



OAKLAND FUND FOR
CHILDREN & YOUTH



Summer Programming

FY2021-2022 Strategy Summary

Prepared by Social Policy Research Associates | October 2022

The programs funded under OFCY's Summer Programming strategy are designed to promote learning and social connection through services offered in school-based and community-based settings during summer months. Children and youth participate in programs that provide opportunities for enrichment, exploration, and new experiences that foster confidence, self-esteem, and other important life skills in a safe and supportive environment. This report draws on attendance records, youth surveys, and quarterly program reports to summarize strategy achievements and progress to date.

Strategy Results



999 Youth
participated in
programming



108,345 Hours
of service provided



108 Average Hours
per youth participant



10 Programs
provided enrichment
activities



85% of Youth
are interested in what
they do at their program



\$1,131,100
awarded to programs

“This year has been rough for everyone, especially the kids, so seeing them come to KYP bonding and building friendships was very heartwarming. Karaoke brought everyone together that day. Kids who were seemingly quiet and shy even got up and participated in karaoke. That day in particular everyone was getting along and it felt like one big family and to me that is what KYP is all about. It doesn't matter what's going on at home, but when you step foot into the program you know you have a support system and can let your hair down and have fun.”

– Staff, Family Support Services' Kinship Summer Youth Program (from Kinship Summer Youth Programs End-of-Summer Report)

Cover photo courtesy of Prescott Circus Theatre's Summer Program

Funded Programs

Aim High Oakland - Aim High for High School	Oakland Fine Art Summer School (OFASS) - City of Oakland Parks Recreation & Youth Development	Prescott Circus Theatre Summer Program - Prescott Circus Theatre
Camp Thrive - East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC)	Oakland Freedom Schools (OFS) - Lincoln	Summer Cultural Enrichment Program - East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC)
Concordia Summer - Girls Incorporated of Alameda County	Pre-Collegiate Academy - East Bay Consortium of Educational Institutions, Inc.	Summer Gains - Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland, Inc.
Kinship Summer Youth Program - Family Support Services		

Strategy Results

Beginning in the 2019-2022 funding cycle, OFCY adopted a Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework to assess its role in contributing toward city-wide goals. The RBA model is a comprehensive approach for assessing the quantity of services provided by programs, the quality of those services, and the effect of those services on the lives of children, youth, and families. It does this by addressing **three guiding questions: (1) How much did we do? (2) How well did we do it? (3) Is anyone better off?** The table on the following page displays results related to these three questions.

The remainder of this report includes the following sections aligned with this RBA framework:

- 1) Overview of Programs and Participants
- 2) How much did the programs provide?
- 3) How well did programs do it?
- 4) Is anyone better off as a result of the strategy's work?

FY21-22 Results Based Accountability Results

How much did we do?

Number of Programs Funded	10
Number of Youth Served	999
Total Hours of Service Provided	108,345
Average Hours of Service per Youth	108

How well did we do it?

Enrollment: Average progress toward projected number of youth served ¹	96%
Total Service Hours: Average progress toward projected total hours of service	124%
Average Hours of Service: Average progress toward projected average hours of service	189%
Safety: Youth who agreed that they felt safe in their program	85%
Positive Engagement: Youth who agreed that they are interested in what they do at their program	85%
Caring Adults: Youth who agreed that there is an adult at their program who really cares about them	76%

Is Anyone Better Off?

Community Connectedness: Youth who agreed that they feel more connected to their community	63%
Youth Leadership: Youth who agreed that they view themselves as more of a leader	55%

“I like Aim High because the teachers are fantastic, and they are always there to help you with anything you need either in your schoolwork or life problems. The classes are always fun and the teachers make the lessons interesting and easier for us to understand.”

– Participant, Aim High Oakland (from Aim High’s End-of-Summer report)

¹ At the start of the fiscal year, programs estimate their annual enrollment and the total number of hours of service they will provide. Progress is calculated as the actual enrollment divided by the projected enrollment.

