



Annual Report

2020-2021



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EDUCAREWESTDUPAGE.ORG

Welcome to Educare West DuPage



Educare West DuPage serves 146 children from birth to five years old and their families in a model early learning school. Educare's comprehensive program incorporates what science says young children need to flourish. Our immersive two-way dual language program gives young children a strong foundation in English and Spanish.

We partner with families to build strong bonds, better understand children's developmental needs, and connect them to resources to pursue their own goals.



Educare West DuPage is part of a national network of effective early childhood education schools. Educare schools make certain that young children from under-resourced communities have the best possible opportunity for success in life. Our rigorous research shows that Educare works--our students enter kindergarten with the school readiness skills they need to succeed. Educare's approach helps children, families and communities thrive. This work makes progress towards the vision of our school that there will be "A world in which all young children and families receive the support they need to achieve their full potential." Educare unites education professionals, community partners, private-sector leaders, policymakers, families and other like-minded champions to improve access to high quality early childhood education across the country. These connections tie directly into the mission of our organization that "Through partnerships with families and communities, Educare West DuPage will lead, inspire and deliver early childhood education that supports all of our young children and families in reaching their full potential."

ENGAGING FAMILIES

- ◇ Educare believes that parents are their children's first and most important teachers.
- ◇ We partner with parents so they can build strong bonds with their children, understand children's developmental and social-emotional needs, and access resources to pursue their own goals.
- ◇ We connect with parents to provide activities, materials, and information they can use to support and advocate for their children's learning.



PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY

- ◇ We partner with West Chicago School District 33 to support learners with special needs and enable smooth transitions to kindergarten.
- ◇ We work with West Chicago Community High School to provide education and support for pregnant students.
- ◇ We are an internship site for students at the College of DuPage, Northwestern University, Elmhurst University, and other local institutions
- ◇ We partner with local and national organizations to provide enrichment activities for children, professional learning for staff, and parent education.

SUPPORTING STAFF

- ◇ We offer ongoing professional learning to ensure that classroom and family engagement staff continue to develop and enhance their skills and stay current in research-based best practices.
- ◇ Master Teachers serve as curriculum and practice coaches for classroom teachers, and Family Engagement Supervisors coach family engagement staff.
- ◇ We support all staff in setting and achieving professional goals, including learning groups for staff who are working to earn Child Development Associate credentials.



During the 2020-21 school year, Educare West DuPage served...



84

Children ages 0-3* including 10 pregnant women
in Early Head Start and Illinois Prevention Initiative programs

50

in Infant or Toddler center-based
classrooms

24

in home-based programs

*Cumulative enrollment includes number of children served throughout the entire program year, inclusive of enrollees who left during the program year, enrollees who filled those empty spaces, and children who moved from home-based to center-based program (non-duplicated). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Educare West DuPage's enrollment was limited due to group size requirements that were mandated by the State. So, although EWD is funded for 80 children and 10 pregnant moms, EWD was not at the funded enrollment level.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Educare West DuPage served...

65

Children ages 3-5*

in its **full-day, year-round** center-based Pre-K program
funded through Head Start, Preschool for All (PFA),
and Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE)



*Cumulative enrollment includes number of children served throughout the entire program year, inclusive of enrollees who left during the program year, enrollees who filled those empty spaces, and children who moved from home-based to center-based program (non-duplicated). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Educare West DuPage's enrollment was limited due to group size requirements that were mandated by the State. So, although EWD is funded for 102 children and EWD was not at the funded enrollment level.

Educare West DuPage by the Numbers

Serving children with the greatest need

	Birth to Three	Pre-K	Total
Income below 100% of poverty line	61 (73%)	35 (54%)	96 (66%)
Foster children	0 (0%)	2 (3%)	2 (1%)
Children experiencing homelessness	16 (19%)	13 (20%)	29 (20%)
Children for whom EWD received a child care subsidy	48 (57%)	35 (54%)	83 (57%)
Single-parent families (percentage of total families)	51 (71%)	46 (79%)	97 (75%)



In the 2020-21 school year, 100% of Birth-to-three families and 100% of Pre-K families received at least one family service with Educare West DuPage's support.



Educare West DuPage provides a two-way dual language classroom environment for all children, with all aspects of learning and care in both English and Spanish. This approach supports the **65% of birth-to-three children and 43% of Pre-K children whose primary home language is Spanish**, and children of all language backgrounds who benefit throughout their lives from becoming bilingual in early childhood.

