



## Annual Report 2021-22



851 PEARL ROAD, WEST CHICAGO, IL 60185 | (630) 957-5500  
EDUCAREWESTDUPAGE.ORG

## A Letter from the Executive Director...

### Dear Friends,

I am excited to share Educare West DuPage's annual report with you. With our ten-year anniversary in 2022, we celebrated a decade of serving the children, families and the community of West Chicago. We know that for children to flourish, their families and communities must thrive. We are so grateful to our community supporters, partners, funders and donors as their belief in the importance and necessity of quality early childhood experiences for the most at need children and families was unwavering and flexible as we responded to varying needs coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year brought many challenges as we navigated the unknown of what a "new normal" was while being responsive to the needs of our children, families and staff. We also made some necessary facility updates in order to continue providing a quality environment to our children and staff.

With such an eventful year, I would like to acknowledge and recognize the effort, persistence and dedication of our excellent staff. Our staff were able to respond to our students and families with flexibility, grace, understanding and empathy. Their ongoing dedication was evident as they worked in partnership with our families to support each other through new challenges that the year brought with strategies to support their social-emotional development, in-person and on-line opportunities for families to engage in and learn about resources and safe community events.

Thank you for your generous support and your partnership in ensuring that ALL children reach their fullest potential.

With deep appreciation,



Marcela G. Sweeney

Executive Director





# Welcome to Educare West DuPage



Educare West DuPage serves 156 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 supports its **high-quality staff** by offering ongoing professional learning to ensure teachers and family engagement staff continue to develop and enhance their skills.

We **partner with community organizations** to expand opportunities for children, families, and staff.

Educare West DuPage is a **public-private partnership**, funded through a mix of federal Head Start and Early Head Start funding; Illinois Prevention Initiative, Pre-school For All, Preschool For All Extension, and child care funds; and private grants and donations.



## 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.

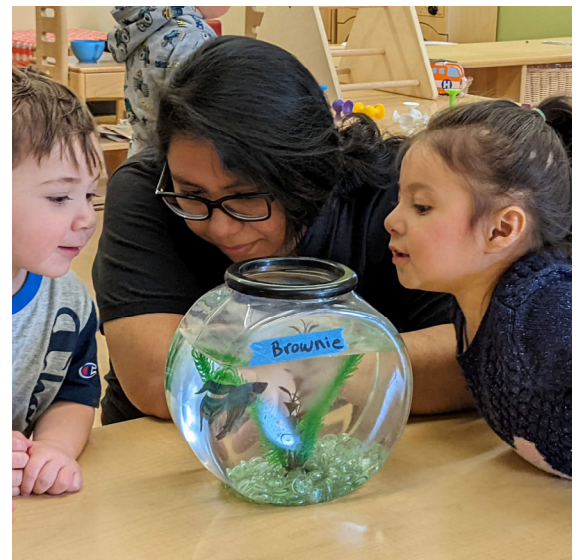


## PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY

- ◇ 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 and other local colleges.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ Mentor 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 2021-22 school year, Educare West DuPage served...



73

Children ages 0-3\*  
in Early Head Start and Illinois  
Prevention Initiative programs

83

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 Ex-  
tension (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)

# Educare West DuPage by the Numbers

Serving children with the greatest need

	Birth to Three	Pre-K	Total
Income below 100% of poverty line	47 (64%)	41 (49%)	88 (56%)
Foster children	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)
Children experiencing homelessness	27 (37%)	28 (34%)	55 (35%)
Children for whom EWD received a child care subsidy	28 (38%)	45 (54%)	73 (47%)
Single-parent families (percentage of total families)	49 (72%)	58 (75%)	107 (74%)



In the 2021-22 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 **78% of birth-to-three children and 69% 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 2021-22, **5 birth-to-three children (7%) had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)**, and **3 Pre-K children (4%) 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.

During 2021-22, providing full-time in-person learning, Educare West DuPage had

**82% average monthly attendance\*** in the 0-3 program

and

**80% average monthly attendance\*** in the Pre-K program.

\*Attendance figures reflect percentages of Actual Enrollment.