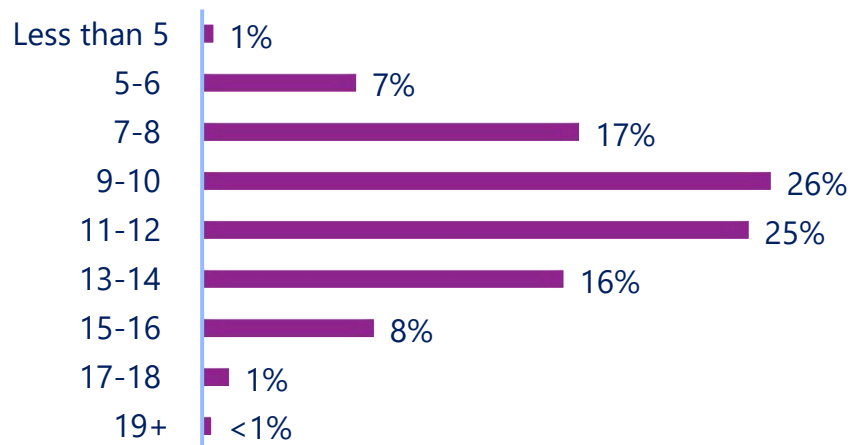
Programs and Participants

During the summer of 2021, 999 children and youth participated in summer programs. Summer programs offered learning and enrichment activities for youth ranging from STEAM activities, college and career workshops, sports, arts and performance arts, and field trips that supported academic success and meaningful peer relationship-building. Due to the pandemic, programs adjusted their recruitment strategy to enroll participants through texting and calling families, as well as tabling at school sites during the end of the school year. Girls Incorporated’s Concordia Summer reported that these recruitment efforts raised elementary enrollment by 50%.

Furthermore, programs such as EBAYC’s Camp Thrive and the Boys and Girls Club’s Summer Gains provided youth with opportunities to be outdoors through sports, physical fitness programs, and field trips. For some youth, this was their first time engaging with the outdoors. Activities such as fishing, hiking redwood trails, and swimming gave youth a chance to connect with their environment in engaging and novel ways.

As shown below, about half of participants were between 9 and 12 years old; 91% were between 5 to 14 years old.

Age of Participants



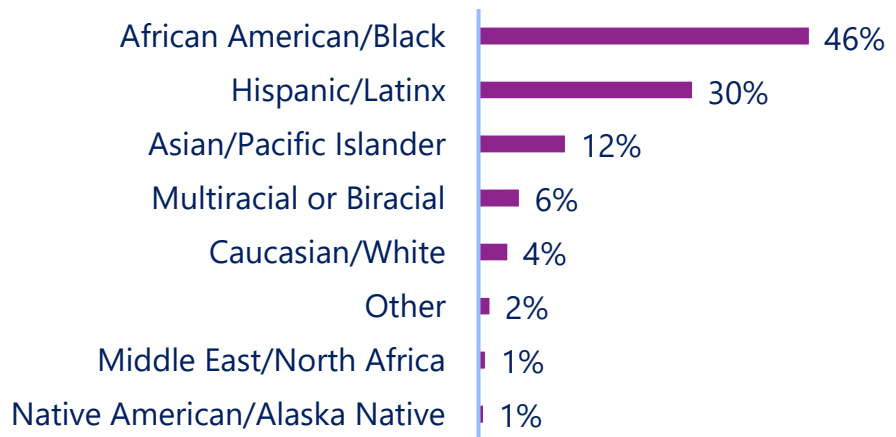
Summer programs offered social emotional development and leadership opportunities to meet the diverse needs of Oakland’s youth.

“For our middle school campers, one of our pods of 12 students were all newcomers from Guatemala and whose primary language is Mam. These students have been in the US and Oakland/East Bay Area for less than 2 years. When we took them on Camp Thrive field trips, most were not aware there were forest, wilderness and outdoor environments in Oakland. In addition, many had not actually gone to a swimming pool previously.”

