

COMMUNITY REPORT
2015-2016



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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Mile High Early Learning continues to close the opportunity gap for Denver’s most vulnerable children by cultivating every child’s unique potential. In addition to helping our children be ready for kindergarten, families supporting their children’s growth and development, and our staff enhancing their knowledge and skills, we were inspired by three exciting events in 2016.

- **Anna Jo Garcia Haynes**, Mile High Early Learning’s President Emeritus, was inducted into the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame for her life-long work as an advocate for women and children, a Civil Rights leader, and a driving force for early childhood care and education. Among many of Anna Jo’s achievements, she spearheaded bringing Head Start to Denver, co-founded the Colorado Children’s Campaign, and was a founding mother and President of the Women’s Foundation of Colorado. She has been a trusted advisor to Colorado governors and Denver mayors since the 1980s on education and child care.



- **U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr.** traveled to Colorado in August to highlight work done at the state to improve access to high-quality early learning. Mile High Early Learning was honored as an example of early learning success! Dr. King visited our Edna Oliver Early Learning Center in Five Points, along with other federal and state policymakers. He joined the children and teachers for “circle time” that included singing a song about sea life and a quick lesson on manatees, then he and our guests spent the morning working with children in the classroom.



- **Dr. Kim Kiehl**, Executive Director of the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center, was the keynote speaker at our *Stone Soup—Gathering Community, Nourishing Children* breakfast. Dr. Kiehl shared how the Center uses the Smithsonian museums as the foundation for its education approach with babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. She shared insights about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) for Babies and provided professional training to more than 150 of our Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregivers and early learning professionals.



We are successful in serving our children, families and community because of our partnership with you. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Cody Belzley
Cody Belzley
Board Chair

Pamela Harris
Pamela K. Harris, PhD
President & CEO

PROGRAM PROFILE 2015-2016

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

Children Served:

626 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in seven core early learning centers

Family Income:

Fifty-eight percent of the families were one-parent households;

Over 97% of families were living at or below the Federal Poverty Level or \$24,300 for a family of four.

71% were employed and/or enrolled in school.

Ethnicity:

- 49%** Hispanic
- 30%** African American
- 11%** European American
- 6%** Multi-racial
- 3%** Asian/Pacific Islander
- 1%** Native American

Community Education Programs:

BABIES READY FOR COLLEGE:

391 children and families served

PLAY AND LEARN:

45 children and families participated

SHORT & SWEET BOOK CLUB:

196 children and parents/caregivers participated

Drop-In Centers:

MHEL Centers serving clients doing business with the Denver Courts and Department of Human Services had a combined total of 7,635 child visits.

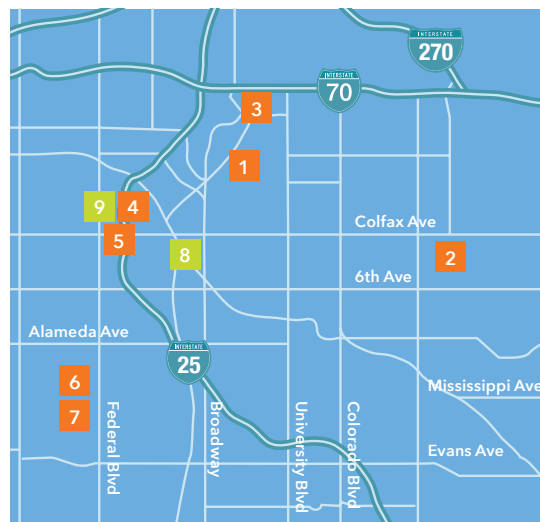
Mile High Early Learning Centers operates seven early learning centers, two drop-in centers, and a community education center, all located in Denver.

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

- 1** Edna Oliver, 2851 Tremont Place
- 2** Lowry Montessori, 957 Ulster Way
- 3** Northeast, 3503 Marion Street
- 4** Rude Park, 1275 Decatur Street
- 5** Sun Valley, 990 Alcott Way
- 6** Westwood, 980 S. Lowell Blvd.
- 7** SWIC, 1000 S. Lowell Blvd.

DROP-IN LOCATIONS

- 8** Denver Warm Welcome Court Child Care Drop-in Center, 520 W. Colfax Ave.
- 9** Good Beginnings Drop-in Center, 1200 Federal Blvd.



PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2015-2016

Child Outcomes:

- **90%** of students achieved their school readiness objectives by the end of the year.
- Only **75%** of children started with the skills they needed to be successful in school.
- **100%** of children received early intervention learning screenings; and 14% of children identified with special needs received services through an Individualized Education Plan.
- **100%** of children had a medical home and health insurance and were current on immunizations and physicals.
- **100%** of children had continuous, accessible dental care; **93%** received preventive care.

Program Outcomes:

All early learning centers are rated a level 4 on Colorado Shines, the new Quality Rating and Improvement System, in recognition of the high quality of programming provided.

Classroom averages met the minimum threshold set by Head Start in all three domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) that measures the quality of teacher interactions with children.

Staff Development:

Staff education achievements

- **3** teachers with MA degrees
- **22** teachers with BA/BS degrees
- **10** teachers with AA degrees
- **10** staff are Montessori certified
- **8** MHEL staff completed the Child Development Associate Program
- **30** staff completed **45 hours** of training on the Pyramid Plus model that supports children’s social/emotional development
- The 6th annual weeklong **MHEL Professional Development Institute** was held in March 2015 offering staff the opportunity to engage in collaborative discussions and attend a wide variety of workshops to cultivate their professional skills.

