

2018

Kids' Corps, Inc. Annual Report



“We provide a head start for families
with children who need it most.”

Kids' Corps, Inc.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May, 2019

Starting in 1965 as an 8 week summer enrichment program for economically at-risk children who would be entering kindergarten that fall, Head Start and Early Head Start today serve one million children annually in thousands of communities across the country. At Kids' Corps, we are proud to provide Head Start and Early Head Start programs for the children and families of Anchorage. Much has changed over the decades, but our commitment to provide all children, regardless of the circumstances of their birth, with the opportunity to realize their unique potential remains the foundation of everything we do.

The information that follows provides a summary of the comprehensive services we provided and the results we achieved for the program year that ended in August, 2018. The positive outcomes reviewed here represent the impact of parents, staff and our friends and partners working together to support the healthy growth and development of our children and to strengthen family well-being. We are honored to share our work with you, and look forward to continuing to provide a head start to families with children who need it most in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Dirk Shumaker
Executive Director



ABOUT KIDS' CORPS, INC.

WHO WE ARE

Kids' Corps, Inc. is a Head Start and Early Head Start grantee operating centers in eight Anchorage locations. Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that serves children 3 to 5 years old and their families. Kids' Corps, Inc. also provides Early Head Start services for children birth-3 years old. Our goal is to prepare children for success in school and life by supporting their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development and promoting family well-being.

Kids' Corps, Inc. (KCI) is governed by both a Board of Directors and a Policy Council. The executive director and four managers oversee the daily operations and administration of KCI.

HISTORY

Kids' Corps, Inc. has been in existence for 29 years. Originally formed as a delegate agency providing Head Start services under the administration of RurAL CAP, Kids' Corps became an independent Head Start grantee in 1990. The following timeline provides a brief overview of KCI's history.

- 1987** Incorporated as a 501(c) (3) non-profit agency
- 1988** Davis Center acquired from the Municipality of Anchorage
- 1989** Kids' Corps becomes a Head Start delegate agency under RurAL CAP
- 1990** Kids' Corps awarded grantee status, allowing the agency to receive direct federal and state funding to provide Head Start services for 133 children. Classrooms are located in public schools.
- 1991** East Center opened. Classrooms are relocated from public school sites at the start of the 1991/1992 program year
- 1997** Kids' Corps becomes a United Way agency. Increased federal funding expands enrollment to 358 children.
- 1999** Muldoon Center opened in collaboration with the Muldoon Community Development Corporation. Full day Head Start services provided at a site in the Muldoon Job Center.
- 2000** South Center is opened to provide full day and part day Head Start services to families who live or work in south Anchorage.
- 2001** Mountain View Center is opened as part of the United Way's "Success by Six" initiative.
- 2009** In partnership with the Anchorage Schools District, KCI opens three Head Start classrooms in public schools
- 2010** Early Head Start program begins. A Federal "stimulus" grant and a Community Development Block Grant result in creation of new classroom at East Center, expanding enrollment by 17 children.
- 2012** Parents as Teachers home visiting program begins its first year with an enrollment of 40 families.
- 2013** Federal sequestration budget cuts result in the closure of South Center and the loss of 20 enrollment slots in August.
- 2014** KCI opens a 4th partnership site with the Anchorage School District (now at Airport Heights Elementary School)
- 2016** In partnership with Cook Inlet Housing Authority, KCI opens a new classroom enrolling 20 children at the Ridgeline Terrace mixed housing development

WHO WE SERVED DURING THE 2017/2018 PROGRAM YEAR

We provide Head Start or Early Head Start programs at eight locations in Anchorage. More information is available on our website at www.kcialaska.org. Our funded Head Start enrollment in the 2017/ 2018 program year was 230 children. Our federally funded Early Head Start enrollment was 18 children. A state Head Start grant allows us to meet our required non-federal match.

Full Day, Full Year Program: Children ages 3 to 5 attend Monday through Friday while parents work or go to school. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- East Center, classroom 5 – 3710 East 20th , Anchorage, AK 99508 Tel: 272-0133

Full Day, Part Year Program: Children ages 3 to 5 attend Monday through Friday, September-May. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- East Center classroom (classrooms 2,3,4)– 3710 E. 20th, Suite 2, Anchorage, AK 99508 Tel: 272-0133
- Mt. View Center – 3350 Commercial Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel:646-7884
- Muldoon Center—1251 Muldoon Road, Anchorage, AK 99504
- Ridgeline Center—185 Ridgeline Loop, Anchorage, AK 99501

Part Day, Part Year Program: Children ages 3 to 5 years attend classes five days a week for four hours per day.

- East Center classroom 1– 3710 E. 20th, Suite 2, Anchorage, Tel: 272-0133
- Gladys Wood Elementary School—7001 Cranberry, Anchorage, Tel: 742-6760
- Chester Valley Elementary School—1751 Patterson, Anchorage, Tel: 742-0335
- Creekside Park Elementary School—7500 E. 6th, Anchorage, Tel: 742-1550
- Willow Crest Elementary School—1004 W. Tudor Road, Anchorage, Tel: 742-1000

Early Head Start Center Based Program: Children ages 4 months to 3 years attend Monday through Friday while parents work or go to school. Program operates year-round.

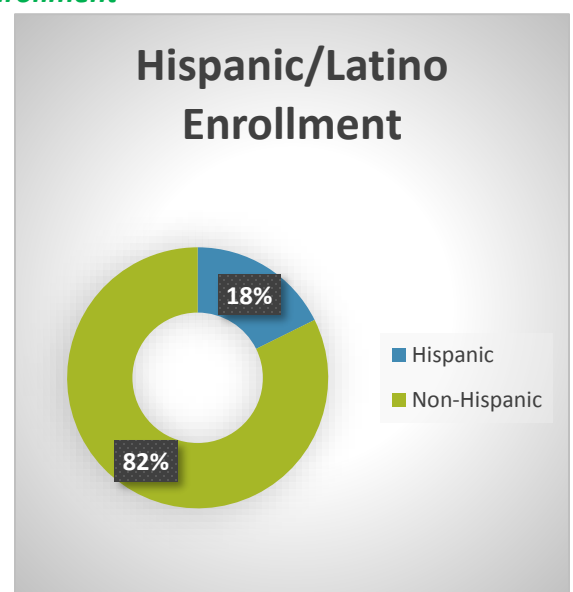
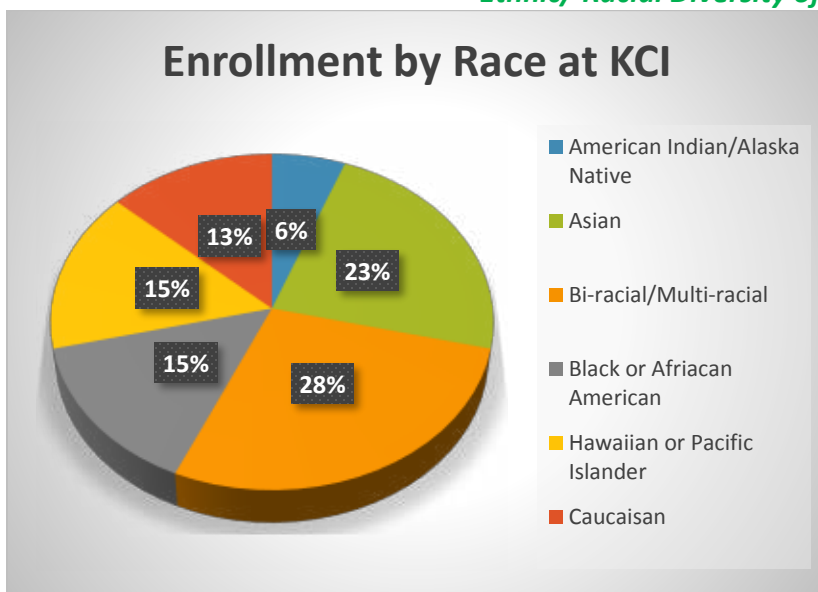
Early Head Start Home Based Program: Expectant families and families with children birth to 3 years of age receive weekly home visits with a trained parent educator. Home visits focus on child and family development and strengthening the parent-child bonds in families. Program operates year-round.