–Staff, EBAYC’s Camp Thrive (from Camp Thrive’s End-of-Summer report)

Reflecting OFCY’s priority focus on reducing race-based disparities, close to half of participants in summer programs identified as Black. About one-third identified as Latinx and 12% identified as Asian or Pacific Islander.

Race/Ethnicity of OFCY Summer Participants

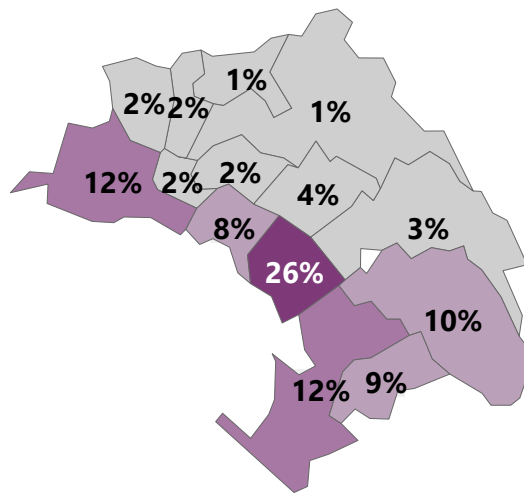


Black participants comprised the largest group of youth served.

By primarily serving children and youth who live in West Oakland and along the 880 Corridor in East Oakland, as shown in the map on the following page, the Summer Programming strategy aligned with OFCY’s commitment to serve neighborhoods known to experience the highest levels of stress.

Youth were most likely to live in East and West Oakland.

Zip Code of Participants



94601: Fruitvale	26%
94607: West Oakland, Chinatown	12%
94621: Webster Tract, Coliseum	12%
94605: Eastmont, Havenscourt	10%
94603: Sobrante Park, Elmhurst	9%
94606: Highland Park, East Lake	8%
Multiple Zip Codes	6%

Table lists Zip Codes where at least 5% of participants live.

Programs provided virtual and in-person programming that focused on a wide variety of goals and activities to meet the needs and interests of Oakland’s diverse youth.

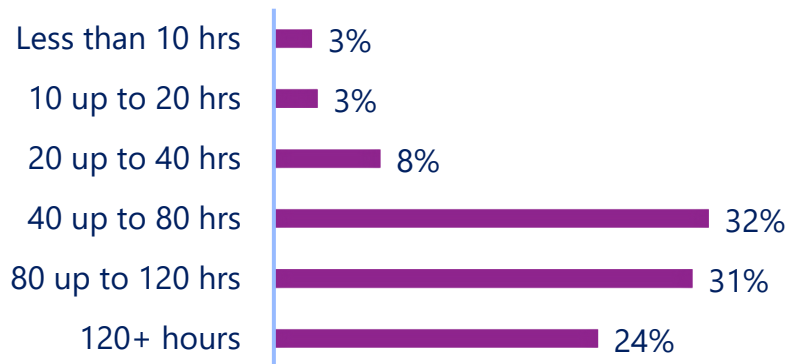
How Much Did Programs Do?

Over the summer, programs provided 108,345 hours of service, which is more than the twice the number of hours provided last year. Over the summer, programs adapted to the circumstances surrounding the pandemic, offering a mixture of virtual, hybrid, and fully in-person programming. For example, the East Bay Consortium’s Pre-Collegiate Academy offered virtual classes in algebra and geometry alongside an online guest speaker series where speakers shared their experiences and educational journeys in their career fields. Lincoln’s Oakland Freedom Schools led online literacy program sessions for youth in the mornings and in-person enrichment activities in the afternoon. Other programs, such as EOYDC’s Summer Cultural Enrichment Center and Prescott Circus Theatre Summer Program, noted

that in summer 2021 they were able to return to fully in-person programming for the first time since March 2020.

Youth spent an average of 108 hours in programming, a significant increase compared to last year, when average attendance was 69 hours. About one quarter of participants spent over 120 hours in summer programming.