Educare West DuPage facilitates collaborations among families, teachers, and School District 33 to provide learning and care that meet the needs of children with diverse abilities. In 2020-21, **6 birth-to-three children (7%) had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), and 5 Pre-K children (3%) had an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**, meaning they were determined eligible to receive special education services.



Educare West DuPage has partnered with Buffett Foundation Acceleration Grant programs to support diversity. The **Early Science Initiative** provides culturally relevant science experiences for children and families. The **Mindfulness & Mastery** grant supports implementation of mental health resources for staff, activities such as yoga, and a social-emotional curriculum, PATHS, that gives children tools to embrace differences and resolve conflicts.

After Educare West DuPage resumed in-person learning, following closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Educare West DuPage had

89% average monthly attendance in the 0-3 program

and

88% average monthly attendance in the Pre-K program.

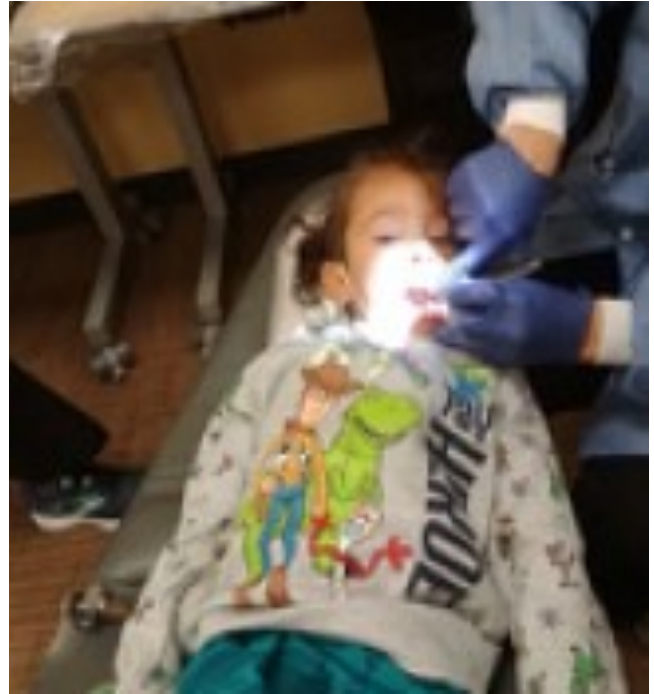


All children, in both the 0-3 and Pre-K programs, received a full day of instruction and 215 days of instruction over a 46-week period.

While Educare West DuPage was closed to in-person learning due to COVID-19, teachers provided lessons for families to do together at home, engaged children in group and individual video meetings, and collaborated with parents via a phone app to support children's learning. Educare West DuPage helped families acquire technological resources as well as basic needs and provided frequent, individualized support from Family Engagement staff.

Educare West DuPage's Family Engagement staff improved health outcomes for families

- ◇ Educare West DuPage maintained high percentages of children with a primary medical provider (medical home): 74% of birth-to-three children and 65% of Pre-K children had one throughout the enrollment year.
- ◇ The percentage of birth-to-three children with a primary dental provider rose from 46% at the beginning of the enrollment year to 50% at the end of the enrollment year. 65% of Pre-K children had a dental provider throughout the school year.



74% of birth-to-three children had health insurance and up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date throughout the enrollment year.

65% of Pre-K children had health insurance and up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date throughout the enrollment year.

Engaging With Families

Supporting parents as their children's primary teachers and lifelong advocates

- ◇ Workshops and trainings held throughout the year, virtually and in person, in English and Spanish
- ◇ Parent meetings at the classroom level to create a safe, inviting environment for parents to engage with each other
- ◇ Two sessions per year of *Abriendo Puertas* family education course, provided remotely and in person
- ◇ In partnership with TEACH, English as a Second Language courses for parents
- ◇ Intensive one-on-one support for pregnant mothers, including pregnant teens, and for their partners and families



“Everyone is always very helpful and understanding. You always feel like you matter.”

- Educare West
DuPage parent

Engaging With Families

Parents as key participants in the Educare West DuPage community

- ◇ Giving parents key voices in school policies through the Policy Council, Health Services Advisory Committee, and hiring committees
- ◇ Constant communication, including sharing of photos and home learning activities
- ◇ Opportunities to volunteer in the classroom and school
- ◇ Personalized relationship-building and goal-setting with Family Engagement Specialists
- ◇ Research-based *Touchpoints* curriculum for family engagement and parenting support



Parent Ambassadors

Three EWD parents are currently participating in the Parent Ambassador Acceleration Grant, funded by the Buffett Foundation, and the Illinois Head Start Parent Ambassador program.

