

**COMMUNITY  
REPORT**  
2020-2021





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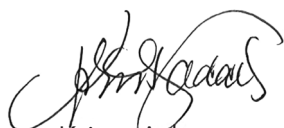


## DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS


For the past half century, Mile High Early Learning (MHEL) has been sustained by our friends and partners. This year, as we begin celebrating our 50th anniversary, we are especially grateful for the steadfast support of our community. Following are a few mission-critical achievements from the 2020-2021 academic year.

- **Race and equity continue to be integral within our organization.** The importance of early care and education in challenging and breaking through systemic inequities is critical. Three-month-old babies can visually categorize faces by race. Toddlers begin to connect racial features to a person's behavior. Preschoolers can identify and act out against racial injustice on their own. MHEL has partnered with Resilient Futures to provide training and support on trauma-informed care and culturally responsive practices with an equity lens. Children's experiences in their formative years have the power to change our world.
- **The COVID-19 pandemic challenged early childhood education to reimagine itself.** With child care centers limited in capacity to serve children because of stricter regulations and an uncertain future, we needed to create a new way to reach our children. MHEL developed a remote learning framework for children 6 months to 5 years that incorporates educational experiences that young children have in classrooms into a virtual learning environment. MHEL piloted two remote learning classes and launched an ongoing process to enhance the curriculum in collaboration with our partners and our families. As a result of this work, teachers, children, and families are "remote ready" – which means families have the materials and equipment they need for remote learning, and teachers have lesson plans for children of all ages.
- **MHEL received two new grants from the Office of Head Start to expand its successful Early Head Start and Head Start programs.** These grants will allow us to serve more young children through new and expanded partnerships with other early childhood providers operating in child care deserts.

Thank you for being a partner in our commitment to helping children and families thrive.



Kristy Adams  
Board Chair



Pamela Harris, PhD  
President & CEO



## PROGRAM PROFILE 2020-2021

### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

**31%** of children in Denver eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start were served

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

**532** infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in our early learning centers

**Early Head Start/Child Care and Head Start Partnerships** – Ability Connection Colorado, Florence Crittenton Services, Hope Center, KIPP Sunshine Peak Elementary, Little Folks Learning Center, Little Ones Learning Center, New Legacy Charter School, Sewall Child Development Center, Smart Learning Academy, Sunshine Academy, and Warren Village.

#### Families

**91%** of families were living at or below the federal poverty level (\$26,500 for a family of four), and 48 families experienced homelessness.

**68%** of the families were one-parent households.

**85%** of children's parents/guardians were working or attending school.

#### Ethnicity

**45%** Hispanic/Latinx

**36%** African American/Black

**10%** European American

**7%** Multi-racial

**1%** Asian American/ Pacific Islander/Hawaiian

**1%** Native American

**25%** of MHEL families are immigrants or refugees. Families come from **18** different countries and speak over **30** different languages; **38%** speak a primary language other than English.

#### Babies Ready for College

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

Mile High Early Learning operated six early learning centers in 2020-2021.

#### EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

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



# PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 2020-2021

### Child Outcomes

- **93%** of children met or exceeded the widely held expectations for cognitive development as measured by Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG), the assessment system for children 6 weeks to 5 years used to measure children's readiness for school. 91% of children met or exceeded expectations for literacy; 90% met or exceeded expectations for physical development; and 85% met or exceeded expectations for social-emotional development.
- **100%** of children demonstrated growth and made steady improvement.
- **100%** of children received early intervention screenings; 49 children were identified as having special needs and received services through an Individualized Education Plan or Individualized Family Service Plan.
- **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 like the Montessori Inspired approach
- **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

### Workforce Development

Staff education achievements:

- **24** teachers with MA degrees
- **38** teachers with BA/BS degrees
- **8** teachers with AA degrees
- **34** teachers have earned the Child Development Associate credential
- **38** educators have earned the Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood credential
- Mile High Early Learning provided development opportunities to more than **300** early learning professionals at Mile High Early Learning and community programs through its nationally recognized Professional Learning Center.

Our teachers continue to receive:

- **90+** professional development hours – including two weeklong Professional Development Institutes
- **30+** hours of intensive coaching
- **Financial support** to pursue early childhood degrees