*All children, in both the 0-3 and Pre-K programs, received **10.5 hours of daily instruction** and **195 days of instruction** over a 47-week period.*

74% of Early Head Start children and 59% of Head Start children were returning students who had attended Educare West DuPage for one or more previous years.

3 of 4 pregnant parents served by Early Head Start went on to enroll their children at Educare West DuPage.





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

- ◇ Educare West DuPage maintained high percentages of children with an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care: 99% of Early Head Start and Head Start children had this throughout the school year.
- ◇ The percentage of birth-to-three children with a primary dental provider rose from 73% at the beginning of the enrollment year to 75% at the end of the enrollment year. 99% of Pre-K children had a dental provider throughout the school year.



100% of birth-to-three children had health insurance and up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date throughout the enrollment year.

100% 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
- ◇ Intensive one-on-one support for pregnant mothers, including pregnant teens, and for their partners and families



“I feel at home when I bring my kids, and my emotional or mental health needs are met every time.”

- Educare West  
DuPage parent





# Engaging With Families

Parents as key participants in the Educare West DuPage community

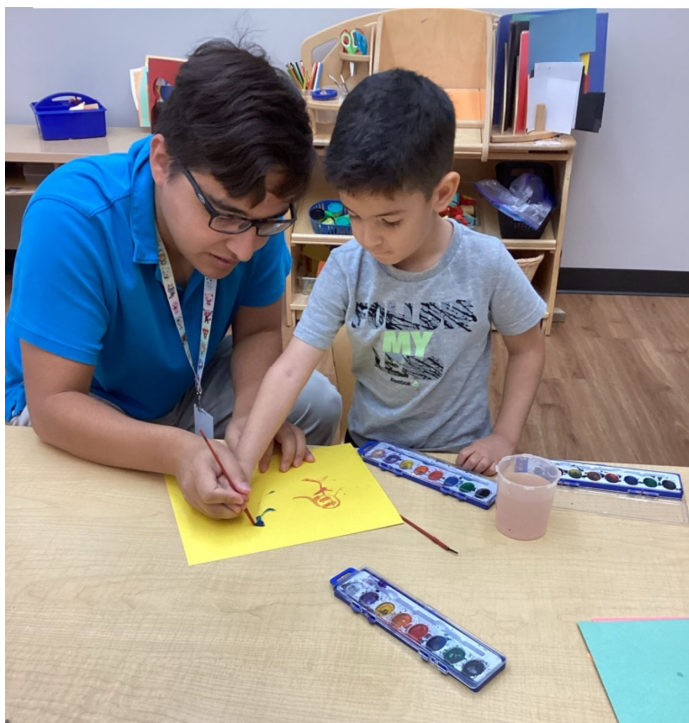
- ◇ Giving parents key voices in school policies through the Policy Council, Health Services Advisory Committee, and hiring committees
- ◇ Constant communication, including sharing of photos and home learning activities
- ◇ Opportunities to volunteer in the classroom and school
- ◇ Personalized relationship-building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



## Parent Ambassadors

Two EWD parents participated in the Parent Ambassador Acceleration Grant in 2021-22, 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 Congress members to advocate for high-quality early childhood education programs.

# Developing and Sustaining Staff



- ◇ School wide 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 for 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

## PRACTICE-BASED COACHING

In 2022, Educare West DuPage began using a new coaching curriculum, Practice-Based Coaching, to support teaching staff, while family engagement continued to use Construct Coaching. Mentor Teachers and Family Engagement Supervisors use classroom observations, assessment results, and individualized conferencing to coach teachers toward more effective practice while supporting well-being and professional growth.



**“I am thankful that we are provided numerous opportunities of PD days and additional trainings. We are very lucky to be at a dual language school with numerous resources.”**

**- Educare West DuPage staff member**



# 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
- ◇ Recent improvements to our overall safe and child-scaled learning environment include new flooring, carpeting, paint, and signage

“They support us in everything. There was always a lot of communication and they were very attentive.” - 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

# 2022 Program Goals and Objectives

In 2022, Educare West DuPage developed a new set of five program goals as the foundation for programs and initiatives that 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: Support staff in providing high-quality social-emotional learning experiences to children and families and in improving their own emotional well-being, to develop more positive learning environments for children and healthy work and community environments for staff and families.