These Parent Ambassadors traveled to the Illinois State Capitol and met with State and Federal Congresspeople to advocate for high-quality early childhood education programs.

Developing and Sustaining Staff



- ◇ Schoolwide professional development activities, virtual and in-person, for all staff
- ◇ Field-relevant training for Family Engagement Specialists such as Doula training and Infant Massage
- ◇ Support staff to achieve CDA credentials for the first time and renew existing credentials
- ◇ Opportunities for promotion and advancement within the Educare West DuPage organization
- ◇ Staff-led mental health and wellness activities
- ◇ Individualized support for well-being and professional needs during the COVID-19 pandemic

CONSTRUCT COACHING

In collaboration with the Construct Coaching Acceleration Grant funded by the Buffett Foundation, Educare West DuPage uses the Construct Coaching curriculum to support teachers. Master Teachers and Family Engagement Supervisors use classroom observations, assessment results, and individualized conferencing to coach teachers toward more effective practice while supporting their well-being and professional growth.



“The teachers really take time to teach the kids self-respect and [respect] for others. They really care for our children.” - Educare West DuPage parent

High-Quality Program for Learning and Growth



- ◇ Excellent ratios of teachers to children: 3 per room of 8 children in birth to three, and 3 per room of 17 children in Pre-K
- ◇ Children stay with the same teaching team from birth to age three, and again throughout Pre-K, in a continuity of care model
- ◇ At least one designated English-speaking teacher and at least one designated Spanish-speaking teacher per classroom team, to provide instruction and care in each target language
- ◇ Developmentally appropriate materials are provided within the classrooms and outdoor learning environments to promote curiosity and love of learning

“My child is allowed to grow and learn at her own pace with wonderful staff in a safe environment.” - Educare West DuPage parent



- ◇ The *Creative Curriculum* and its linked assessment system, *DRDP*, provide a framework for age-appropriate instruction and growth measurement
- ◇ The *PATHS* social-emotional curriculum guides teachers and students in recognizing and managing emotions and in equitably resolving conflict
- ◇ The *Early Science Initiative* supports engagement of young children in science experiences
- ◇ *Handwriting Without Tears* uses games, music, and art to develop writing skills for kindergarten readiness

2020-21 Program Goals

Educare West DuPage's three program goals, developed in March 2018 and continued through the current school year, are the foundation for programs and initiatives and help us measure progress during the school year and grant period. These broad, strategic, long-term goals respond to needs identified in our Community Assessment and align with our school readiness goals and strategic plan. In our annual Self-Assessment and throughout the year, staff and leaders develop specific activities to ensure progress toward Program Goals. Progress is reported to the Board of Directors and the Policy Council monthly.

Program Goal 1: Provide high quality instruction, informed by data, to help all children achieve academic success and social competence by kindergarten, so that they will be successful in school and life.



Program Goal 2: Engage families in their child's developmental and educational growth while also supporting them in their personal and family goals, so that they can be fully engaged partners in their child's education.

Program Goal 3: Develop and improve, to a high degree of effectiveness and efficiency, ongoing monitoring tools and management systems across all service areas.



Educare West DuPage Funding

Educare West DuPage is an Illinois 501(c)(3) that blends funding from a variety of sources, including governmental funding, private donations from individuals, corporations, and local foundations, as well as partnership grants through the Educare Learning Network and community foundations and organizations. The majority of Educare West DuPage's funding is made possible through grants from several governmental funders. These funders include the U.S. Department of Human Services Office of Head Start, Illinois State Board of Education Early Childhood Block Grants (including Prevention Initiative, Preschool for All, and Preschool for All Expansion), U.S Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Illinois Department of Human Services Child Care Assistance Program.

The Educare model provides a stable, positive and supportive environment through high-quality early education programming that is enhanced by offering embedded professional development practices to ensure that teachers and family engagement staff continually refine and enhance their skills. The quality aspects that are prioritized through this model have proven to have a positive impact on children's success in school and life.

Due to the limitations of funding by major grantors, such as the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Office of Head Start, Educare West DuPage must often be creative in their approach to the use of funding. Educare West DuPage seeks funding from partnerships outside of the organization's governmental partners to continue professionalizing and elevating the importance of the impact that early childhood education has on society.

