

# OAKLAND FUND FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 2020 Summer Programming Report

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, ages 5-14, 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. Many programs prioritized services for low-income African American, Latinx, and Asian/Pacific Islander youth, especially in East Oakland, Fruitvale, and West Oakland. Due to the Bay Area shelter-in-place order this year, OFCY summer programs shifted to virtual programming and modified in-person services to continue engaging and supporting children and youth in a safe manner during this challenging time.

## **FUNDED PROGRAMS**

- Aim High for High School—Aim High Oakland
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland—Summer Gains
- East Bay Consortium of Educational Institutions—Pre-Collegiate Academy
- East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC)—Summer Cultural Enrichment Program
- Family Support Services—Kinship Summer Youth Program
- Girls Incorporated of Alameda County (Girls Inc.)—Concordia Summer
- Lincoln—Oakland Freedom Schools (OFS)
- Prescott Circus Theatre—Summer Program

## **Strategy Results**



**639** youth participated in programming



**44,096** hours of service provided



**69** average hours per youth participant



**8** programs provided enrichment and summer learning



**91%** youth feel supported and respected at their program



**79%** youth feel more connected to their community since going to their program



**\$952,424** granted to programs

# Strategy Results

Beginning in the 2019-2022 funding cycle, OFCY has 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: How much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?***

## Program Achievements – How much did we do?

<b>Number of Youth Served</b>	639
<b>Total Hours of Service Provided</b>	44,096

## Program Performance and Quality - How well did we do it?

<b>Enrollment:</b> Average progress toward projected number of youth served <sup>8</sup>	74%
<b>Total Hours of Service:</b> Average progress toward projected total hours of service	88%
<b>Average Hours of Service:</b> Average progress toward projected average hours of service	135%
<b>Safety:</b> Percent of participants who report feeling safe in program	91%
<b>Caring Adults:</b> Percent of participants who respond that there is an adult at the program who really cares about them	80%
<b>Positive Engagement:</b> Percent of participants who respond that they are interested in what they do at the program	87%

## Participant Outcomes – Is Anyone Better Off?

<b>Youth Leadership:</b> Percent of participants who report that they view themselves as more of a leader since coming to the program	70%
<b>Community Connectedness:</b> Percent of participants who report that they feel more connected to their community since coming to the program	79%

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

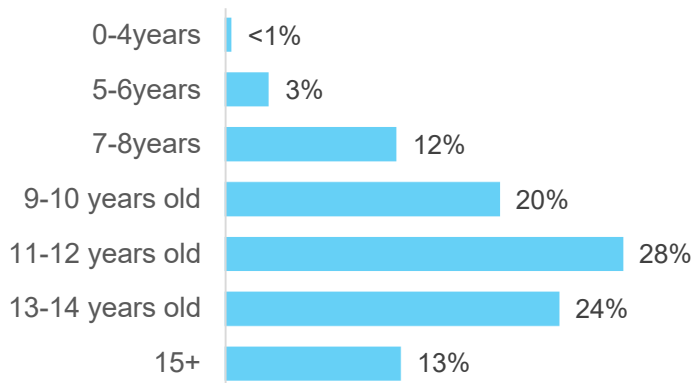
- 1) **Achievements:** How much did the programs provide?
- 2) **Performance and Program Quality:** How well did programs do it?
- 3) **Outcomes:** Is anyone better off as a result of the strategy's work?

<sup>8</sup> At the start of the year, programs estimate their annual enrollment and the total number of hours of service they will provide for each quarter. Progress is calculated as the actual enrollment divided by the projected enrollment.

## Program Achievements

During the summer of 2020, **639 children and youth** participated in summer programs. These OFCY funded programs serve children and youth, ages 5-14, in Oakland. Due to shelter-in-place, programs adjusted their recruitment strategy to enroll participants through calling, texting, and emailing families; word of mouth, OUSD, and schools. Programs prioritized low-income children and youth who were returning participants and have parents who are essential workers. As shown in the chart below, over 70% of participants were between 9-14 years old.

### Age of Participants



Older youth were often engaged as program leaders in a cascading mentorship model. EOYDC's Summer Cultural Enrichment Program, for example, hired older youth, many of whom were former program participants, as leaders and engaged them in leadership training and mentorship.