Hours of Attendance



Many programs noted low enrollment and absenteeism as challenges coming out of the pandemic. For programs that offered virtual programming, caregivers sometimes expressed apprehension that youth would have “Zoom fatigue” from participating. Programs that offered hybrid in-person and virtual programming noted that many families opted for fully in-person summer programs or summer interventions offered by their schools. Despite these challenges, virtual and hybrid programs continued to conduct outreach to families, which helped address absenteeism. Additionally, programs such as the East Bay Consortium’s Pre-Collegiate Academy bolstered virtual engagement with daily “get to know each other” games and activities (e.g., warm-ups, ice breakers, journals, and shared strategies to cope with stress).



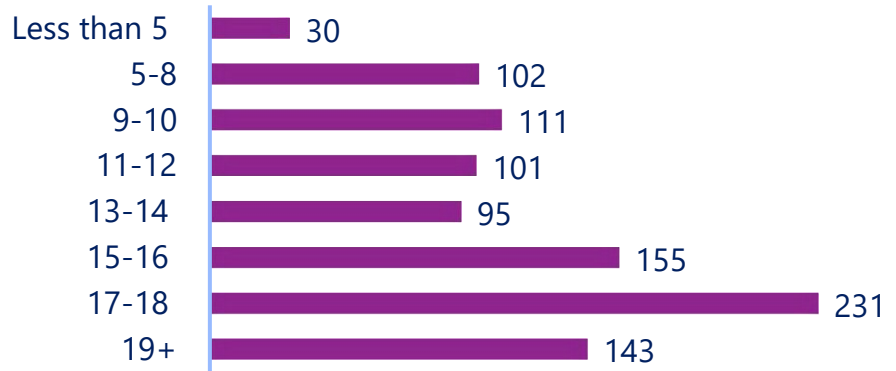
Participants spent an average of 108 hours in summer programming. About one quarter spent over 120 hours.



Hybrid and virtual programs reported challenges with enrollment and attendance.

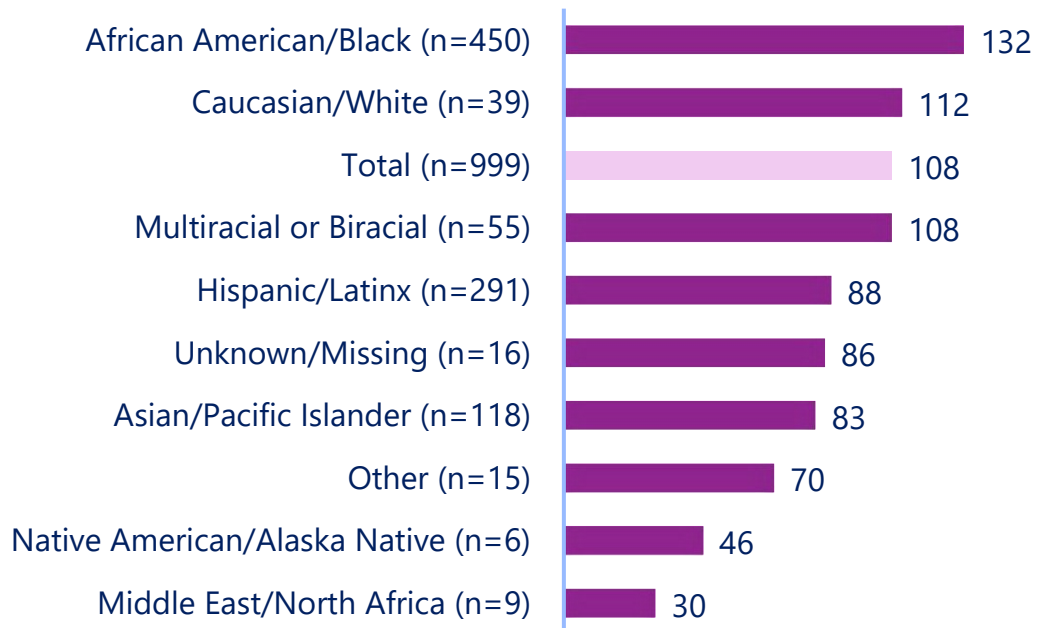
Among 5 to 14 years, who comprised 91% of participants, the time spent in programming did not vary consistently, as shown in the chart below.

