Accredited Centers

Heights
SIPI
Alameda
Embudo

Chico
Mesa Verde
Highland
Pedro Baca

Severo Padilla
South Valley
West Side
Camino Rael

Mary Ann Binford
La Mariposa
Centro de Amor



Partnering *with* Families

Youth Development, Inc. (YDI), founded in 1971, is a nationally recognized youth and family service organization in New Mexico. We can help you with preschool and child care, prenatal care, alternative education, job training employment assistance, mental and behavioral health services, homeless assistance, emergency housing, mentoring, family development services, family counseling services, and supervised visitation.



Fiscal Accountability

Program	Budget	Funding Source
Head Start/Early Head Start	\$14,677,313	U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services – Admin. for Children & Families (ACF)
Food Program (CACFP)	\$237,442	N.M. Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
Pre-K	\$452,700	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
Home Visitation	\$112,000	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
Child Care Subsidies	\$45,426	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
Child Care Partnerships/ Expansion	\$1,578,277	U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services – Admin. for Children & Families (ACF)
CARES Act (Covid-19) One-time Funding	\$659,463	U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services – Admin. for Children & Families (ACF)
In-Kind Contributions	\$2,906,537	Community/Parent Volunteer services
Nurse Family Partnership One-time Funding	\$119,000	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
Children’s Trust Fund One-time Funding	\$5,015	N.M. Children Youth and Family Services Department (CYFD)
N.M. Stabilization One-time Funding	\$283,500	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
ECECD Health & Safety One-time Funding	\$72,500	N.M. Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
TOTAL	\$21,149,173	

Categories	2021 Budget Amount	2022 Proposed Budget Amount
Personnel	8,615,284	8,193,038
Fringe Benefits	3,394,096	2,888,406
Travel	16,926	13,000
Equipment	-0-	14,500
Supplies	491,642	1,043,403
Contractual	701,900	756,971
Other	1,474,897	1,785,427
Indirect	1,579,684	1,579,684
TOTAL BUDGET	16,274,429	16,274,429

Monitoring Review and Financial Audit

On October 25-29, 2021, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), through Danya International, LLC, conducted a Focus Area One Monitoring Review. Reviews of Head Start agencies are conducted by the Office of Head Start under the authority of the Head Start Act to determine whether Head Start agencies meet regulatory requirements with respect to program, administrative, and financial management, and to help programs identify areas for improvement and areas of strength as part of their ongoing self-assessment process. *The overall results of the October 2021 review for Youth Development, Inc. determined that the program met the requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.*

The agency financial audit report completed by Loftis Group LLC for the 2019-2020 fiscal year revealed an “unmodified” auditor report. The audit was approved by the YDI Policy Council on August 14, 2021 and the YDI Board of Directors on April 15, 2021.



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