- Early HS Center & Home Based – 3350 Commercial Drive, Anchorage, AK. 99501 Tel: 222-1222

There were 266 *three to five-year-olds* who participated in Kids’ Corps Head Start programs during the 2017-2018 program year. This number represents about 32% of the Head Start eligible children in Anchorage. Twenty-two children and pregnant women participated in the Early Head Start program.

- 🌀 94% met federal poverty guidelines 🌀 18% of enrolled children had a diagnosed disability
- 🌀 57% primary language for family at home was English

Ethnic/Racial Diversity of Enrollment



SERVICES

SERVICES THAT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECEIVE IN ALL KCI PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

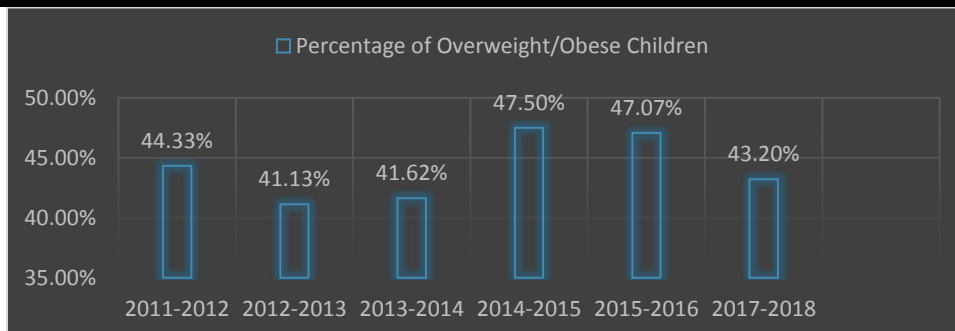
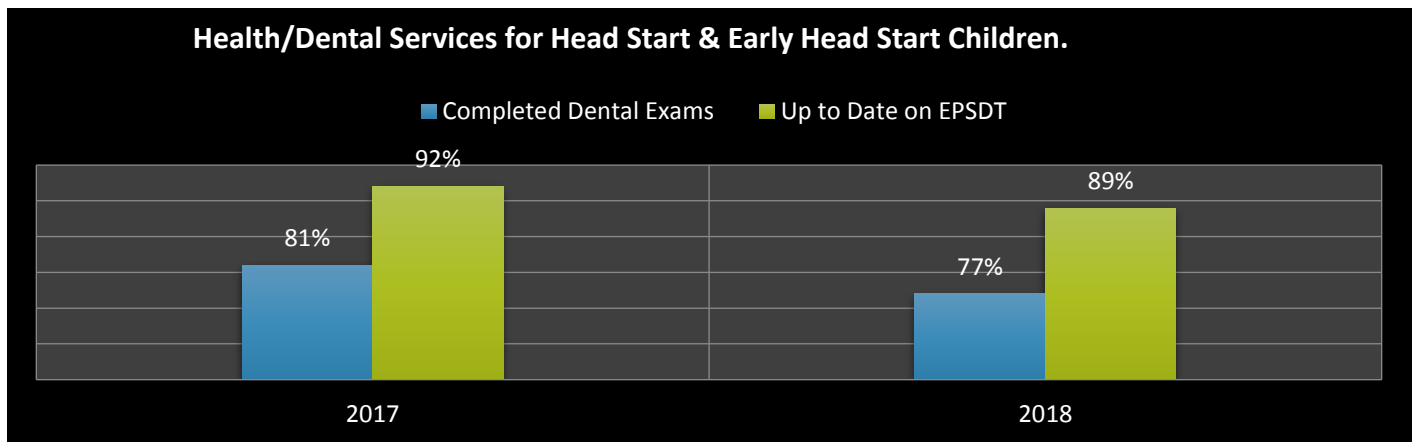
- Hot lunch, snack and/or breakfast
- Health screenings twice a year – height, weight, hearing and vision
- Quarterly developmental observations by trained classroom staff that support each child’s unique learning needs
- An individualized learning plan for every child
- Annual developmental screenings for all children
- Classroom observations by a child psychologist
- Speech/Language therapy (for children who qualify)
- Dental examinations & screenings
- Bus transportation (for approximately 40 children)
- Field trips
- Classroom instruction and home visits by certified early childhood educators
- Comprehensive developmental assessment in collaboration with Anchorage School District for children with suspected but undiagnosed disabilities. Eligible children receive ASD Care Team support.

SERVICES FOR PARENTS INCLUDE:

- Community resource and referral information
- An opportunity to consult with our mental health consultant at no cost
- Opportunity to join the Head Start Policy Council
- Opportunities to set and meet personal and family goals
- Monthly opportunities to participate in adult learning activities on a variety of subjects
- Regular parent/teacher conferences

HEALTH SERVICES

Hundreds of children receive hearing, vision, height/weight and dental screenings at Kids’ Corps each year. KCI plays a vital role in helping many families to find medical and dental providers for their children.



