

**COMMUNITY
REPORT**
2019-2020



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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

At Mile High Early Learning, we continue to adapt our programs and scope of services to meet the changing needs of our community. Our children, families, caregivers, and teachers remain the focus of our work, as demonstrated by a few of our achievements from 2019-2020.

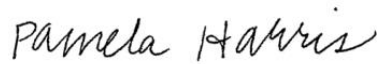
- **Our Early Head Start (EHS) and Babies Ready for College programs are fully implemented at The Zone for Inclusive Learning at Z Place**—a unique collaborative that provides early care and education to children and serves as a training site for Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregivers, parents, and educators. Our partners are Sewall Child Development, Denver Public Schools, University of Colorado Denver (UCD), University of Denver, and BuildStrong Education. EHS classrooms opened in January 2020 and serve 28 children ages birth to 3.
- **MHEL embraces its role as a leader in professional learning for early educators.**
We launched our Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood—an 8-credit (120 hour) training credential offered in partnership with UCD that provides early educators with foundational knowledge to successfully work with children with challenging behaviors and special needs. The first cohort in the summer of 2019 had 18 participants who reported improved skills in behavior management, supports for challenging behavior, and language development.
- **When the pandemic hit in 2020, we were able to identify the immediate needs of our families and moved quickly to launch Nourishing Our Community**—providing food, financial assistance, and educational resources to support children’s health and well-being and continued learning at home. Our in-person early care and education programs were suspended for two months, and MHEL pivoted to a new way of delivering services—providing remote learning opportunities to engage children such as circle time on Zoom and in YouTube videos packed with fun activities and teachers reading favorite books.

Our guiding principles from 2020 will continue to guide our work into the future:

- Keeping our community—our children, families, and staff—healthy and safe
- Providing quality services for children and families who are farthest from resources.
- Exploring ways to enhance and adapt our services to support children and families.
- Bringing an equity lens to our work to understand our impact on the communities we serve.

We are humbled and inspired by the continued support of our friends, partners, and supporters who are an integral part of the Mile High Early Learning community. Because of you, we can serve more children and families and enhance our professional learning offerings to meet the needs of our workforce—all while focusing on our mission and supporting our families during the most difficult of times. We are extremely grateful.


Cindy Abramson
Board of Directors Chair


Pamela Harris, PhD
President & CEO

PROGRAM PROFILE 2019-2020

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

Children Served

28% of children in Denver eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start were served

100% – average monthly enrollment of Head Start/Early Head Start children

557 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in our early learning centers

Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships— Ability Connection Colorado, Denver’s Early Childhood Council, Hope Center, New Legacy Charter School, Sewall Child Development, Sunshine Academy, Little Folks Learning Center

Family Income

91% of families were living at or below the federal poverty level (\$26,200 for a family of four) and 53 families experienced homelessness

68% of the families were one-parent households

100% of children’s parents/guardians were working or attending school

Ethnicity

47% Hispanic

31% African American

11% European American

9% Multi-racial

1% Asian American/ Pacific Islander/Hawaiian

1% Native American

MHEL families come from **18** different countries and speak over **30** different languages; **37%** speak a primary language other than English.

Babies Ready for College

521 Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers, parents and children participated in Babies Ready for College, Babies Ready for College: Next Step, Play and Learn Groups, and/or Short & Sweet Book Clubs

Drop-In Centers

MHEL Centers serving clients doing business with the Denver Courts and Department of Human Services had a combined total of **3,829** child visits.

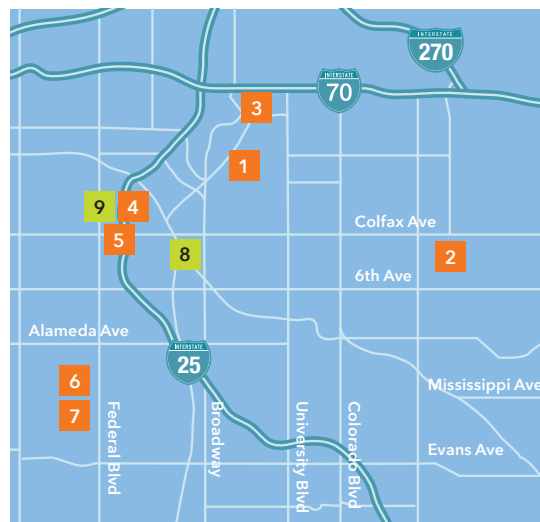
Mile High Early Learning operated seven early learning centers, two drop-in centers, and community education programs in 2019-2020.

