



630

children under the age of five



589

unique families served



992

referrals made

74%

immigrants
and refugees

15

languages
spoken



Dear Friends,

This summary of our annual achievements is also my chance to thank you for your part in what DLEC accomplished last year. I'm most grateful for and proud of DLEC's staff who worked tirelessly to help close the early learning opportunity gap for our city's low-income, immigrant, and refugee children and their families. I'm thrilled to report that during the 2015-16 school year, 85% of our preschoolers were prepared for kindergarten, and 92% of our infants and toddlers improved or maintained their progress in four out of five domains that indicate school readiness. This year, as in every year, I am in awe of our team members' skill, diligence, and perseverance.

I am also very appreciative of our Board members and Policy Council for their wisdom and generosity. Maintaining an inclusive and safe high-quality learning environment for our children is neither simple nor easy. Their steadiness and support has made this year a success for DLEC.

And finally, I'd like to extend a big thank you to our 304 individual donors, 42 funders, and 158 volunteers who made our mission possible this past year. I am touched to see your names listed here year after year. Our progress depends on you. I call on you to stay engaged, connected, and in touch. You are the heart and soul of DLEC, and we hope we've done you proud.

Sincerely,



Susan Yang
Executive Director

谢谢 **Salamat**
Nuvari
Galatoomi धन्यवाद
謝謝 **THANK YOU**
ຂອບໃຈ Yekeniyey
MAHADSANID شكرا 唔該
Cảm ơn bạn **Gracias**

2015-2016 Program Budget

FY16 Audited Revenue	
Head Start	\$1,547,526
Early Head Start	\$1,252,906
Other Govt Grants	\$933,785
Fundraising & Grants	\$581,467
Capital Campaign Contributions	\$115,000
United Way	\$58,905
Tuition & Fees	\$215,335
Investments & Other	\$2,779
Total	\$4,707,703

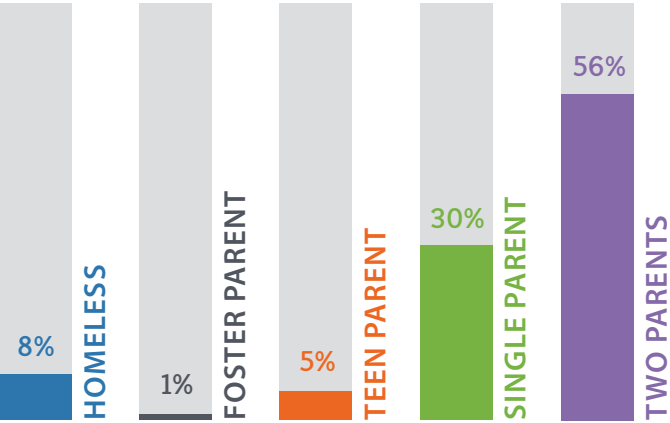
FY16 Audited Expenses	
Educational & Program Services	\$3,756,460
Management & General	\$562,795
Fundraising	\$143,604
Total	\$4,462,859

FY17 Budgeted Revenue	
Head Start	\$1,637,088
Early Head Start	\$1,332,906
Other Govt Grants	\$815,331
Fundraising & Grants	\$226,500
United Way	\$29,452
Tuition & Fees	\$322,000
Investments & Other	\$2,600
Total	\$4,365,877

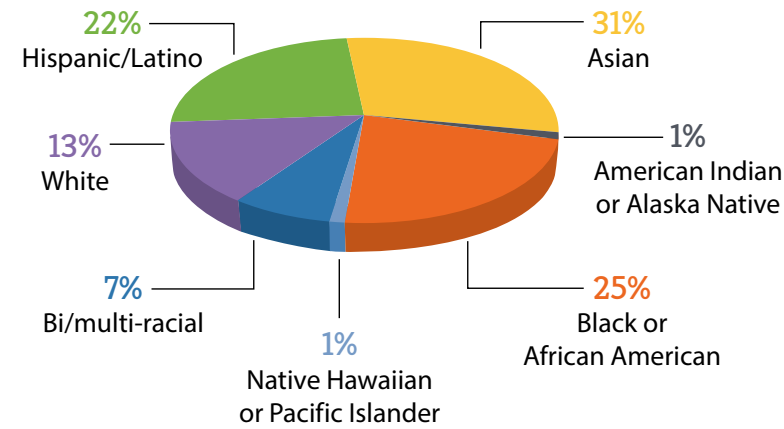
FY17 Budgeted Expenses	
Educational & Program Services	\$3,821,917
Management & General	\$568,303
Fundraising	\$116,541
Total	\$4,506,761



Our Community Welcoming of All Households



Embracing Diversity



Our Children

Ensuring a Successful Start

Early Head Start (EHS) provides low-income families and women with children ages birth to three or who are pregnant with services to prepare their child for success. Our programs include weekly 90-minute home visits to provide caregivers with early learning activities, parent support, and health services in their home languages, bi-monthly socialization events to bring together caregivers to learn about topics they choose, from financial planning to health education and early intervention through regular assessments of children’s development milestones to identify special needs and provide resources as early as possible.

- 74 infants
- 124 toddlers
- 12 pregnant mothers
- 92% of EHS children improved or maintained progress in four out of five developmental domains that indicate school readiness

Of the 33 children who aged out of EHS, 30 entered a Head Start program and two entered another early childhood program.

Preparing Kids for Kindergarten

Our preschool program, including Head Start, serves predominantly low-income, immigrant, and refugee children. Priority enrollment into the program is given to children in foster care, homeless families, and children with special needs.