Program Goal 2: 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 3: Support all staff to use practices and language that respects the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) in engagement with all staff, children, families, and the wider community; and strengthening advocacy work with all stakeholders that reflect positive DEIB practices.

Program Goal 4: Strengthen advocacy work with all stakeholders in order to improve the life of children and families.

Program Goal 5: Provide high-quality, varied, and supportive coaching to all staff to support their efforts in providing high-quality social-emotional and academic learning experiences to children and families, support healthy work and community environments for staff and families, and integrate positive DEIB practices.





# D&A

## Desmond & Ahern, Ltd.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

February 27, 2023

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

Dear Directors,

We have audited the financial statements of Educare of West DuPage (Educare) for the year ended June 30, 2022 and have issued our report thereon dated February 27, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and the *Uniform Guidance*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated June 1, 2022. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### Significant Audit Findings

#### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Organization are described in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies were not changed during 2022. We noted no transactions entered into by the Organization during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

- useful lives of depreciable assets
- percent of time employees spend in each function
- value of in-kind donations and donated services

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they were reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure affecting the financial statements were:

The disclosure of Financial Assets and Liquidity Resources in Note 2 to the financial statements due to the impact of funding with donor restrictions can have on the Organizations operations.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

#### *Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

#### *Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no uncorrected misstatements of the financial statements.

The following misstatements were detected as a result of audit procedures were corrected by management:

- To record a CACFP payment that was recorded as a credit to accounts receivable to revenue of \$25,850.
- To write-off credit balances in accounts receivable to revenue of \$25,261.
- To record remainder of unconditional CME grant from Start Early of \$21,250.
- To adjust health and dental insurance expense and debit in payables for amount prepaid for July 2022 by decreasing the expense by \$23,516, increasing the payable for the employee portion by \$8,906, and increasing prepaids by \$32,422.

#### *Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

#### *Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated February 27, 2023.



*Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants*

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Organization’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

*Other Audit Findings or Issues*

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Organization’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

*Other Matters*

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

\* \* \* \* \*

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of Educare of West DuPage, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Desmond & Ahern, Ltd*

February 27, 2023  
Chicago, IL

# Summarized Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2022

Assets

**\$9,397,646**

Liabilities

**\$236,987**

Net Assets

**\$9,160,659**





## Condensed Statement of Financial Position

(As of June 30, 2022)

### Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,658,775
Receivables	2,225,648
Program service fees, net of allowance	2,303
Prepaid expenses	69,780
Net property and equipment	5,441,140
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 9,397,646</b>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 21,930
Accrued payroll and related benefits	215,057
Government advances	-
Refundable advance- PPP loan	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>236,987</b>

#### Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	9,015,599
With donor restrictions	145,060
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>9,160,659</b>