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

- 1** Anna Jo Garcia Haynes, 2851 Tremont Place
- 2** Lowry Montessori, 957 Ulster Way
- 3** Northeast, 3503 Marion Street
- 4** Rude Park, 1275 Decatur Street
- 5** Sun Valley, 990 Alcott Way
- 6** Westwood, 980 S. Lowell Blvd.
- 7** SWIC, 1000 S. Lowell Blvd.

DROP-IN LOCATIONS

- 8** Denver Warm Welcome Court Child Care Drop-in Center, 520 W. Colfax Ave.
- 9** Good Beginnings Drop-in Center, 1200 Federal Blvd.



PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2019-2020

Child Outcomes

- **86%** of children met or exceeded the widely held expectations for social/emotional development as measured by Teaching Strategies GOLD, the assessment system for children 6 weeks to 5 years used to measure children's readiness for school. 90% met or exceeded expectations for physical development and 87% met or exceeded expectations for cognitive development.
- **100%** of children received early intervention learning screenings; and 56 children were identified as having special needs and received services through IEPs or IFSPs.
- **100%** of children had a medical home and health insurance and were current on immunizations and physicals
- **90%** of children had continuous, accessible dental care; **82%** received preventive care

Family Outcomes

- **96%** of families found the program helpful to their children and appreciate the method of teaching
- **92%** know how to be involved in and support their child's education
- **58%** of families participated in parenting education programs
- **35%** of parents received health education
- **20%** of families participated in GED/ESL/Job Training

Parents

- **197** parents volunteered in their children's classrooms, logging **3,605** hours of reading
- **99%** of parents felt welcomed at school
- **97%** report that classrooms are clean and safe
- **94%** found their children's teachers accessible
- **97%** of parents found the resources provided to families to be supportive
- **98%** of families think that monthly parent meetings are helpful and meaningful
- **94%** would recommend MHEL to others

Workforce Development

Staff education achievements:

- **3** teachers with MA degrees
- **33** teachers with BA/BS degrees
- **10** teachers with AA degrees
- **22** teachers have earned the Child Development Associate credential
- **25** teachers earned the Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood credential
- Mile High Early Learning provided its nationally recognized workforce development opportunities to more than **100** early learning professionals through its Professional Learning Center.

Our teachers continue to receive:

- **90+** professional development hours
- **30+** hours of intensive coaching
- **Financial support** to pursue early childhood degrees