NUTRITION SERVICES

Following is a typical weeklong menu at KCI

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast				
Banana Tortilla Roll-up Yogurt	Raisin Bran Strawberries	Bagel Cream Cheese Apple Sauce	Waffles Triple Berry Blend	English Muffins Fruit Preserves Apple Slices
Lunch				
Meatballs with Sweet & Sour Rice Snap Peas Peaches	Turkey & Cheese Sandwich On wheat bread Romaine Salad w/ranch Bananas	Ground beef and macaroni Orange slices Zucchini Squash	Arroz con queso Corn and pepper blend Tropical fruit	Roasted diced chicken Wheat rolls carrots, broccoli, cauliflower Mandarin Oranges
Snack				
Soft Pretzel Cheddar Cheese Sauce Pears	Graham Crackers Cream Cheese Pineapple	Ritz Crackers Cottage Cheese Carrots	Cheerios Triple Berry Blend	Turkey & Cheese Rollups Orange Slices

Milk is served with every meal – all meals served meet CACFP daily meal requirements and are low in fat, sugar, and salt content. During the 2017/2018 program year, Kids' Corps, Inc. served 67,469 meals.



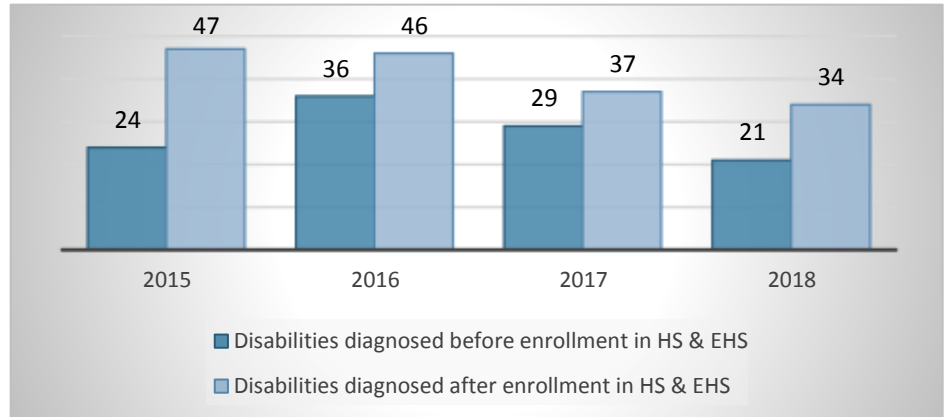
RESULTS

BENEFITS OF KIDS' CORPS, INC.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Kids' Corps, Inc. has effective systems for identifying children with disabilities and connecting them with special education services.

As the chart at right illustrates, it is likely that many of these children would have entered kindergarten with undiagnosed disabilities if they had not attended Head Start. In 2018, 55 children received special education services.



FEDERAL REVIEW RESULTS

From 4/01/2019 to 4/05/2019 the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted an on-site monitoring review of the Kids' Corps, Inc. Early Head Start and Head Start programs. Based on the information gathered, the review team determined that the Head Start and Early Head Start programs are in compliance with all applicable Head Start Standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements.

Based on an agency self report to the Office of Head Start on December 20, 2018, ACF found KCI noncompliant on March 31, 2019 with standard 1302.90(c)(1)(ii), which states that "a program must ensure all staff, consultants, contractors, and volunteers abide by the program's standards of conduct ...(ii) Ensure staff, consultants, contractors, and volunteers do not maltreat or endanger the health or safety of children, including, at a minimum, that staff must not:(A) Use corporal punishment." The noncompliance finding states that "the grantee did not ensure all staff abided by the program's standards of conduct that staff did not maltreat or endanger the health and safety of children, including, at a minimum, that staff must not use corporal punishment; therefore, it was out of compliance with the regulation."

Corrective actions taken since January 2019 included retraining staff, revising the staff code of conduct to clarify behaviors and responses that meet the standards and strengthening classroom communication procedures. ACF will determine whether the noncompliance is corrected in July 2019.

SCHOOL READINESS EFFORTS

One of the primary purposes of Head Start is to prepare children for future educational success. Our school readiness goals and accomplishments are summarized below.

We recognize that educational success is linked to quality teaching. Therefore, we have implemented a mentor-coach process to assure that each staff member who has direct contact with children and families receives regular, individualized assistance that strengthens their instructional and relationship-building skills.

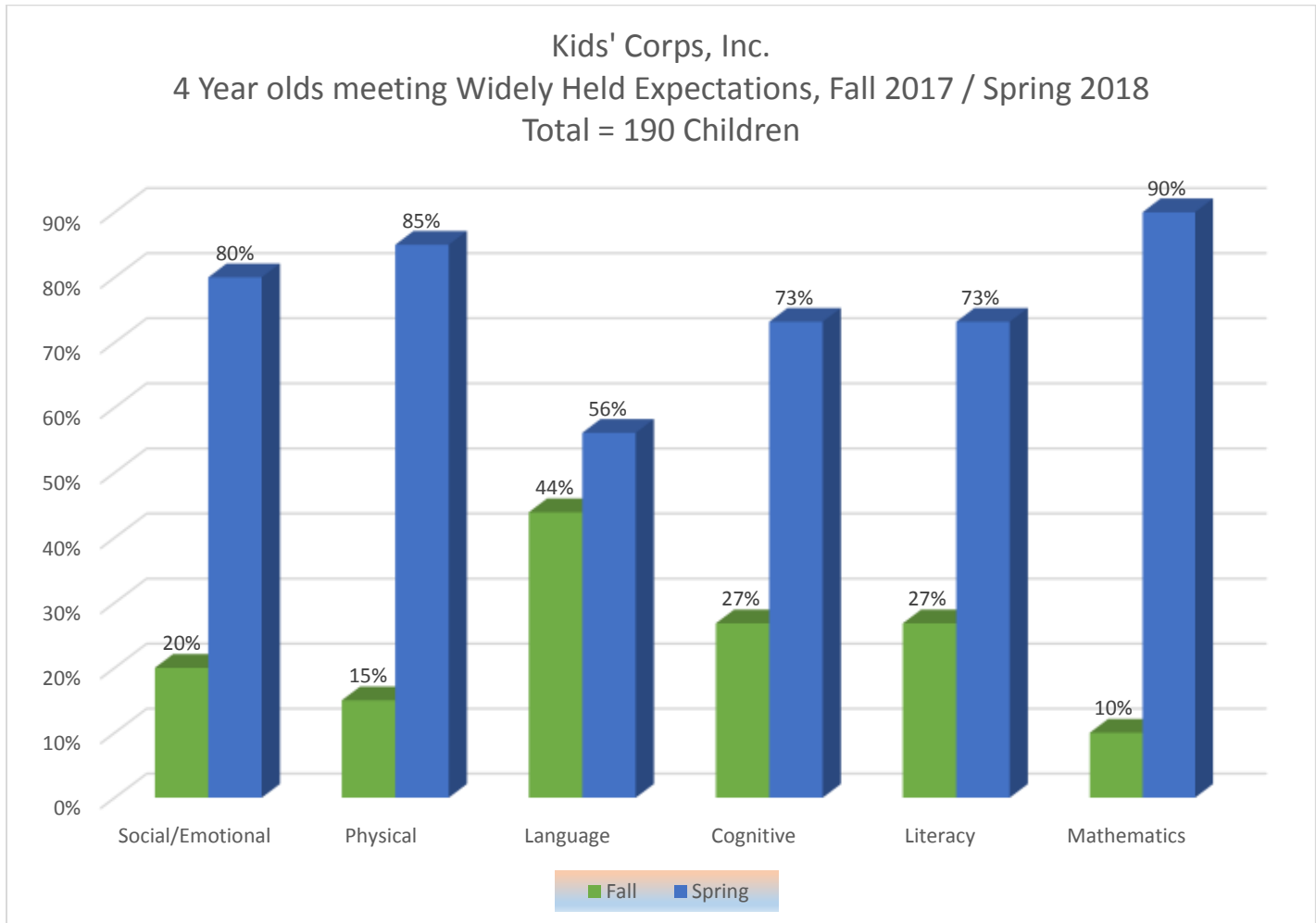
Teachers use Coaching to Fidelity results, CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) assessments, and My Teaching Strategies individual child assessment data to ensure developmental appropriateness of the environment, activities and schedules. Our overall goal is to understand each child's unique learning needs and make sure that every child gains the skills, knowledge and habits that will help them be successful in school and life.