<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 9,397,646</b>
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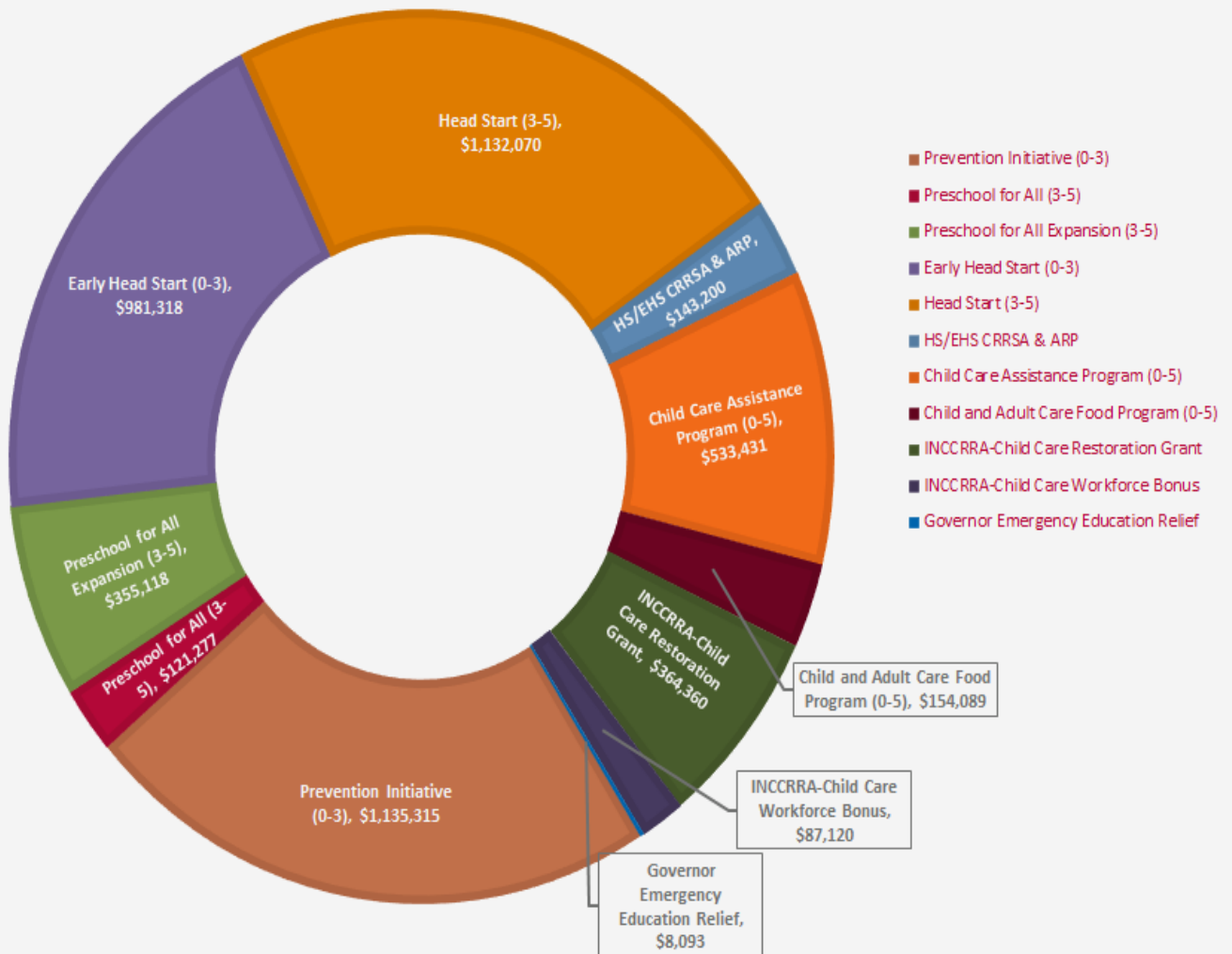
Revenue Concentration by Source



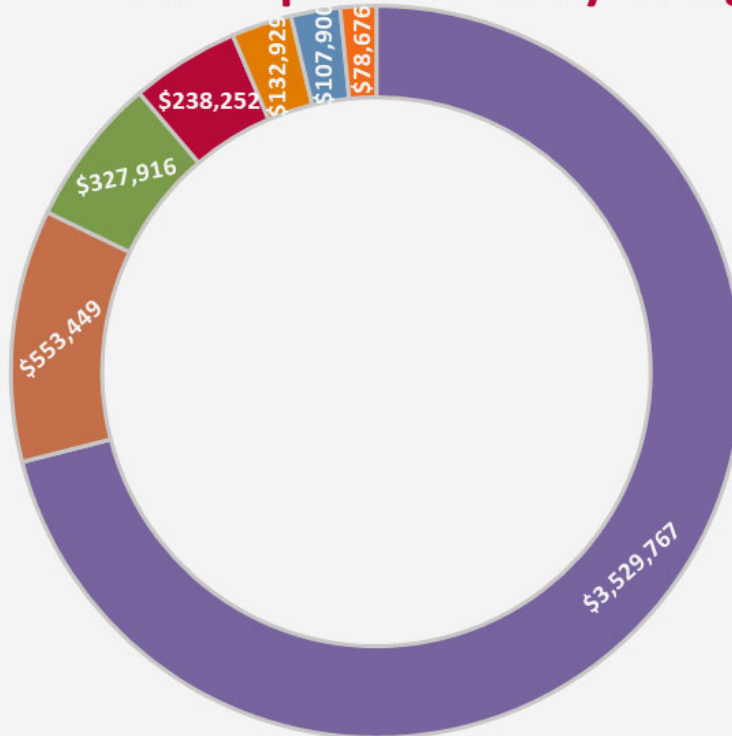
	2022	2021	2020	2019
Government Funding	5,015,391	4,550,179	4,147,230	3,803,055
Fundraising & Other Contributions	208,034	209,439	286,792	102,047
Program Service Fees	19,173	-	52,896	111,286
Tuition	2,000	-	21,344	42,307
In-kind donations	-	-	119,803	118,382
Donated Property	-	442,899	-	-
Interest Income	1,503	1,460	18,720	20,641
	<b>5,246,100</b>	<b>5,203,977</b>	<b>4,646,785</b>	<b>4,197,718</b>