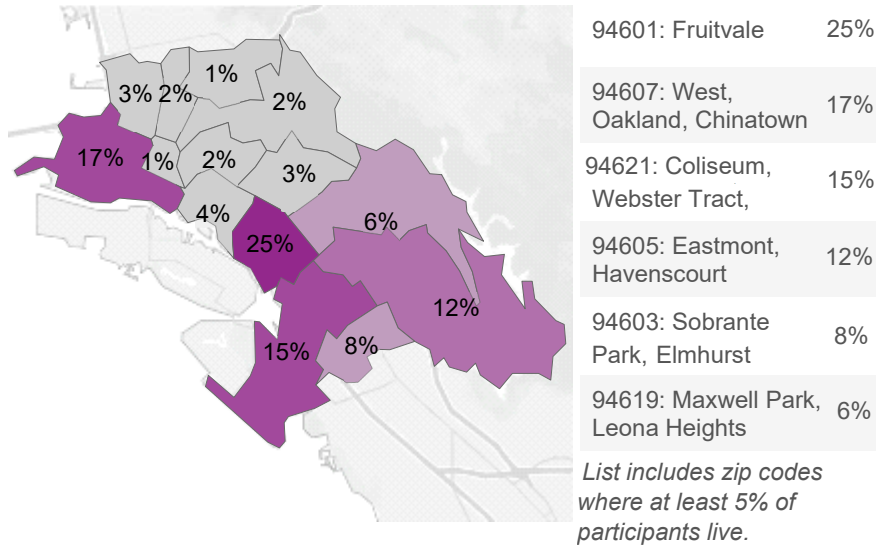
**In response to shelter-in-place, OFCY summer programs offered virtual and modified in-person enrichment opportunities, particularly focusing on underserved children and youth in high-needs neighborhoods.**

**Over 70% of participants were between 9-14 years old.**

*Photo courtesy of EOYDC's Summer Cultural Enrichment Program*

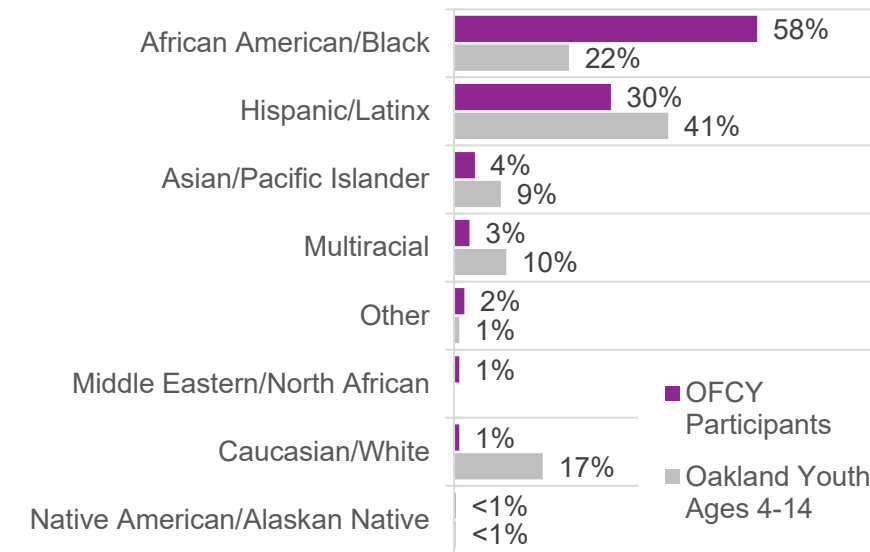
By primarily serving children and youth who live in West Oakland and along the 880 Corridor in East Oakland, the Summer Programming strategy aligned with OFCY's commitment to serve neighborhoods known to experience the highest levels of stress.

### Zip Code of Residence



Reflecting OFCY's priority focus on African American/Black children and youth, over half of participants in summer programs identified as African American/Black, compared to 22% of Oakland's youth aged 4-14.<sup>9</sup>

### Race/Ethnicity of OFCY Participants and Oakland Youth



<sup>9</sup> City of Oakland youth data comes from American Community Survey (ACS) graph, Middle Eastern/North African OFCY participants were included in the not represented in racial/ethnic categories collected by the ACS.

Most participants reside in neighborhoods that experience the highest levels of community stress in Oakland.

“ [We serve] kids that grow up in East Oakland. In the summer, when things are really uncertain for a lot of students as far as their meals or [exposure] to violence, coming back to the [program] allows them to take a relaxing breath, knowing there is something normal that they can still hold on to.”