Educare West DuPage has been the fortunate beneficiary of a pledge/grant agreement with the Gustafson Family Foundation Fund of the DuPage Foundation. This pledge/grant was in the amount of \$2,000,000 to be carried out over a 10 year period, with funding of \$200,000 being released from restriction each year. Outside of this private support, Educare West DuPage seeks opportunities for additional grants and partnerships with the Educare Learning Network, and community organizations and foundations, as well as private individual donations.



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors
Educare of West DuPage
West Chicago, IL

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Educare of West DuPage (a non-profit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2021, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Governmental Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Educare of West DuPage as of June 30, 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by *Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 23, 2022, on our consideration of Educare of West DuPage's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Educare of West DuPage's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Report on Summarized Comparative Information

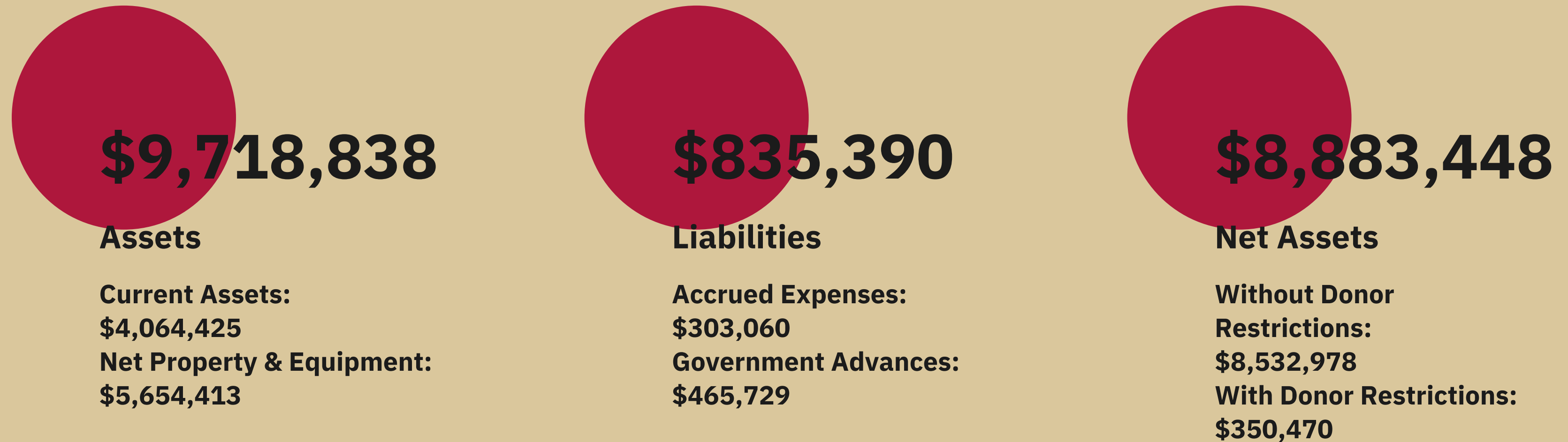
We have previously audited Educare of West DuPage's 2020 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated February 24, 2021. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