### Program Outcomes

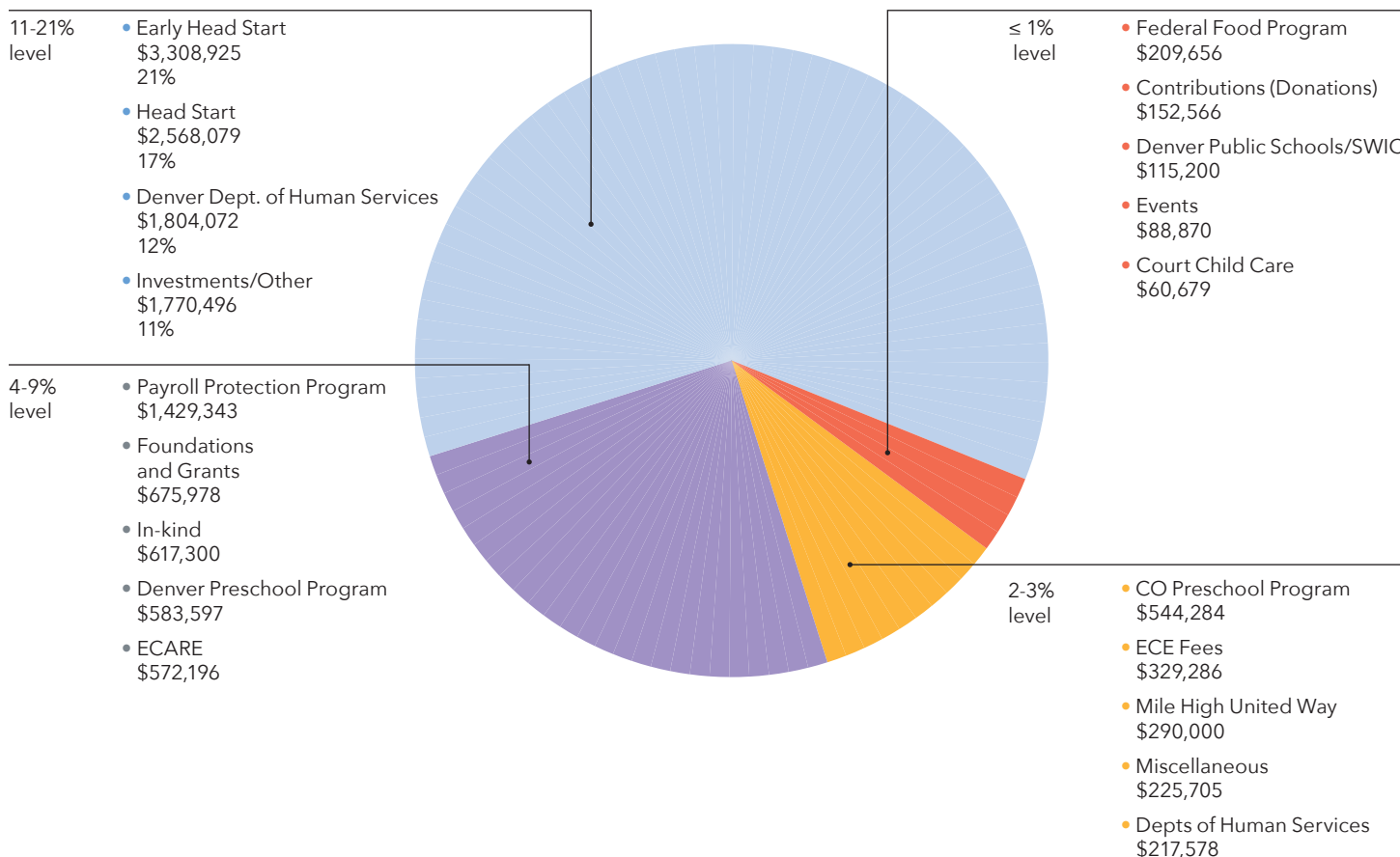
- All early learning centers are rated a Level 4 on Colorado Shines, the Quality Rating and Improvement System.
- MHEL uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System to measure the quality of teacher interactions with children which showed growth in all domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, 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 2020-2021

## MHEL Revenue

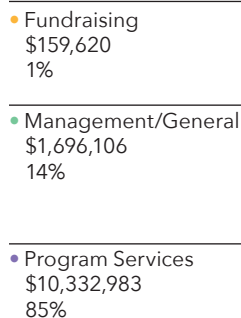
Income from continuing operations: \$15,563,810

Net income: \$3,375,101



## MHEL Expenses

\$12,188,709



Mile High Early Learning's 2020-21 financial audit received an unmodified clean opinion, noting no material weaknesses, non-compliance, or findings. 2020-2021 budget available upon request.

# 2020-2021 DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

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

## Donors

### Foundation Support

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Barton Family Foundation  
Buell Foundation  
BuildStrong Education  
Carson Foundation  
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Constellation Philanthropy  
Crown Family Philanthropies  
Daniels Fund  
Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation  
Denver Zoological Foundation  
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Mile High United Way  
PNC Bank Foundation  
Rose Community Foundation  
The Anschutz Foundation  
The Colorado Health Foundation  
The Denver Foundation  
Virginia Packard Rockwell Foundation

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Colorado Children's Campaign  
Colorado NSDAR  
Colorado Office of Early Childhood  
Denver Health  
Denver Preschool Program  
Denver Warm Welcome  
Court Child Care  
Fast Enterprises  
GR8 Work Services  
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