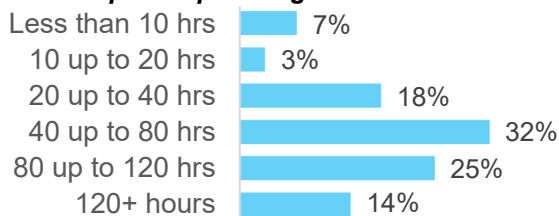
- Staff, EOYDC's Summer Cultural Enrichment Program

The city's African American/Black youth were the most likely to be served by summer programs.

Over the summer, **programs provided 44,096 hours of service.** Despite challenges that arose from the shelter-in-place, programs continued to promote summer learning through virtual programs, modified in-person programming that allowed for social distancing, or a hybrid in-person/virtual model. Many summer programs offered learning and enrichment activities ranging from STEM, sports, performance arts, and college and career workshops that support positive youth development and academic success. Some programs also incorporated independent work that allowed students to work on assignments on their own time.

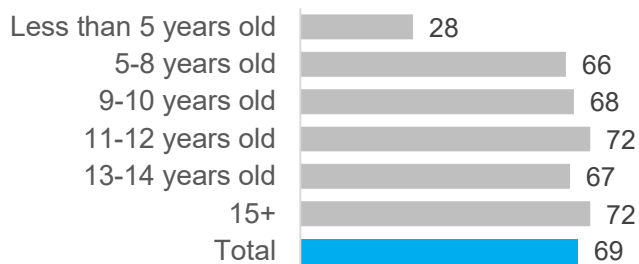
Youth spent an average of 69 hours in programming, which, although high, is somewhat lower than last year. Program staff underscored this point in interviews and surveys, describing the challenges of keeping youth engaged in a virtual format. Furthermore, some programs intentionally reduced the number of hours. Some virtual programs wanted to give students a break from their screens, while some in-person programs shifted to half-day cohorts to maintain smaller pods of students as directed by public health guidelines.<sup>10</sup>

**Hours of Participation per Program**



Among the target age range of 5 to 14 years, and across race and ethnicity, the time spent in programming did not vary significantly.

**Average Hours of Participation per Program by Age**



Operating during the summer months, programs were able to provide intensive enrichment and learning opportunities to participants, as well as case management, connections to basic needs, and social support.

Youth consistently spent many hours in summer programming, although hours of service was lower than last year for various reasons related to the pandemic.

<sup>10</sup> The charts on this page reflect the hours youth spent in each program. Youth who participated in two programs are represented twice in each chart.

# Program Performance and Quality

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.<sup>11</sup>

As shown to the right, **program attendance was very high**, with participating students attending programs for more hours than anticipated. Programs were somewhat less successful in enrolling the number of youth they anticipated, with programs on average reaching 74% of their enrollment targets.

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 to the right, Summer Programming participants generally gave high ratings in these areas, with more than nine out of ten participants reporting that they feel safe in their program.

“ They made [learning] **interactive and fun**. You never feel like your voice isn't heard. The way they taught the class was so fun and I always felt like I was having fun yet learning at the same time.”

– Participant, East Bay Consortium of Educational Institutions' Pre-Collegiate Academy

## Program Performance: Average Progress Toward Projected Enrollment and Attendance



Number of Youth Served 74%



Total Hours of Service 88%



Average Hours of Attendance 135%

## Program Quality: Youth Survey Responses



Safety 91%

Percent of youth who agree that they feel safe in their program



Positive Engagement 87%

Percent of youth who agree that they are interested in what they do at the program



Caring Adults 80%

Percent of youth who agree that there is an adult who cares about them at their program

<sup>11</sup> At the start of the fiscal year, programs estimate the units of service and enrollment they expect to meet.

## Participant Outcomes

In addition to the general youth development outcomes highlighted in the main Summer 2020 report, OFCY tracks indicators of youth leadership and community connectedness to assess if summer program participants are better off because of their participation.

In addition to these primary indicators, participant survey data and program interviews tell a more comprehensive story about the ways that the Summer Programming strategy supports the development of skills, leadership, physical health, and social-emotional skills over the summer months.

### Participant Outcomes: Youth Survey Responses



#### Leadership

70%

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



#### Community Connection

79%

Percent of youth who agree that there is an adult who cares about them at their program

### Increased sense of belonging and mental wellness

Programs use an asset-based approach to promote peer and social connection and incorporate activities that tend to the mental wellness of children and youth. Lincoln Families' Oakland Freedom Schools start their programming each day with Harambe Circle, an activity that aims to create a sense of belonging among participants in the program. Participants refer to one another as "sister" or "brother," which helps create a sense of family within the program and inspires participants to support each other. Furthermore, the motivational song, cheers, and chants help to affirm and highlight participants' assets and strengths and where they come from and the meditation component helps youth feel grounded through breathing exercises which supports mental wellness. At Prescott Circus Theatre, the summer program includes a mindfulness activity and engages youth in discussions about the importance of wellness and self-care, especially during shelter-in-place. Notably, youth survey results were the strongest in this area, demonstrating the importance that summer programming played in supporting emotional health and wellness. This was a high priority for summer programming that took place in the midst of a pandemic that has caused trauma, isolation, and stress for many youth in Oakland.