To support families in making the transition from Head Start to kindergarten, we work with the Anchorage School District to host a kindergarten information fair. This event provides relevant information about the transition process

and links families with resources available within in the Anchorage School District. Through this event and through one on one home visiting we provide families with information on topics such as home schools, the registration process, documentation needed to enroll a child, summer transition activities families can do at home to prepare their child, and more.

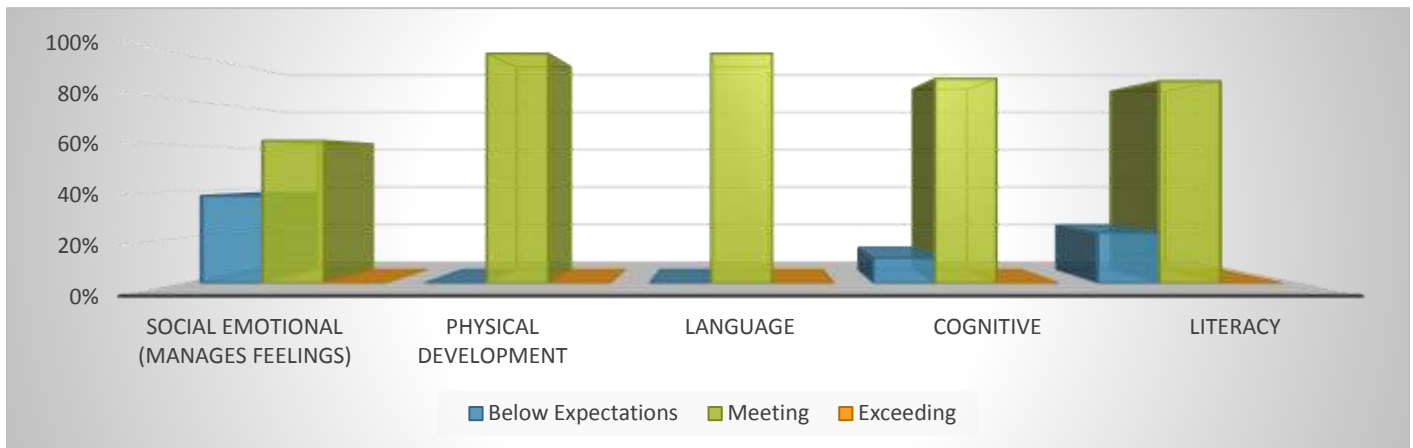
CHILD ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES

Only KCI children eligible for kindergarten in August 2018 are included in the following table. Extensive research supports the view that these indicators are predictive of children’s future school success. They also closely align with Alaska’s Early Learning Guidelines. The following chart shows the children’s growth between fall 2017 and spring 2018.