## FISCAL YEAR 2022 GOVERNMENT FUNDING BY GRANT

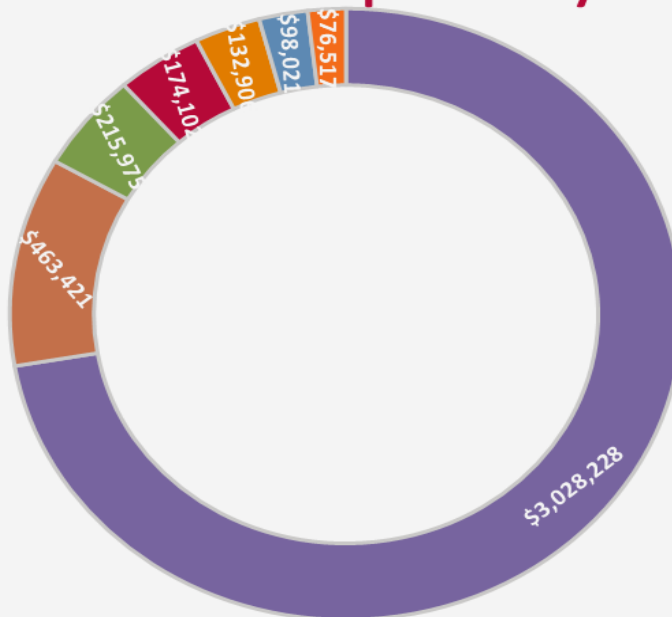


## FY22 Total Expenditures by Category



- Personnel & Fringe Benefits
- Other
- Professional Fees
- Occupancy and Facility Maintenance
- Meal Related Costs
- Classroom and Other Supplies and Equipment
- Staff Development and Training

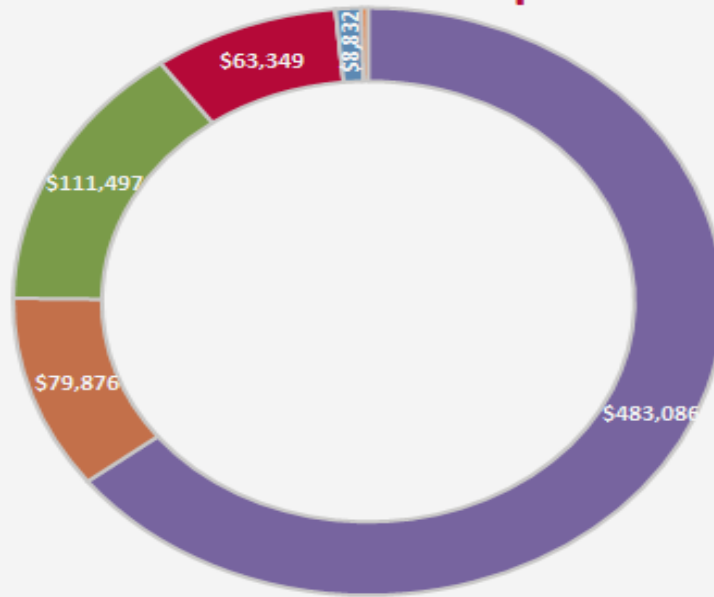
## Program Services Expenses by Category