Average Hours of Attendance by Age



Black children and youth spent the most time in program on average, followed by White participants. Native American and Middle Eastern/North African children and youth, comprising less than 2% of all participants, spent the least number of hours in their program on average.

Average Hours by Race/Ethnicity



On average, Black children and youth spent the most time in programming.

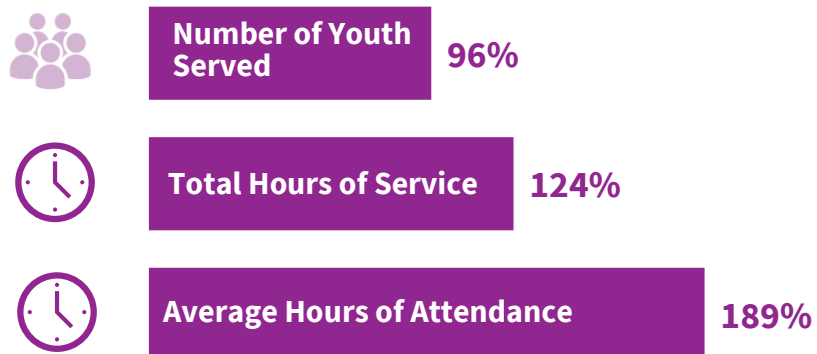
How Well Did Programs Do It?

OFCY tracks a series of indicators to assess how well grantees in each strategy have implemented their programming.

The first three indicators include progress toward projected program enrollment, total hours of service, and average hours of service per participant. Despite the enrollment challenges described previously, programs enrolled an average of 96% of the number of youth anticipated. Overall, attendance was strong, with participants attending programs for more hours than anticipated. On average, programs provided 124% of the total hours of service they projected providing.

Attendance was strong, with participants attending programs for more hours than anticipated.

Program Performance: Progress Toward Projections



In addition to these performance measures, the Summer Programming strategy has indicators that are signs of program quality, including participant perceptions of safety, the presence of caring staff, and positive engagement. As demonstrated on the following page, Summer Programming participants generally gave high ratings in these areas, with more than 80% of participants reporting that they felt safe in their program and that they were interested in what they do at the program.

Program Quality: Youth Survey Responses (n=244)

Safety

85%

Youth who agree that they feel safe in their program

Positive Engagement

85%

Youth who agree that they are interested in what they do at their program

Caring Adults

76%

Youth who agree that there is an adult who cares about them at their program

“We spent the first two weeks of camp supporting our elementary campers to unlock their most powerful inner self and getting to know their classmates and learning how to work together. Toward the end of camp, one of our younger students brought a pair of shoes for another student because he saw that his peer’s shoes had holes. We couldn’t be more proud and humbled by the kindness and compassion our youth have demonstrated.”

- Staff, EBAYC’s Camp Thrive (from Camp Thrive’s End-of-Summer Report)

Is Anyone Better Off?

In addition to the general youth development outcomes highlighted in the main FY21-22 OFCY report, OFCY tracks indicators of youth leadership and community connectedness to assess if Summer Programming participants are better off because of their participation. As shown below, close to two-thirds of participants who completed a survey reported feeling more connected to their

community and more than half reported that they became more of a leader since coming to their program.

Participant Outcomes: Youth Survey Scores (n=244)

Community Connection

63%

Youth who agree that they feel more connected to their community since coming to their program

Leadership

55%

Youth who agree that they are more of a leader since coming to their program

Although survey results were not as high this year as they have been in past years, most participants still agreed that they felt more connected to their community and were more of a leader since attending their program. This difference may stem from the apathy and disengagement that some OFCY-funded program staff across all strategies observed in youth this year after the isolation and stress caused by COVID-19.

In addition to these primary indicators, participant survey data and program reports tell a more comprehensive story about the ways that the Summer Programming strategy supports social emotional wellbeing, retention of skills and knowledge from the school year, leadership, and community connectedness.