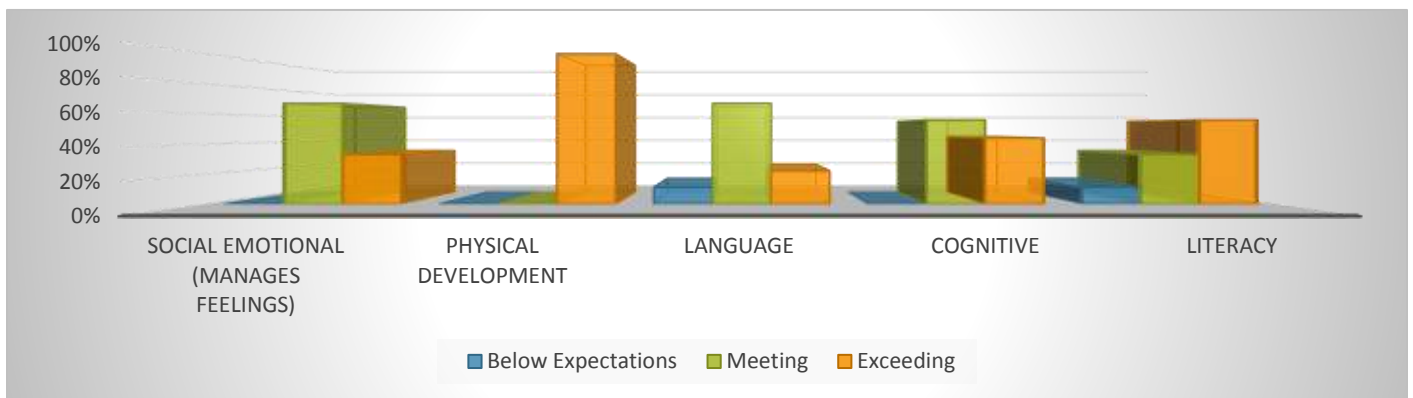


Early Head Start Teaching Strategies Gold Check Point Data

FALL 2017 CHECKPOINT

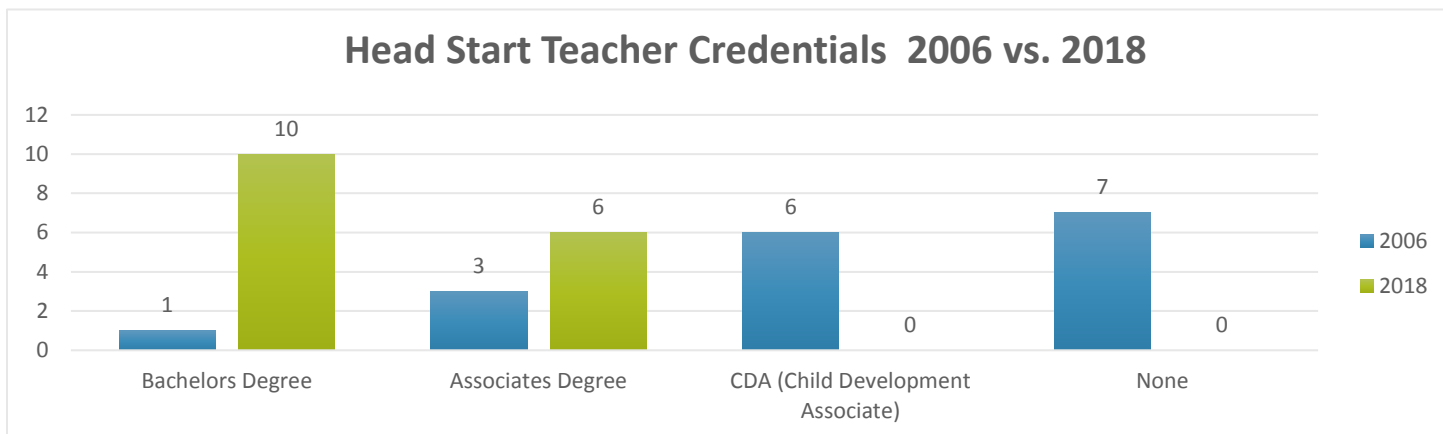


SPRING 2018 CHECKPOINT



QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES

Research shows that well-trained preschool teachers are a key component of high quality child development programs. Teacher qualifications have significantly increased at KCI over the last decade.



EARLY HEAD START 2017-2018 SNAPSHOT

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

Home-based: 10 funded slots Center-based: 8 funded slots

ENROLLMENT:

21 children served

12 children were returning children from the 2016-2017 program year

CHILD DEVELOPMENT:

Staff work with all parents to complete the ASQ & ASQ SE for all children within 45 days of enrollment. This allows the program to identify potential concerns and provide follow-up learning activities and/or referrals to PIC in a timely manner.

The center-based program option uses the Creative Curriculum. The home-based program uses the Parents as Teachers home visit curriculum. Both options use Teaching Strategies Gold as an ongoing assessment tool. A review of the end of the year data showed that enrolled children showed growth across all domains.

FAMILY SERVICES:

8 families enrolled experienced homelessness during the program year

6 children transitioned to Head Start at the end of the program year

6 families had active father (or male role model) participation in the program

HEALTH SERVICES:

All children enrolled had medical insurance and/or Indian Health Services

13 children had dental exams sometime after their first birthday

KEY EARLY HEAD START PARTNERSHIPS:

Crossroads (ASD High School for pregnant and parenting teens)

Program for Infants and Children (PIC)

Passage House (Shelter for young mothers)

PARENTS & FAMILIES

Family involvement is an important aspect of Head Start. Kids' Corps staff strive to build relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent/child relationships and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PROGRAM YEAR

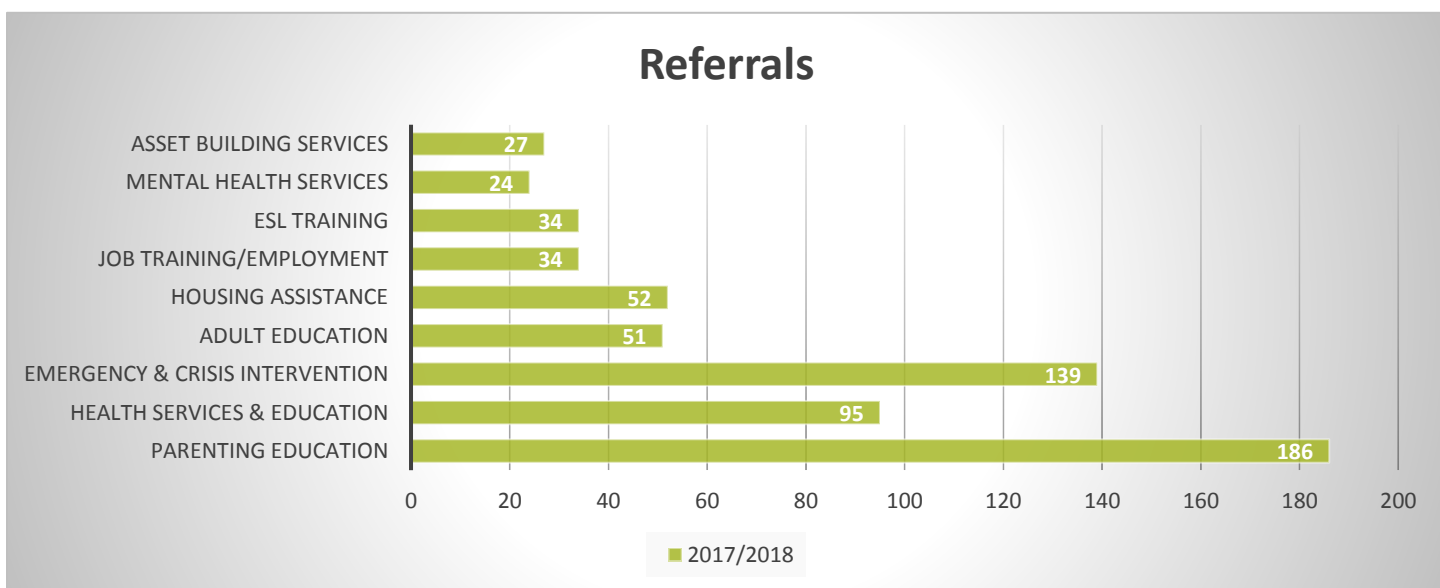
- ❖ Meet & Greet visits held at each center
- ❖ Monthly Parent Volunteer Days held at each center
- ❖ Monthly Parent Committee Meetings/Family Nights held at each center
- ❖ Group Socializations for Early Head Start Home-based families.
- ❖ Circle of Security parenting classes
- ❖ International Pilots Association (IPA) Foundation for Alaska's Kids Holiday Event
- ❖ Book Fairs held twice a year at each center
- ❖ Kindergarten Information and Orientation Fair (will be held in partnership with ASD)
- ❖ Teacher and Family Advocate Home Visits
- ❖ Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ❖ Advisory Committees and Policy Council

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- ❖ Introduction to Curriculum
- ❖ Healthy Lifestyle Fair
- ❖ Language Development Across Cultures
- ❖ Positive Parenting
- ❖ Housing Resources
- ❖ Family Literacy
- ❖ Financial Literacy trainings
- ❖ Cooking low-cost healthy meals
- ❖ Talking about feelings and personal safety with children
- ❖ Kindergarten Transition Information Fair
- ❖ Emergency Preparedness

FAMILY SERVICES

Family advocates work in partnership with parents to provide training and assure resources in the community meet family needs. The graphic below illustrates the types and numbers of specific referrals and services received during the 2017/2018 program year.