Program Outcomes

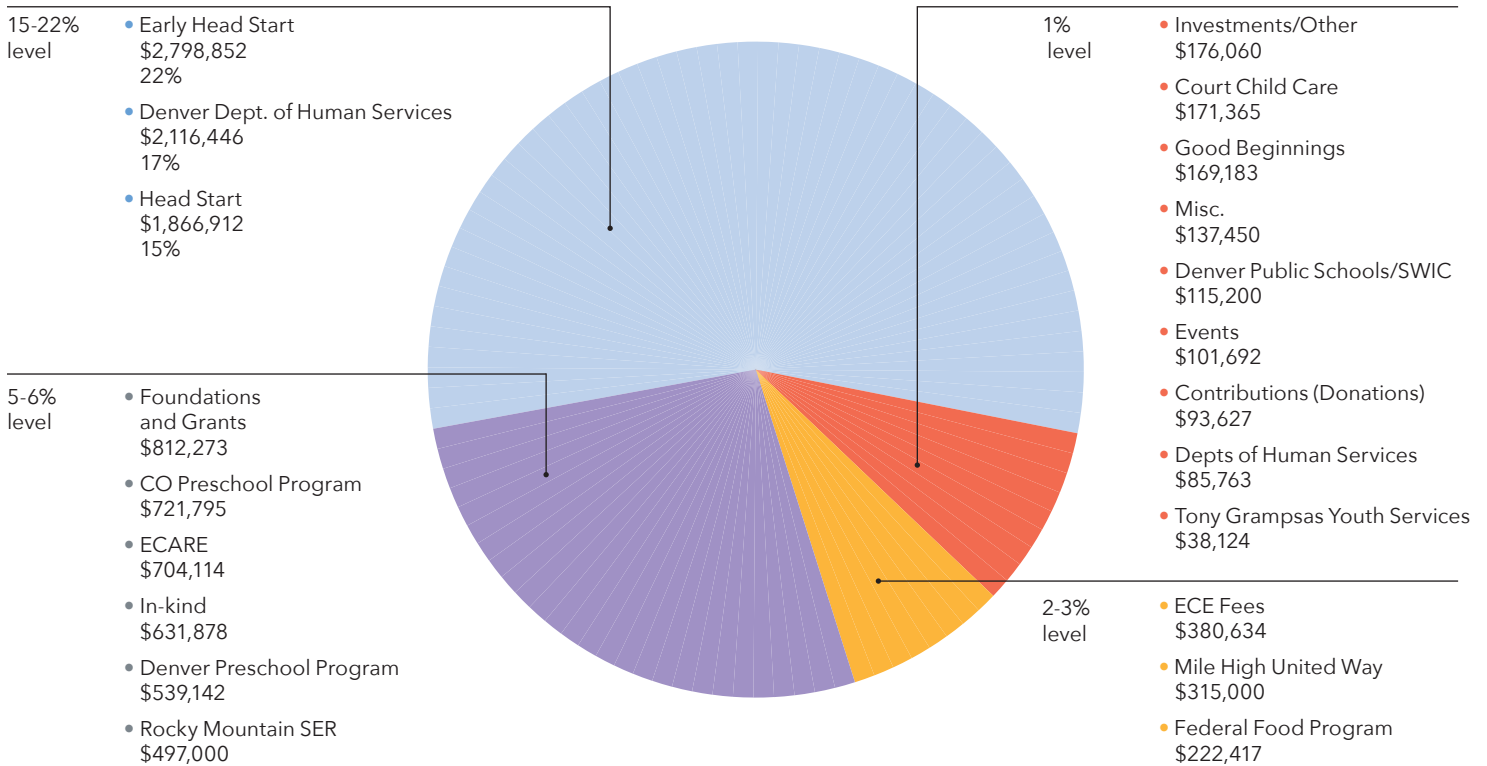
- All early learning centers are rated a level 4 on Colorado Shines, the Quality Rating and Improvement System, in recognition of the high quality of programming provided. MHEL uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) to measure the quality of teacher interactions with children. The quality of teacher/child interactions showed growth in all domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.
- Mile High Early Learning completed the full cycle of monitoring events under the Office of Head Start's aligned monitoring system for the current project period for Head Start and Early Head Start. The program was found to have no deficiencies and, at the time of the final review, all areas were compliant.

FINANCIAL PROFILE: FY 2019-2020

MHEL Revenue

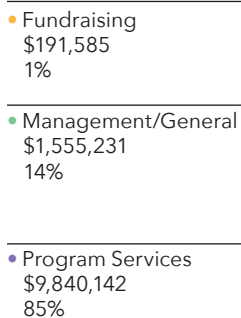
Income from continuing operations: \$12,694,927

Net income: \$1,107,969



MHEL Expenses

\$11,586,958



Mile High Early Learning's 2019-20 financial audit received an unmodified clean opinion, noting no material weaknesses, non-compliance, or findings. 2019-2020 budget available upon request.

2019-2020 DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

We gratefully acknowledge the following companies, civic groups, foundations and individuals for giving their resources so generously.

Donors

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Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
The Colorado Health Foundation
The Colorado Trust
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Denver Preschool Program
Denver Public Schools
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McGregor's Garden
Mental Health Center of Denver
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NAI Shames Makovsky
Plante Moran
PNC Bank
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Teach for America Colorado
Transform Wealth
University of Colorado Denver
Xcel Energy

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\$5,001 and above

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Alix and John Corboy
Deane Family Fund
Dennis and LuAnn Dahl
Rob and Sharon Link
James Turner and Martha Solis-Turner
David and Debbie Younggren

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Cooper Belzley
Liza Belzley
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Chipotle
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Colorado Children's
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Denver Bar Association
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Denver Great Kids Head
Start
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Xcel Energy
Yorkshire Equity

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Sara Hackbarth
Bob Hughes
DeAlanya Jackson
Grace Lilje
Shavonne Morales-Garcia
Sophia Opferman
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Dana Risedorf
Blanca Sarellano
Caryl Shipley

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Kristy Adams
Susan Burks
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Rachele Espiritu

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Christian Houdelette
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Paul Beard, Jr.
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Toni Boettcher
Phil Canjar
Kathy Fay
Ernesto Flores
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Scott Lucas
Becky McCall
Dawn Moffit
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Hale Ringelman
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