- Personnel & Fringe Benefits
- Other
- Professional Fees
- Occupancy and Facility Maintenance
- Meal Related Costs
- Classroom and Other Supplies and Equipment
- Staff Development and Training

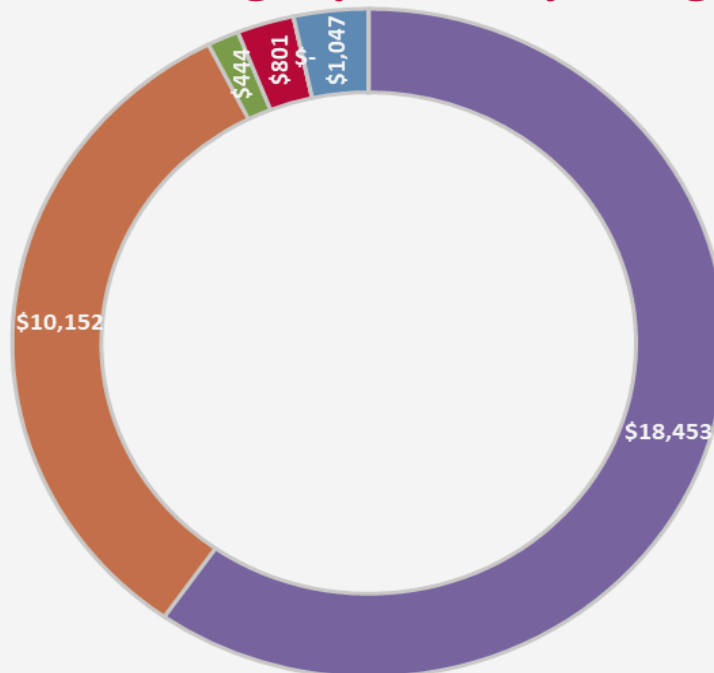


## Management and General Expenses by Category



- Personnel & Fringe Benefits
- Other
- Professional Fees
- Occupancy and Facility Maintenance
- Meal Related Costs
- Classroom and Other Supplies and Equipment
- Staff Development and Training

## Fundraising Expenses by Category



- Personnel & Fringe Benefits
- Other
- Professional Fees
- Occupancy and Facility Maintenance
- Meal Related Costs
- Classroom and Other Supplies and Equipment
- Staff Development and Training

# Our “Early Childhood Champions”

## Individual Donors

Barbara Abromitis	Deborah Ramsey
Dave & Deb Barclay	Sue & Steve Rasher
Patrick & Beverly Bednar	Rachel Reiter
Brian Beerman	Robert Rutkowski
Michael Burke	David Sabathne
Ruben Campos	Chris & Dave Scheck
Patricia Chamberlain	Nathan & Jenny Sweeney
Mike Crothers	Marcela & Aaron Sweeney
Frank Danes	Ryan Sweeney
Theresa Hawley	Steven & Linda Sweeney
Cynthia D. Jackson	John Tebo
Portia Kennel	Dee Van Someren
Cheryl LeeVan	Paul Weinewuth
Eugenie Matula & Mike Pajor	Bonnie Wheaton
Justin McGrath	Vicky & Robert Zaniello
Mary Morrison	



## Corporate, Foundation, and Other Donors

Amazon Smiles  
Armbrust Plumbing  
G. Carl Ball Family Foundation  
Buck Services, Inc.  
KPMG Gives C/O Bergen County's United Way  
Matrix Coating Solutions, Inc.  
Nancy M. and Douglas M. Yeager Family Foundation  
R.C. Soto Enterprises, LLC  
Roy and Laura Ann Spencer  
Union Pacific Foundation  
Wheaton Bank & Trust



*Thank you for your partnership!*

\*Listed donors are representative of FY22 donations only