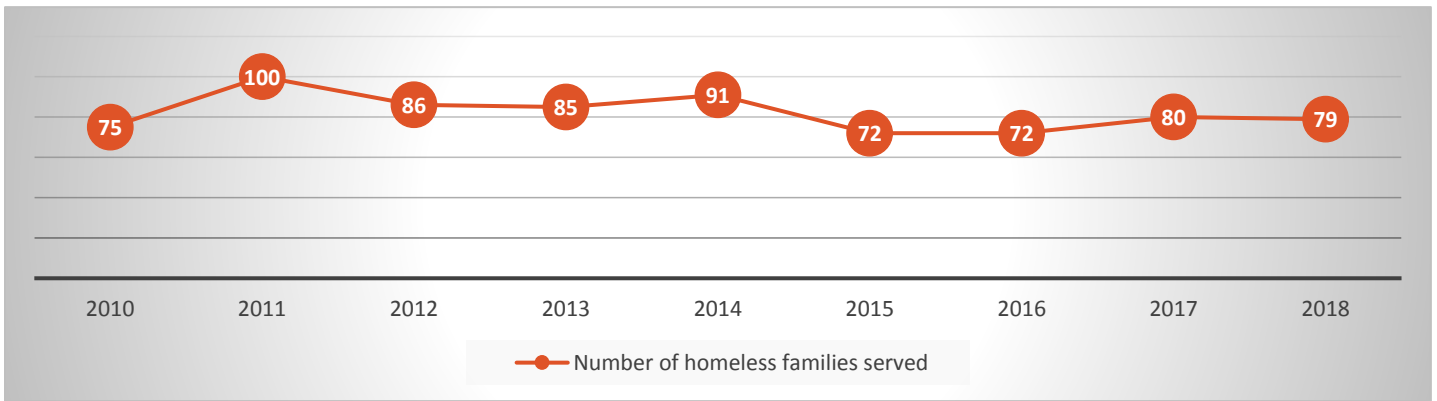
FAMILY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Family Services staff partner with families to establish family partnership agreements based on goals identified by each family. Goals are highly individualized and outline how the family and KCI will work together to achieve the identified goal.

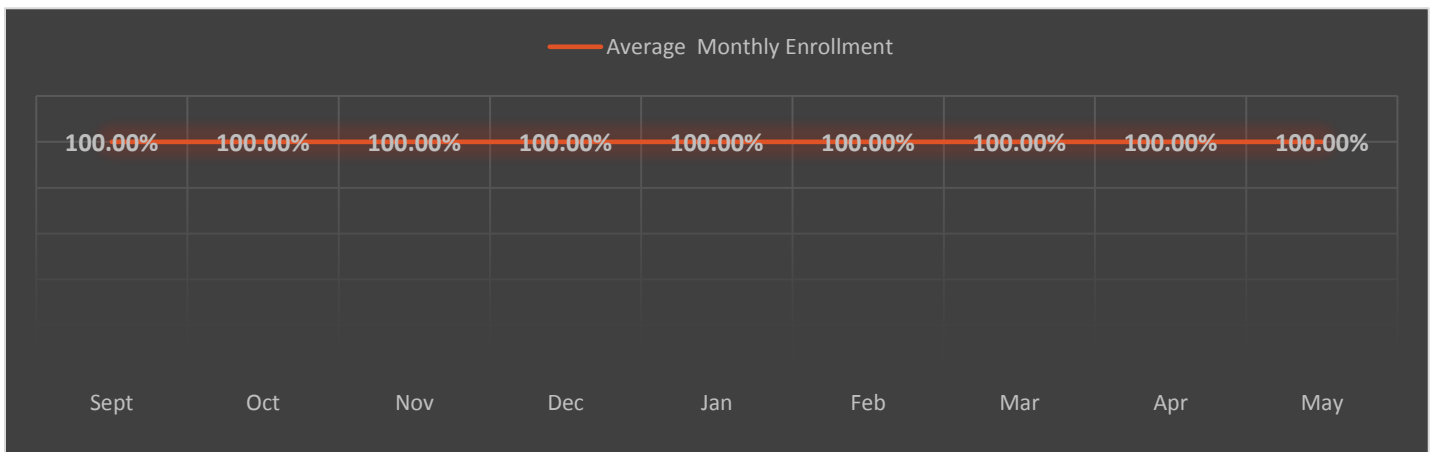
- During the 2017/2018 program year, 69 % of enrolled families participated in the family partnership agreement process.
- 43% of all established family partnership agreement goals had been completed.
- 82% of families established Family Life Practice goals.
- 64% of all established family life practice goals were accomplished.

Number of families experiencing homelessness who acquired housing during the 2017-2018 Program year:

26



AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT—FUNDED ENROLLMENT=248



STAFF

Classroom: KCI employs teachers and assistant teachers in its classrooms who are highly skilled professionals that understand the importance of individualizing to meet the unique needs of each child enrolled in the program.

Early Head Start: KCI employs an EHS home visitor; EHS center director/family advocate, and highly qualified EHS infant/toddler care teachers and EHS assistant teachers. The EHS team provides comprehensive center and home-based services for families who are expecting or have infants and toddlers under three years of age.



Family Services: KCI employs family advocates, an enrollment specialist, a family and community engagement specialist and a family services coordinator to strengthen and support parenting through relationships, access to resources, and goal setting.

Disabilities Services: KCI employs a disabilities & mental health coordinator who works with families whose children experience disabilities or developmental concerns. This position also supports teaching staff in adapting the environment and activities to ensure all children can participate.

Health Services: KCI employs a health and nutrition coordinator and a health assistant to promote positive health, nutrition, and dental programs for children and families.

Mental Health Consultant: KCI contracts with a licensed clinician to support children, family, and staff mental wellness.

Center Directors: KCI employees center directors to supervise center activities, facilities, and staff.

Mentor Coach: The early childhood mentor coach helps Head Start teachers, assistant teachers and center directors develop new skills and continuously improve their early childhood teaching practices.

Education Coordinator: The Ed Coordinator supports teaching staff in implementing curriculum and in using child outcome data to individualize learning experiences for children enrolled.



