

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION



“ We offer [teachers] a perspective on how developmental issues might play into a **child’s adjustment** to their program. We **really think together with teachers** about their approach to a particular child. ”

-Program Director

The *Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation* programs funded by OFCY provide support to early childhood educators and parents to promote healthy emotional and social development. Licensed mental health professionals consult weekly with educators around the mental health and developmental needs of children in their classroom, deliver parenting workshops, and provide individual consultations to children and parents to help transform challenging behaviors. These programs support Head Start, OUSD Child Development Centers, and a handful of home-based preschools throughout Oakland.

The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Strategy at a Glance

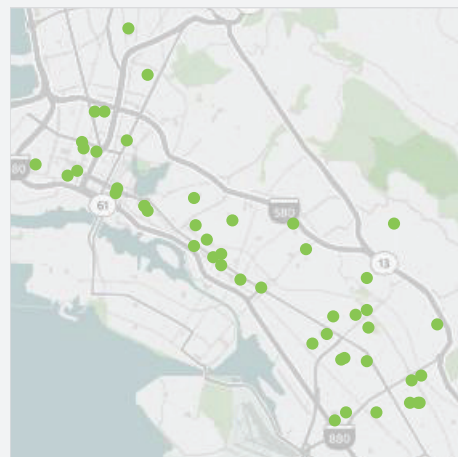
\$700,000 invested

2,071 children served

3 programs funded

- Family Paths, Inc. – *Early Childhood Mental Health Collaborative*
- Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay – *Integrated Early Childhood Consultation Program*
- Lincoln Child Center, Inc. – *Early Childhood Mental Health*

48 program sites



“ We go out on site between two to five hours a week to **build relationships** with the staff, observe the children, help **support both individual child needs** and general **programmatic needs**. How the day is running, relationships between the staff, tricky spots with the day like supporting kids around separation or transitions or naptime, the whole range of natural struggles that happen in very young children. ”

-Program Director

Participants

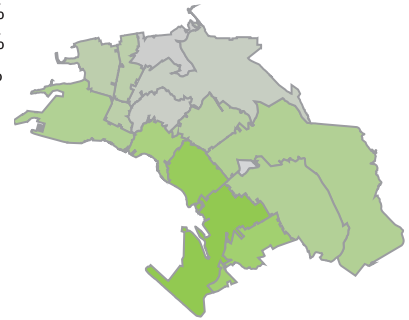
During FY2016-2017, 2,071 children and 5 adults were engaged by educators who received services through *Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation* programs. Key demographic findings are displayed in Exhibit 2 below.

Exhibit 2: Children in Classrooms Served by Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Programs

Children served came from across Oakland, with the majority coming from zip codes in East Oakland.

Home zipcode and neighborhood

94621: Webster Tract and East of Coliseum	17%
94601: Fruitvale and East Oakland	15%
94603: Sobrante Park, Elmhurst, E. 14th Street	12%
94606: Highland Park, San Antonio, East Lake	10%
94607: West Oakland and Chinatown	8%
94619: Maxwell Park, Leona Hgts, Redwood Hgts	8%
94605: Eastmont, Seminary, Havenscourt	7%
94602: Glenview, Lincoln, Oakmore	6%
94612: Downtown	5%
94609: Temescal, Pill Hill, Bushrod Park	5%
94608: San Pablo and Market Street Corridor	4%
94611: Piedmont Avenue and Montclair	2%
94610: Adams Pt, Lakeshore, Crocker Highlands	1%
94618: Rockridge and Hiller Highlands	0%
Homeless/Transitioning	0%



The educators that received mental health consultation services taught a racially diverse group of children, the majority of whom were Hispanic/ Latino and African American.

Ethnicity of Children

Hispanic/Latino	41%
African American/Black	31%
Asian/Pacific Islander	19%
Unknown/Missing	3%
White	3%
Multiracial or Biracial	2%
Middle East/North Africa	1%
Native Alaskan/American	0.2%
Other	0.1%

“ We try to open up an understanding that behavior has meaning: **What is the child trying to communicate**, what do we understand about what they might need, and how can we meet that need? We try to **expand the way challenging behaviors are seen** and understand them better, whether it's developmental or sensory issues or trauma and emotional issues or even just general child development and understanding what is realistic for a two- or three-year-old. ”

-Program Director

Outcomes

A central goal of this strategy is to augment child development knowledge of educators that work with young children. 185 educators completed the OFCY participant surveys that measure progress towards strategy-specific outcomes. The results, illustrated in Exhibit 4, indicate that Career Awareness and Academic Support programs successfully supported educators in these areas.

Exhibit 4: Progress toward Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Outcomes