Desmond & Ahern, Ltd

February 23, 2022
Chicago, IL

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2021



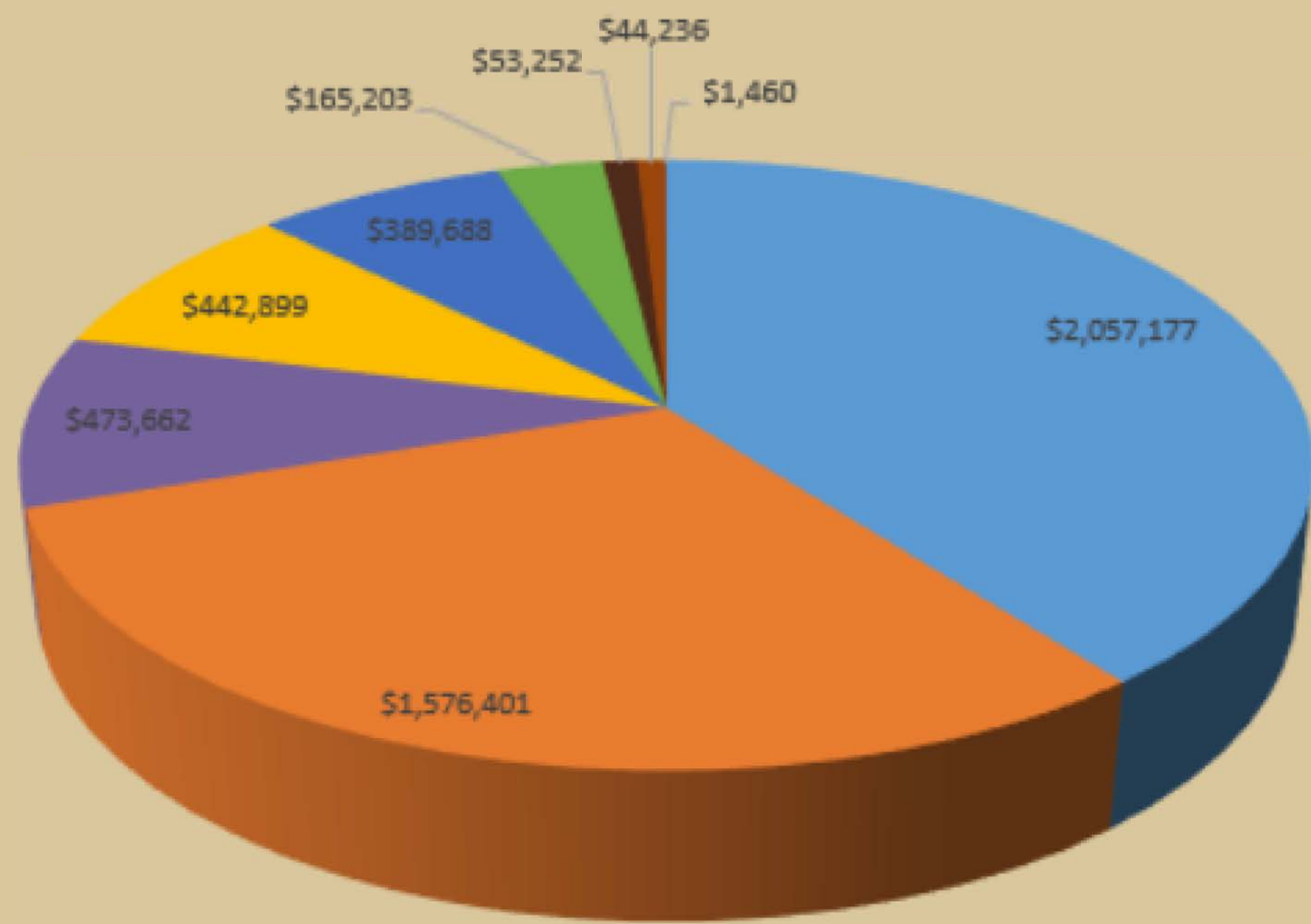
Condensed Statement of Financial Position

(As of June 30, 2021)

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,177,933
Receivables	1,862,244
Program service fees, net of allowance	14,449
Prepaid expenses	9,799
Net property and equipment	5,654,413
Total Assets	\$9,718,838
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 31,866
Accrued payroll and related benefits	303,060
Government advances	465,729
Refundable advance- PPP loan	34,735
Total current liabilities	835,390
Net Assets	
Without donor restrictions	8,532,978
With donor restrictions	350,470
Total net assets	8,883,448
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$9,718,838