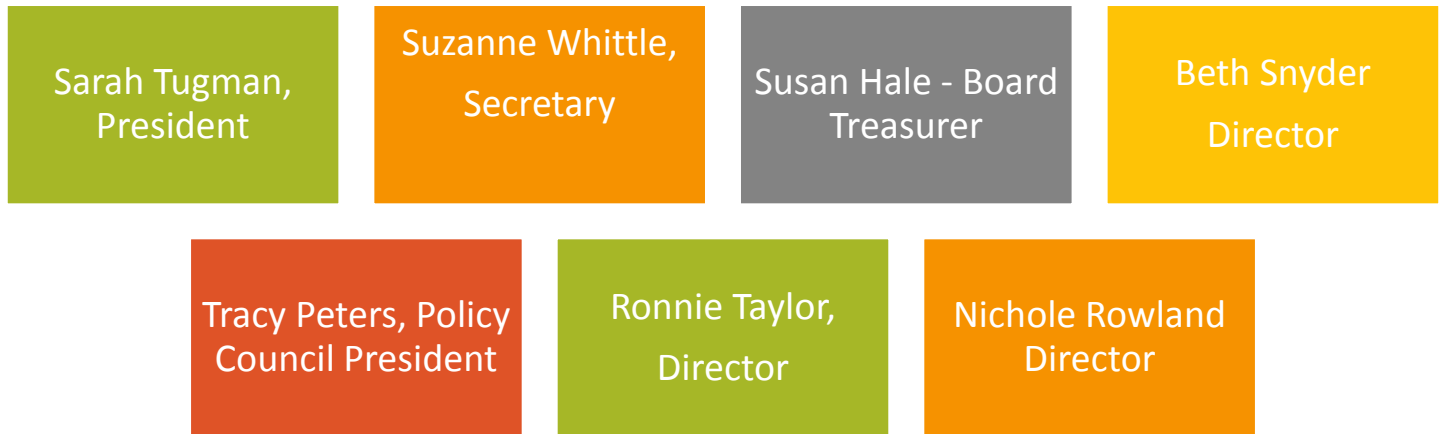
Program Support: KCI employs program support associates who provide reception and data entry services, a bookkeeper who assists with fiscal operations and an administrative assistant who provides logistical support for the management team.

Janitorial: 3 janitors assure the health and sanitation of KCI's facilities.

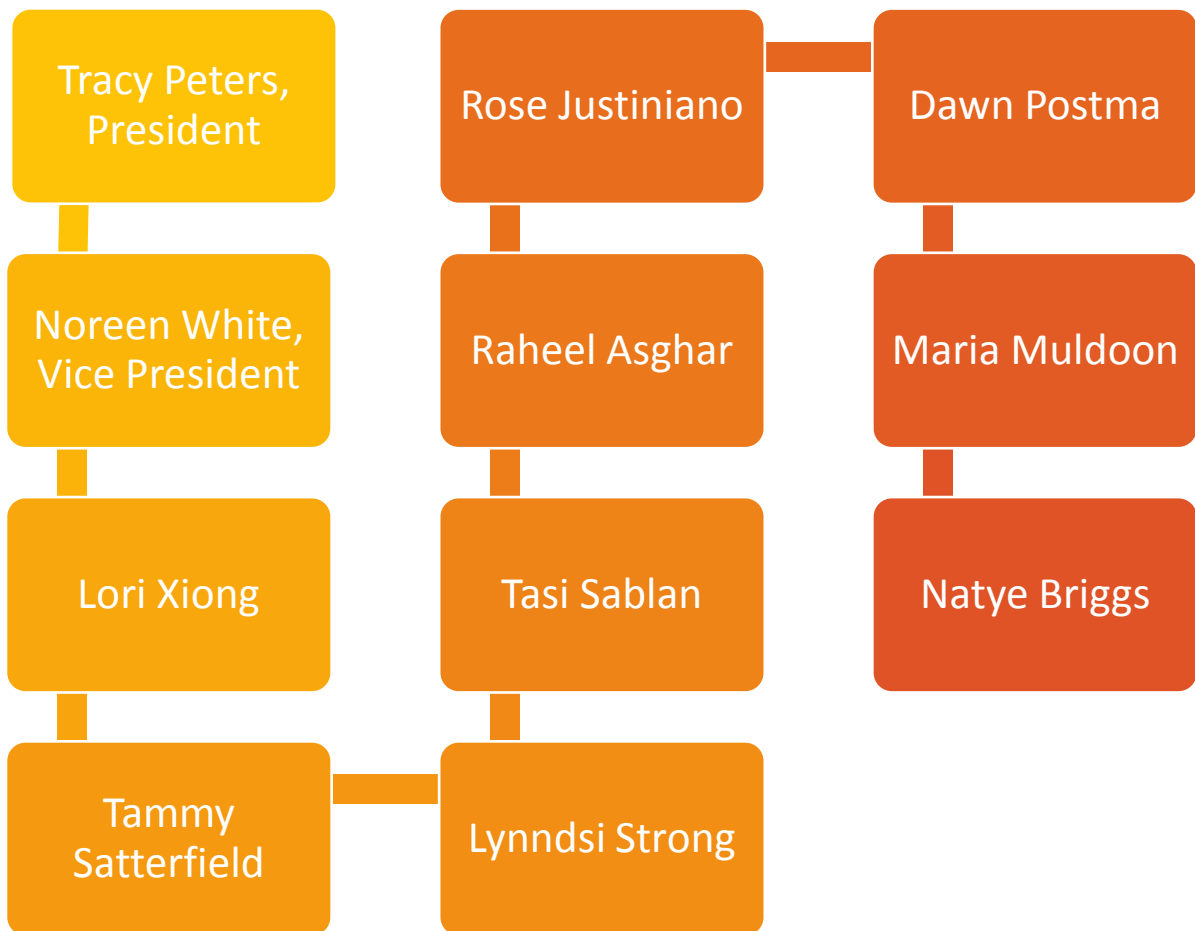
Facilities & Transportation Specialist: The facilities and transportation specialist provides support to all of Kids' Corps, Inc. through the coordination of facility maintenance and the transportation of children.

- In 2018, KCI had 79 full time employees. 35% are current or former Head Start parents.
- KCI's workforce is diverse. 52% of KCI's employees speak a primary language other than English. Languages spoken include Spanish, Hmong, Tagalog, Laotian, Albanian, German, and Samoan.
- KCI strives to recruit, train, and retain the most highly qualified staff available in all positions. All teachers hold at least an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood or a related field.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2018