- 3 preschool centers
- 241 children
- 85% of preschoolers met or exceeded expectations and were prepared to enter kindergarten

From Early Head-Start Intervention to Kindergarten

Eddie was enrolled in EHS while his mother was still pregnant. His family emigrated from rural southern Mexico several years earlier, and did not speak English. At six months, Eddie was not meeting developmental milestones for his age: he wasn’t attempting to move his body, did not make eye contact, and had limited vocalization. Eddie’s mother felt like she was failing him, and that his delays were her fault because of her own limited education.

A home visitor worked with Mom to reaffirm that she was Eddie’s first and most important teacher, and referred him to Early Intervention. Eddie began receiving weekly physical, occupational, and, later on, speech therapy, and Mom began attending Circle of Security and bi-weekly Early Intervention classes, which helped her to recognize her own parenting insecurities and to better respond to Eddie’s needs. As a result, his growth and development began to look much more typical, and now, he no longer requires special needs in three of the four areas that were originally identified. Today, Eddie is finishing up his last year of preschool at Denise Louie and will enter general education kindergarten next year, where he will continue his speech progress.





From Parent to Board Member

Rose first heard about DLEC through Project Access Northwest and Harborview Pediatrics. Her daughter, Mia, did not have health insurance, and Rose was concerned about her socialization and speech skills. Mia did not have many other children to play with because they recently relocated to a new part of Seattle and Rose's older children had already moved out. At DLEC, Mia entered EHS for her speech, and Rose participated in Circle of Security and other parent trainings. Rose joined the Policy Council after learning about it through socialization events and home visits. A board member came to one of the Council meetings and invited Rose to check out a board meeting. She later joined the board, through which she has represented DLEC at workshops in North Bend and Chicago. Mia graduated from EHS to enter a Seattle Public School HS program, referred to Rose by DLEC, so Mia could continue her progress.

Our Families

Building Stronger Communities

Our family support and home visiting teams connect and educate parents on available resources ranging from housing and nutrition to immigration rights and healthcare.

992 referrals made for 297 families, including the following:

- **109** received emergency/crisis intervention to meet basic needs
- **73** received housing assistance
- **158** received adult education or English as a Second Language training
- **54** received job training
- **271** received health training
- **201** received parenting education
- **65** received mental health services
- **73** received child abuse or domestic violence support

Engaging Our Parents and Guardians



Last program year, Denise Louie hosted bi-monthly parent nights where families help choose topics and speakers to identify and support their most immediate needs. Our preschool classrooms also have parent-teacher conferences and home visits throughout the year to facilitate more intimate dialogues on children's

educational progress. We encourage families to help children with their homework, as well as to provide us with ongoing feedback, and we welcome families to volunteer in classrooms.

Our Policy Council is integral to our programs' success and represents the families we serve. Every year, parent representatives are elected from both HS and EHS programs. Our parent-led Policy Council functions in partnership with our Board of Directors to approve policies, budgets, and hiring decisions, as well as provide program feedback.

- **24** parent nights
- **12** Policy Council meetings
- **Over 10%** of education staff is former program parents

Our Commitment

More School Readiness: Camp Panda

Camp Panda is a six-week learning program hosted at our Beacon Hill and ID sites that is designed for children with little to no preschool experience, or those who are behind. The program goal is to prepare children for kindergarten during the summer prior to their enrollment.

- **51** four- and five-year-old children during summer 2016

More Bonding: Circle of Security

Circle of Security is an eight-week, research-based intervention program designed to help parents understand child attachment patterns, increase their awareness of children's needs, and improve their responses to meet them. Each group focuses on eight to 10 parents, and is offered in English, Spanish, Mandarin, French, and Vietnamese.

- **20** families served through Circle of Security

More Wellness: Health Care Institute Training

Health Care Institute (HCI) trainings empower staff and families to be the first and most important guardian of their children's health. HCI focuses on coping with common childhood illnesses through tips, a health book, and various tools, to help keep the doctor away all year long.

- **95** families participated in HCI trainings

More Caregiver Support: Kaleidoscope Play and Learn

For eight years, Denise Louie has partnered with the Seattle Public Library (SPL) and Child Care Resources to offer Kaleidoscope Play and Learn—a free, drop-in program designed to create a safe, culturally diverse environment for caregivers and young children to learn and explore together. Current facilitators speak English, Spanish, Amharic, German, Cantonese, and American Sign Language.

- **129** 90-minute Play & Learn sessions held last year at three SPL branches (Columbia City, Lake City, and Rainier Beach)
- **140** children and families served every month on average
- **87%** of caregivers reported that Play and Learn gave them a better understanding of their role preparing their child for kindergarten
- **78%** participating households came from very low- to moderate-income households



From Early Learners to Top Readers

More than 100 EHS families participated in our annual Read-a-Thon, a three-month literacy event to support learning experiences at home. Parents and caregivers received training on interactive reading practices, such as describing illustrations and asking open-ended questions to their little readers. With the help of parents and caregivers, our top three readers Ison (29 months), Marissa (26 months), and Olivia (26 months) submitted a total of 5,765 reading minutes—an average of 21 minutes a day!



Our Donors

We are incredibly thankful for all of our donors’ generous support last year. Their contributions have helped to create more opportunities for and to ensure the success of the children and families we serve every day!

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Our Volunteers

Thank you to our 158 volunteers for their donating their time and energy to the families and children we serve! Your 8,920 hours of service in our classrooms and at our events have made an immeasurable impact on the lives of the people we serve. Thank you for believing in our mission of educating and empowering Denise Louie children and their families!

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MISSION: Denise Louie Education Center promotes school and life readiness by providing multi-cultural early learning ser- vices to children and families, especially those who need our services the most. We will respect and preserve each child and family’s individuality, cultural heritage, and home language. We will promote personal and social responsibility with integrity and love in an environment defined by social justice and peace.

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