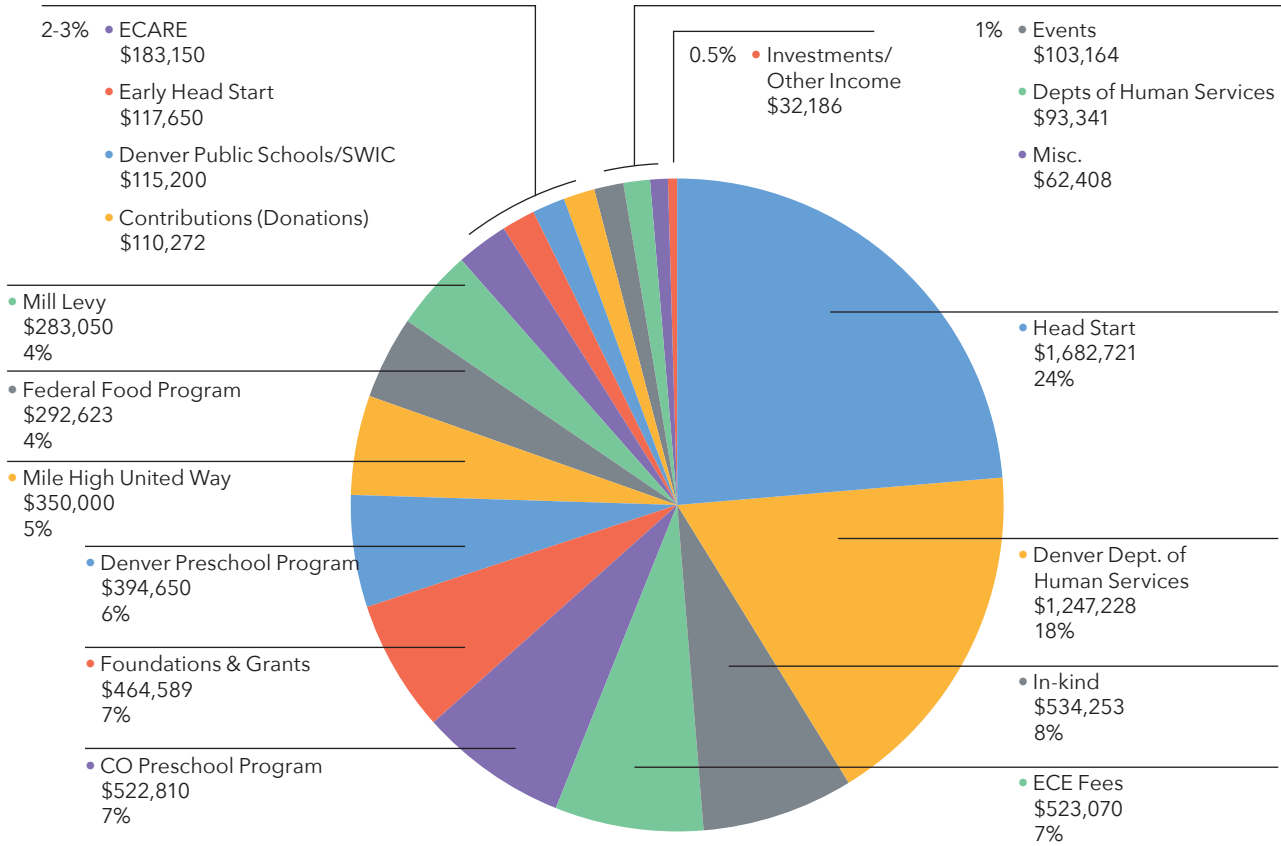


FINANCIAL PROFILE

FY 2015-2016

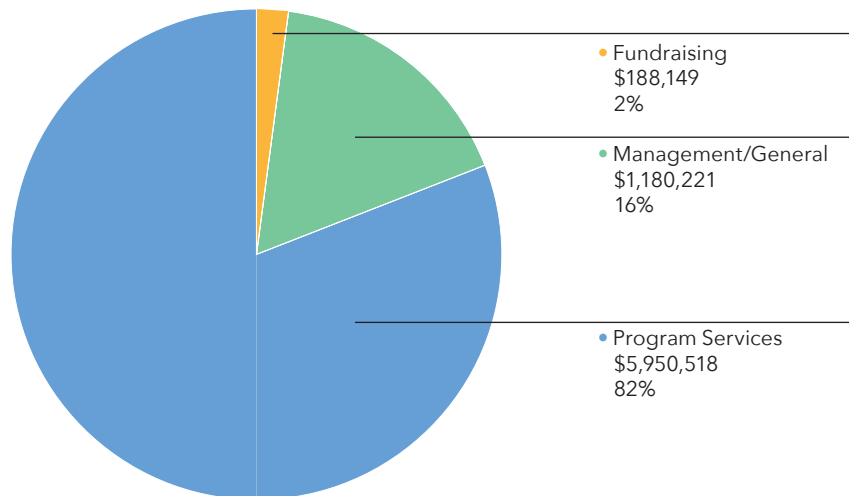
MHEL REVENUE

\$7,257,057



MHEL EXPENSES

\$7,318,888



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We gratefully acknowledge the following companies, civic groups, foundations and individuals for giving their resources so generously.

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