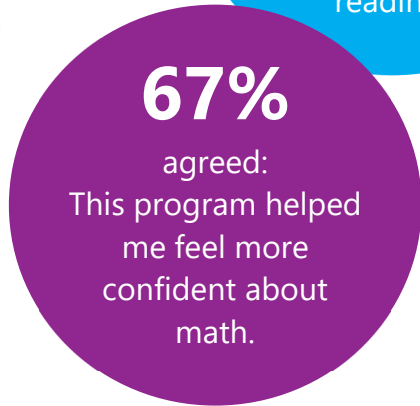
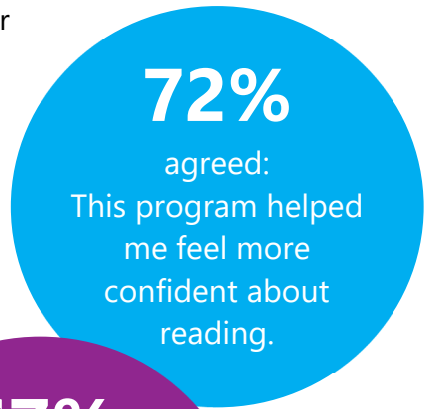


“ My favorite part about this program is that people are so nice and I think I fit in and belong here.

– Participant, EOYDC's Summer Cultural Enrichment Program

## High Retention of Skills and Knowledge from School Year

To help off-set summer learning loss, summer programs offer enrichment opportunities that are intended to engage students in year-round learning in fun and interactive ways. For example, Aim High Oakland offers project-based learning opportunities to engage students in applying and retaining skills and knowledge learned throughout the year. Furthermore, the program intentionally identifies 1-2 skills or topic areas that students will be encountering the following school year to give students a head start on academic content and prepare them for success. The Boys & Girls Club also provides remedial support and academic enrichment opportunities through their Summer Gains program. Children and youth participate in daily reading and math activities that support the retention of skills and knowledge gained from the school year that are interspersed with fun games and activities to promote engagement.



## Increased leadership and connection to community

Summer programs typically incorporate different opportunities within their program model to support children and youth in developing their leadership capacity and foster their connection to community. For example, the Summer Cultural Enrichment Program at East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC) includes an internship component that promotes leadership and connection to community by employing high-school and college-aged youth interns to help lead enrichment activities and serve as mentors to children and younger youth in the program. Additionally, the Boys & Girls Club's Summer Gains program offers leadership and community service opportunities through group club activities and holds annual scholarship and achievement awards to recognize participants who "have served and excelled in a leadership capacity."



“ When I first started here, I was a super shy person... Now, I'm really super good at talking to other people. My leadership skills just (got better) because I had to step up in uncomfortable situations and learn how to adapt to it.

-Participant, EOYDC's Summer Cultural Enrichment Program



## Survey Responses by Subgroups

An analysis of survey responses by subgroup revealed some differences in outcomes across race, gender, and age:

- **Latinx/Hispanic youth** reported, on average, **higher rates of Positive Engagement** than their peers. Conversely, African American/Black youth reported lower average ratings in the areas of *Mastery and Development of Skills* and *Positive Engagement*.<sup>12</sup> African American/Black youth were also less likely to report feeling safe in their program (86% versus 90% of their peers).
- **Females** were more likely to report **strong Leadership outcomes** than their male peers.<sup>13</sup>
- **Middle school youth** (rising 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders) tended to have **lower outcome scores** across all outcome domains and gave lower average ratings on measures of program quality.<sup>14</sup> These differences have been consistent across multiple strategies over multiple years and may be a result of their developmental stage.



Photo courtesy of Family Support Service's Kinship Summer Youth Program

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<sup>12</sup> These differences were statistically significant at  $p < .05$ .

<sup>13</sup> These differences were statistically significant at  $p < .05$ .

<sup>14</sup> These findings were statistically significant at  $p < .05$  in all outcome domains except *Persistence and Resilience* and *Connections to Caring Adults*.