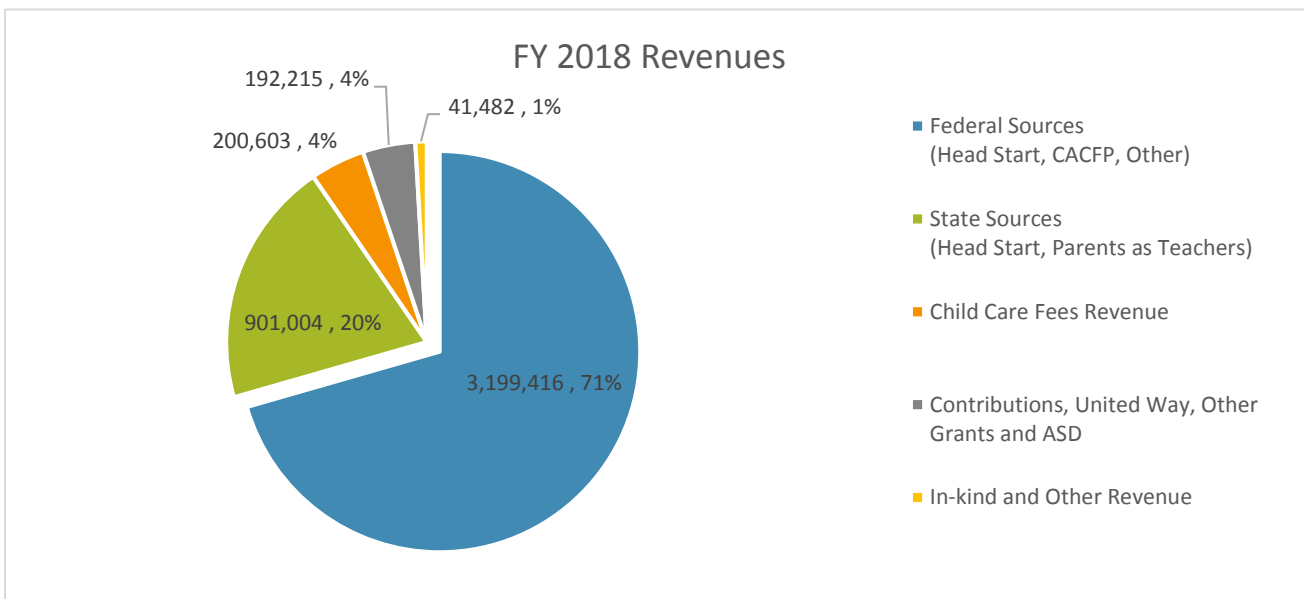


POLICY COUNCIL, 2018



FINACIAL REPORTS

	FY 2018 Revenues	FY 2017 Revenues
Revenue by Source		
Federal Sources (Head Start, CACFP, Other)	3,199,416	3,710,636
State Sources (Head Start, Parents as Teachers)	901,004	905,336
Child Care Fees Revenue	200,603	168,513
Contributions, United Way, Other Grants and ASD	192,215	210,641
In-kind and Other Revenue	41,482	2,378
Total Revenue	4,534,720	4,997,504



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

	FY 2018 Expenses	FY 2017 Expenses
Salaries & Benefits	2,893,845	3,315,825
Contractual	308,713	292,142
Repairs & Maintenance	13,467	58,346
Rent & Utilities	498,781	467,033
Travel & Training	49,425	58,993
Supplies	329,052	479,447
Equipment	33,182	86,303
Other	51,802	55,681
Insurance	33,643	42,728
Depreciation	96,985	102,533
Total Expenditures	4,308,895	4,959,031

KCI is audited annually and received an unqualified opinion (no exceptions noted) on its most recent audit. The audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2018 are available at www.kcialaska.org.



ANNUAL REPORT 2018--SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT (2015)

Our 2015 community assessment shows there are approximately 22,000 children under the age of 5 in Anchorage. This age group's population has not increased significantly over the last 5 years, with a population of 21,961 children 0-4 years old in 2010 rising only to 22,297 in 2015, an increase of just 1.5%. Using Census bureau data we estimate that about 20% of this number live below 100% of poverty as defined by the Office of Head Start federal income eligibility guidelines.¹ Using a 20% poverty rate, we estimate there are 1,760 three and four year olds income eligible for Head Start and 2,640 birth to three year olds eligible for EHS.

Our community assessment reveals that Anchorage is an exceptionally diverse community (ethnically and linguistically) with a relatively low family poverty rate, low (though increasing) unemployment, a high cost of living, a high rate of family homelessness, higher than average rates of domestic violence and an increasing rate of child maltreatment. The city's trend toward diversity is especially obvious when we look at its population of young children. While 67% of Anchorage residents are Caucasian, only 54% of the children aged 0-4 are.

In Anchorage and Alaska, the percent of the population living below the federal poverty level is well below the national average. This is deceiving though, because the cost of living is also significantly higher in Alaska than in other states. In Anchorage, it is estimated to be 27% higher than in other US cities.² The relative cost of housing has risen every year between 2009-2015 in Anchorage³; in fact, Anchorage has the 21st highest housing costs in the nation. The ASD Child in Transition (CIT) program identified 472 infants/toddlers and 380 preschool aged children as homeless during the 2013/14 school year.

Child abuse and neglect has been a persistent problem in Anchorage. Between 2006 and 2013, the average monthly number of children in State custody who were five or younger, went up by 15%.⁴ Exposure to domestic or intimate partner violence, which is a form of child abuse, is also an issue affecting children in Anchorage. Over 42% of Anchorage women surveyed by the UAA Justice Center reported experiencing intimate partner violence in their lifetime, compared to 33% nationally.⁵

To read our full community assessment go to www.kcialaska.org



¹ American Community Survey, 2009-13, Population under 18 years, Anchorage, AK.

² Alaska Department of Labor, Alaska Trends, "The Cost of Living in Alaska," July 2014.

³ <http://www.adn.com/article/20141124/broad-effort-focuses-increasing-housing-anchorage>.

⁴ Alaska Mental Health Board, "Adverse Childhood Experiences in Alaska," Presentation on October 9th, 2014.

⁵ "Key Results from the Alaska Victimization Study," UAA Justice Center, http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/research/2010/1103.01.avs_fy11/1103.011a.anchorage_summary.pdf

Kids' Corps, Inc. 2018 Donors

Kids' Corps thanks our many volunteers and donors. In addition to our parents and other family members of enrolled children who have given so much to the program, we are grateful to the individuals and organizations who provided financial support during the 2017/2018 program year.

Champion (\$5,000 & Up)

Rasmuson Foundation

Leader (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Carr Foundation
Anchorage East Rotary

Alaska USA Foundation
ASRC Energy Services

Advocate (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Rachel Boudreau

Suzanne Whittle

Wells Fargo

Sponsor (\$500-\$999)

Lisa Sparrow
Dirk Shumaker

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
Altman, Rogers & Co.

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
True North Federal Credit Union

Helper (\$250-\$499)

Lisa Wilson
Logistics LLC.
Anchorage Moose Lodge #1534

United Association Local 367
Plumbers & Steamfitters
Value Village

Anchorage Loyal Order of the
Moose

Friend (\$1-\$249)

Abigale Hensley
Heather Ireland
Craig Kestran
Donald Sparrow
Jacquelyn Sparrow
Susan Hale

Amanda Fieldhouse
George & Brenda Page
Rowena Brown
Linda Chamberlain
Rhonda Drake
Sharon Eluska

Staci Erickson
Moli Faletoi
Jessica Galyan
Hilary Hardwick
Kathleen Hart
Patrick Schafer

Rachel Schafer
Robert Schafer
Zoey Schafer
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Caroline Van Hemert
Jeffrey Warner
Nichole Rowland