**74% of youth agreed:
I feel like I belong at this
program.**

Social Emotional Wellbeing

Programs emphasized social emotional wellbeing and implemented activities and approaches to center the mental wellness of children and youth. This was a high priority for summer programming coming out of the pandemic, which has caused trauma, isolation, and stress for many youth in Oakland. EBAYC's Camp Thrive offered a "Power of Me" curriculum for elementary students, which taught youth how to explore their feelings, how to live a healthier lifestyle, and how to work with their peers. At Aim High Oakland, participants had an opportunity to explore topics such as bullying, peer pressure, and racism as part of the social and emotional skill building course entitled "Issues and Choices." Notably, Aim High Oakland also provided teachers with extra training on how to support students' mental health in a virtual environment, including trauma-informed teaching practices and anti-bias training.

"This is my third summer and I love it. I don't know what I'd do without it. Aim High really makes you feel a part of something. At such a large school, you can feel lost sometimes. Aim High has allowed me to make new friends and be motivated. The teachers are really involved and I feel like they want to teach you. It is always fun and you really learn."

- Participant, Aim High Oakland (from Aim High's End-of-Summer report)

Retention of Skills and Knowledge

To help offset learning loss results from the pandemic, programs offered enrichment opportunities intended to engage students in summer learning in fun and interactive ways. For example, Aim High Oakland offered a range of project-based learning opportunities, from STEAM activities like building parachutes to culturally relevant humanities coursework, such as engaging in creative writing and designing virtual gardens. At Family Support Services' Kinship Summer Youth Program, participants received daily

“Because of Aim High, I’m a better student, friend and person. I used to eat alone, walk alone, sit alone. Now I have all of these friends. I always hesitated to ask for help at school, but here at Aim High, when I ask, there is always someone to help. I used to struggle with math a lot, and Aim High really helped with that. My grades improved because of math classes at Aim High.”

– Participant, Aim High Oakland (from Aim High’s End-of-Summer report)

**79% of youth agreed:
Since coming to this
program, I am better at
something that I used to
think was hard.**

academic support in math, reading, and science, along with field trips to locations like the West Oakland library. East Bay Consortium’s Pre-Collegiate Academy offered math classes and invited guest speakers from a diverse range of professional fields to share their career experiences with students. At the end of the summer, Pre-Collegiate Academy also hosted a virtual open house with over sixty families. During the open house, parents and guardians had the opportunity to hear about summer program experiences from students and teachers in the program.

Leadership and Connection to Community

Summer programs incorporated different opportunities within their program model to support children and youth in developing their leadership capacity and foster their connection to community. For example, at EBAYC’s Camp Thrive middle school students engaged with an “Outdoor Adventure” curriculum designed to foster their leadership and self-confidence, as well as outdoor skills. Youth participated in various activities across the East Bay, including Lake Chabot, the redwood forests, and the Berkeley Marina. Prescott Circus Theatre Summer Program offered a leadership development program for middle and high school aged students.

Moreover, many programs engaged older youth as program leaders to support their younger peers with mentorship and

**79% of youth agreed:
This program helps me be
more active.**

support. At EOYDC's Summer Cultural Enrichment Program, youth interns had the opportunity to take on different leadership roles, such as serving as a youth leader or providing administrative support. This year, the youth leader advisor role was added as a peer-to-peer support role to familiarize new youth leaders with implementing trauma-informed practices with participants.

Conclusion

In summary, the Summer Programming Strategy offered both virtual and in-person opportunities for enrichment, exploration, academic support, and community-based experiences to children and youth during the pandemic. Although several programs reported pandemic-related challenges with enrollment, they still enrolled 999 youth who spent an average of 108 hours in safe, supportive programs. Notably, 85% of surveyed children and youth agreed that they felt safe in their program and that they were interested in what they do at their program. As a result of these experiences, most youth agreed that they became more connected to their community, more of a leader, and better at something that they used to think was hard.