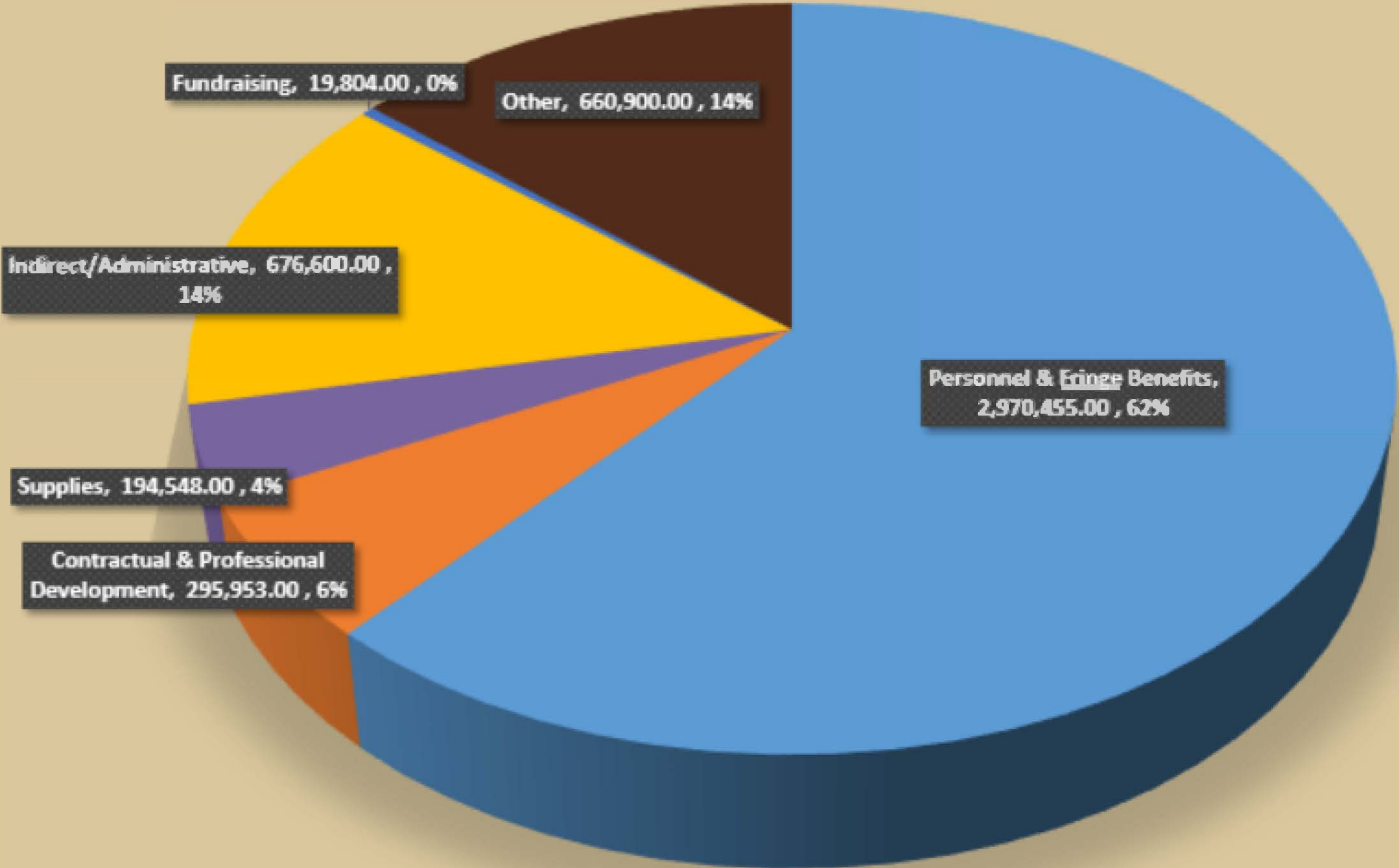


Fiscal Year 2021 Public Support & Revenue



- Head Start Grants: Head Start (3-5), Early Head Start (0-3), HS/EHS COVID
- State Grants: Prevention Initiative (0-3), Preschool for All (3-5), Preschool for All Expansion (3-5), GEER, Healing Illinois
- INCCRA - Child Care Restoration Grant (CCRG)
- Donated Property
- Child Care Assistance Program (0-5)
- Partnership Grants: ELN Acceleration Grants, Red Nose Day, & DuPage Foundation COVID, Healing Illinois
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (0-5)
- Fundraising & Contributions (Individual, Corporate, and Foundation)
- Investment Income

Fiscal Year 2021 Actual Expenditures



Ratio of Expenditures



***Recommended that at least 65% of expenditures are program expenses**

Our "Early Childhood Champions"



Individual Donors

Barbara Abromitis

Deborah Amaro

Dave Barclay

Patrick & Beverly Bednar

Michael Burke

Ruben Campos

Aracely Canchola

Pete Carroll

Dale Crawford

Daniel Czuba

Josephina Frankovich

Diane Gaitan

Theresa Hawley

Elizabeth Jimenez Flores

Monica Kinley

Carina Lane

Francisco & Mary Martinez

Eugenie Matula & Mike Pajor

Laura Mersinger

Mary Morrison

Matthew Moxey

Mabel Pradas

Deborah Ramsey

Sue & Steve Rasher

Robert Rutkowski (in mem. of Linnea)

Chris Scheck

James Scheck

Marcela & Aaron Sweeney

Nathan & Jenny Sweeney

Ryan & Stephanie Sweeney

Steven & Linda Sweeney

Crystal Taylor

Phyllis Velez

Vicky & Robert Zanillo

Corporate, Foundation, and Other Donors

Amazon Smiles

Ball Family Foundation

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Community High School District No. 94

Giving DuPage

Gustafson Family Foundation Fund of DuPage Foundation

Nancy M. and Douglas M. Yeager Family Foundation

School District 33

The Blackbaud Giving Fund

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago