

## Head Start and Early Head Start Annual Report FY 2018

**Program Number:** 05CH8456/01

**Program Name:** Children's Place Association: Arthur E. Jones Early Childhood Care and Learning Center and Home-Based Early Learning Program

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**Agency Type:** Nonprofit. Center-based Head Start/Early Head Start, home-visiting Early Head Start

### Agency Description:

Children's Place Association has 133 Head Start/Early Head Start-eligible slots. Children's Place provides comprehensive support services to children and families affected by illness and poverty. Programs include 24-hour nursing for medically complex children, mental health counseling, case management, summer camp, foster care and adoption, emergency assistance, supportive family housing and early education services that include a Home-Based program and the Arthur E. Jones Early Childhood Care and Learning Center. The Early Learning Center serves 0-5-year-old children with age-specific classrooms, degreed teachers and specially trained aides, an onsite nurse, nutritious meals, transportation and a secure, private playground. The Home-Based program serves 0-3-year-old children, providing developmental and emotional screenings, nutrition education and assessments, monthly infant health checks by a Registered Nurse, advocacy, referrals and group socialization. The Center-based programs includes Head Start and Early Head Start programming, and the Home-Based program provides Early Head Start programming.

Because of our capacity to provide nursing and specialized therapeutic care, Chicago Public Schools and the Ounce of Prevention Fund selected Children's Place as one of just two organizations in the city to pilot a special education model project that began in 2017. At no cost to Children's Place, a special education instructor is placed in our Early Learning Center classrooms to assist children with special needs, so that they are able to stay in the group setting with their typically-developing peers. The project also brings professionals on site to provide specialized therapies (speech, physical, occupational, etc.), rather than disrupting children's learning with trips to other facilities/locations. The resources this pilot brings to our Center benefit all of the children in our classrooms, as we ensure every child gets the individualized services he/she needs to learn.

### Site Location:

*Early Learning Center*  
1800 N. Humboldt Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60647

*Home-Based Early Learning Program*  
3543 West Chicago Ave  
Chicago, IL 60651

### Community Areas Served:

Both programs supported by the Ounce operate out of Humboldt Park on Chicago's West Side. While a large percentage of Children's Place client families live near our program facilities, we

serve children from across Chicago due to our capacity and experience in serving infants, toddlers and children living with illness or disabilities.

While Children's Place Association's catchment area is the entire city, the annual Community Assessment conducted by the Ounce of Prevention and Children's Place evaluates the areas surrounding/adjacent to the Early Learning Center since a large percentage of children served come from these areas. Some, such as Logan Square and West Town, are undergoing gentrification, but pockets of poverty remain; others face ongoing issues of high poverty rates and racial disparities. Humboldt Park in particular had a high economic hardship index, high rates of unemployment and child poverty and increased crime rates.

According to data from the most recent Assessment conducted in July 2018<sup>1</sup>, child poverty remains high in Humboldt Park, at 46%, and 21.5% of children live in extreme poverty in this community. The per capita income was \$18,576, below the Chicago average. The rate of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) receipt was 11% and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) receipt was 82%. Limited English proficiency was present in 15% of the households and 27% of adult residents did not have a high school degree. The violent crime rate increased 17% from the previous year and was 18.7 per 1,000 persons. While the unemployment rate had decreased it remained high, at 14%. Parents of children in Children's Place Early Head Start and Head Start programs experienced more unemployment than those in other Ounce programs. The percentage of families that have at least one parent employed was considerably lower than the average for all Ounce-supported Head Start programs.

Poverty rates for children in the evaluated communities varied greatly by race/ethnicity, with African American and Hispanic children having the higher rates than White children. (The exception was Hermosa, where poverty percentages were similar for all racial groups.) The majority of children served by Children's Place early education programs are African American and Hispanic. Approximately 50% of children served by the Early Learning Center are African-American, 40% Hispanic and 10% other. In the Home-Based program 70-75% of families are Hispanic, 15-20% African American and 10% other.

Per US Census data, the poverty level begins at annual incomes of \$12-25,000 depending on family size; in our last fiscal year, FY 2018<sup>2</sup>, 80% of Early Learning Center client families made annual incomes below the federal poverty level, and 76% of Home-Based client families did. A significant portion of families made considerably less: 51% of families served by the Early Learning Center made annual incomes of \$10,000 or less and 37% subsisted on annual incomes of \$5,000 or less. In the Home-based program 17% of families made annual incomes of \$10,000 or less and 8% made annual incomes of \$5,000 or less.

Children's Place specializes in serving families and children with special needs. Nearly half of the children served in the Early Learning Center, 49%, in FY 2018 had an illness or disability; furthermore, 21% had a parent living with a disability or medical condition. In the Home-Based program, 5% of children had a disability or medical condition and 5% had a parent living with a disability or medical condition. More than 45% of children in the Home-Based program have an

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<sup>1</sup> The Assessment primarily used Census and other data from 2016.

<sup>2</sup> The most recently completed fiscal year, July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) or an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and receive early intervention services.

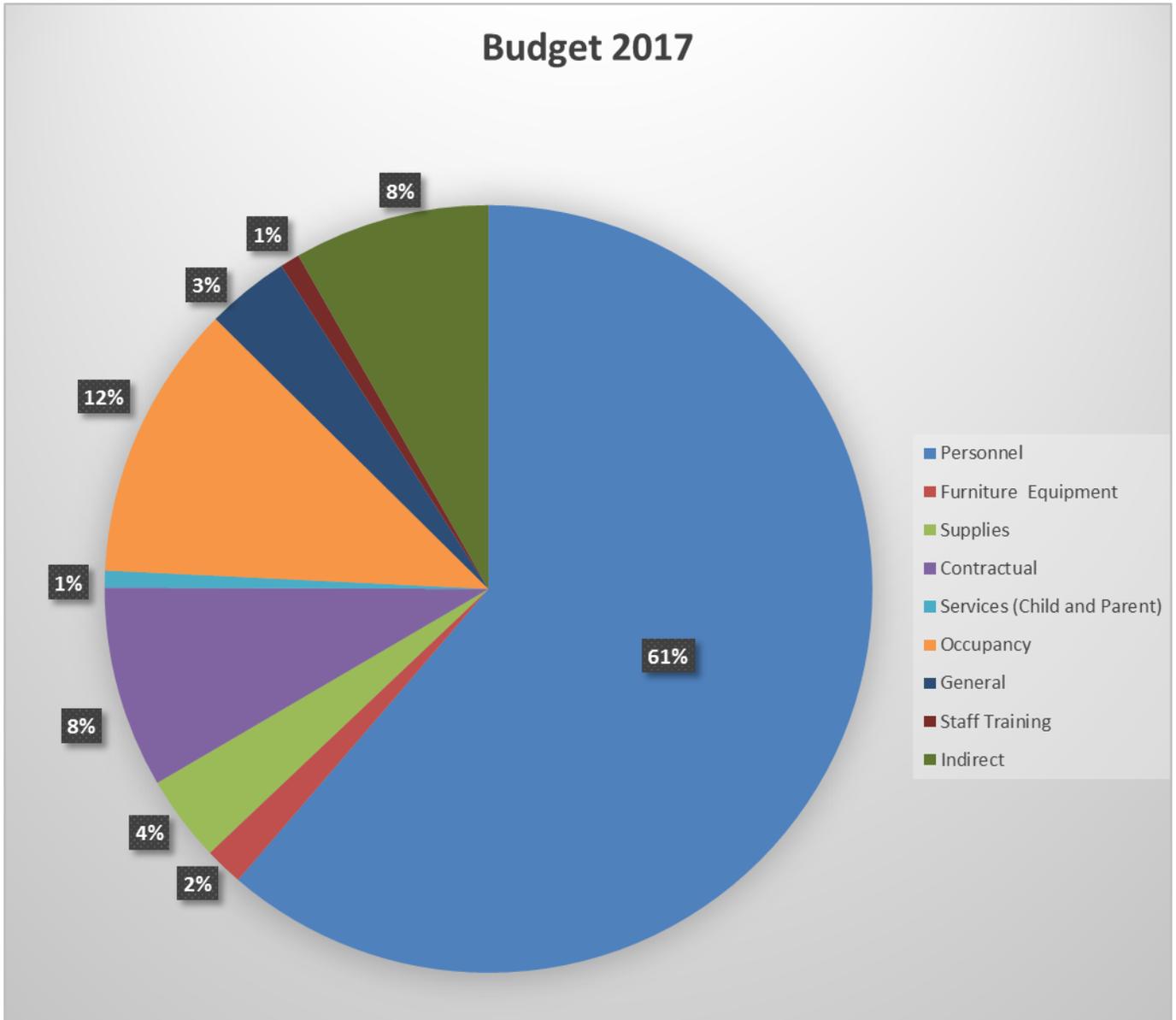
Please see below for additional information from the most recent Community Assessment.

### **Overall Grantee Budget 2017**

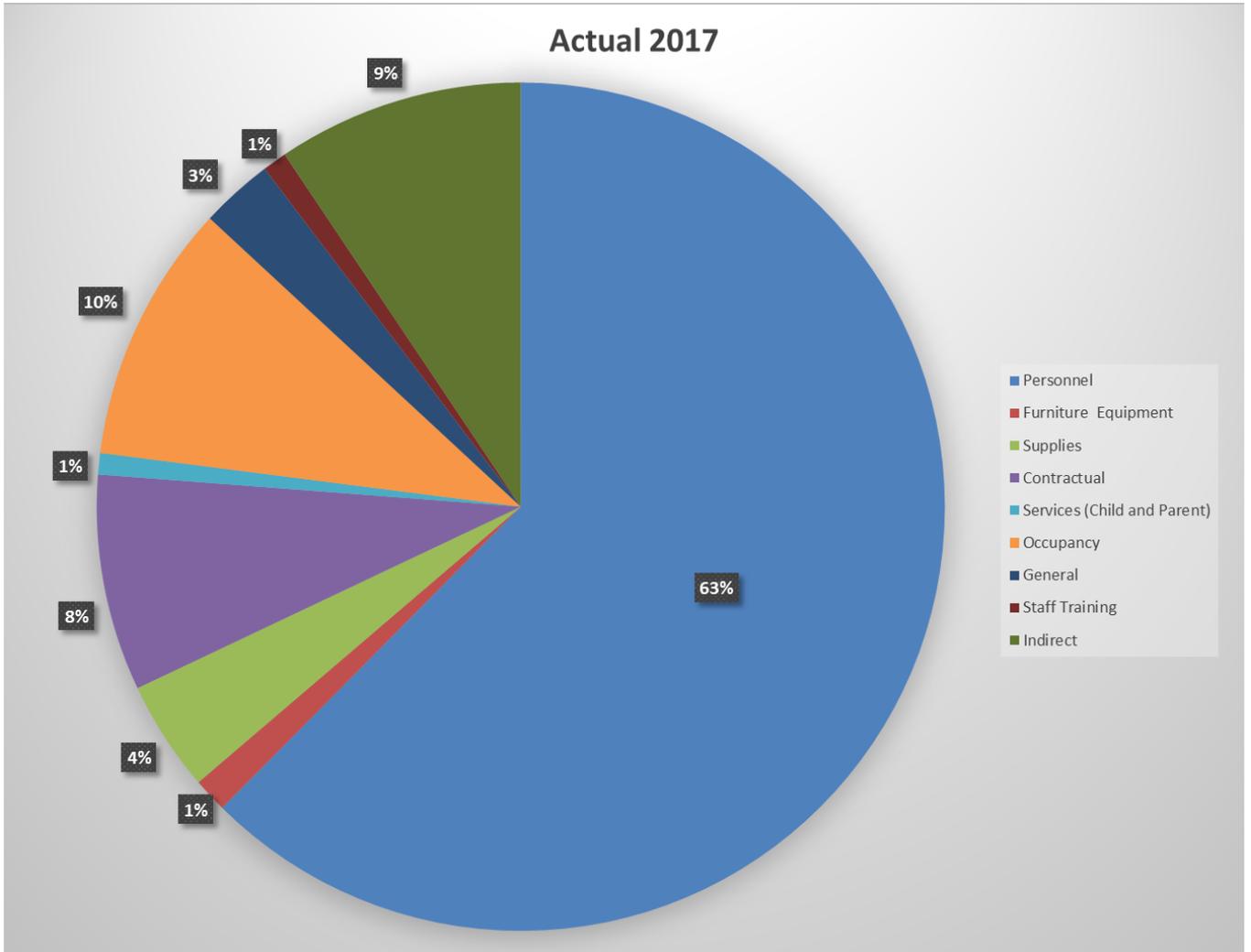
#### **Total Public and Private Funds Received:**

<b>Public Funds</b>		<b>Private Funds</b>	
<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Federal	\$928,971	Individuals, Corporations, Foundations, etc.	\$135,056
State	\$480,072	In-kind	-
Local School District	\$501,600		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,90,143</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$135,056</b>

# Grantee Expenditures 2017



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## Children and Families Served in 2017

### Grantee Funded Enrollment

	Head Start Enrollment	Early Head Start Enrollment
<b>Center-based Program</b>		
<b>a. 5 days per week</b>		
<b>1. Full-day enrollment</b>	41	32
<b>2. Part-day enrollment</b>		
<b>b. 4 days per week</b>		
<b>1. Full-day enrollment</b>		
<b>2. Part-day enrollment</b>		
<b>Home-based Program</b>		60
<b>Unallocated Slots</b>		
<b>Total:</b>	41	92

**Site: Children’s Place Association**

Total Children Served: 147      Total Families Served: 120

Average monthly enrollment (as percentage of funded enrollment): 100%

Number of Eligible Children in Community, ages 0-5	4,673
Percentage of children served in agency	3%

### Health

#### Percentage of enrolled children who received medical and dental exams

Percentage of enrolled children who received medical and dental exams	Received Medical Exams	Received Dental Exams/ Oral Care
Children’s Place Association	100%	64%

## **Parental involvement in Directly Operated, Delegate and Partner Agencies**

Each year, the Ounce of Prevention Fund supports Children's Place Association in conducting/updating a community assessment outlining the strengths and needs of the communities served by the Children's Place Early Learning Center and Home-Based early education program. The most recent community assessment was completed in July of 2018, it includes new data for 2016 which, in accordance with Head Start Performance Standards, is used for program planning purposes.

### **Summary of Most Recent Community Assessment:**

As part of the Community Assessment, Children's Place client parents and community partners identified additional issues and needs in focus groups. Although the participating parents and community partners cited many strengths and resources in their communities, they also identified challenges and needs. Also, parents were often unaware of many of the resources community partners cited as strengths.

Groups identified a need for more out-of-school educational experiences in the community, such as at the park or afterschool programs, and noted that there are more services available on the east side of Humboldt Park than the west side. The groups noted the need for more bilingual services; the majority of clients served in the Home-Based program are Hispanic and have difficulties with medical care and finding employment. Mental Health services were noted as a strength in the community; waiting lists are long, however, especially for families that are bilingual. Language, transportation and lack of insurance were barriers for a number of services for both children and parents, including mental health, educational opportunities and other social services. The Community Assessment also found that the number of programs serving children 0-2 is still far below need, both in the communities in which Children's Place is based and in Chicago as a whole.

### **Parent Education Activities**

**Health:** The Early Learning Center's Nurse and Family Support Specialists (FSS) for both the Center and Home-Based program train parents on Children's Place health and medical policies and procedures, and about the importance of medical and dental exams for children. The Nurse works with parents to make sure all health documentation is kept up to date. FSS support the Nurse in helping families obtain documentation and assist families with scheduling necessary appointments and finding medical and dental homes.

**Mental Health:** Parents participate in the annual meeting for planning mental health education. Parents recommend training topics for the monthly parent meetings, Pastries with Parents meetings, and socialization events. Parent also receive wellness trainings and support if needed. Play Therapy is available for those children in need through partnership with the Juvenile Protective Association, a leader in child mental health.

**Education and Literacy:** Parents work with teachers and other staff in planning their children's school readiness goals for the year. They also participate in parent teacher conferences and home

visits with the teachers throughout the school year. Program outcomes for 2017 show significant progress in the area of literacy: in the fall, 10% of children were below national literacy expectations, 44% were meeting and 44% were exceeding the national expectations.

**By the spring only 4% of children were below expectations, 35% were meeting and 59% were exceeding the national expectations.**

**Community and Social Services:** Parents are provided with a variety of different resources at parent meetings, parent-teacher conferences, family assessments and throughout the year. Children's Place maintains numerous community partnerships within the local community and surrounding neighborhoods to help support parents with resources for needs identified.

**Other Community-related Education:** Children's Place offers trainings throughout the program year on topics in which parents express interest. For example, in the past year parents received training about autism, cooking classes, transition to kindergarten/school and other subjects.

**Parent Committee Meetings:** Parent meetings are offered monthly. Parents participate in the planning of these meetings and suggest topics of interest, as noted above. A Parent committee also has a representative that attends our monthly Parent Policy Council Meetings. During that meeting, the representative provides an agency update that was discussed in a previous parent meeting. The representative then gathers the information discussed at the Grantee Parent Policy Meeting and shares it with the parents at the following parent meeting.

**Other special gatherings or activities:** Parents participate in socialization events every month. They are also offered the opportunity to participate in field trips with the children, a holiday party and end of the year celebration.

**Male Involvement:** Children's Place hosts a quarterly Father/Male Figure Involvement Night to encourage male participation in our program and provide an engaging, fun and educational event specifically for the fathers/male figures

### **Kindergarten Readiness**

**Special Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten:** Staff, parents and teachers meet at the beginning of the school year to develop school readiness goals, which assists staff in preparing children for kindergarten. Teachers and staff create individualized plans for children based on their goals and follow up with parents throughout the year during parent-teacher conferences

**Transition Activities to Promote Kindergarten Readiness:** Teachers meet with parents to prepare transition plans for children going to kindergarten. Parents are offered the opportunity to visit kindergarten with support from a classroom or FSS staff in order to prepare children, and themselves, for the transition.