

REPORT 2019 July Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

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Head Of Organization

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Application Contact

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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2019 July Cycle	Report Date: 06/03/2020 12:00 am
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1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

Awarded Amount: 100,000	Date: 08/01/2019
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

On August 1, 2019 payment was received for a \$100,000 grant award to the YMCA of Greater San Antonio for the Harvey E. Najim Y Early Learning Center at Haven for Hope provides full-day, licensed childcare five days a week for 52 weeks for infants (ages 4 weeks- 17 months), toddlers (17 - 36 months), and preschool-age children (ages 3-5). Children benefit from a full day of guided activities, positive relationships and care, daily meals, and snacks. Meanwhile, their parents are able to maintain employment, further their education, or access needed services to overcome homelessness. The grant award supported tuition assistance for homeless families to enroll their children at the Harvey E. Najim Y Early Learning Center at Haven for Hope, and costs for educational supplies.

The goals of the center are to alleviate the negative effects of poverty and homelessness, support families' journey towards self-sufficiency, and develop children's social, cognitive, and physical growth.

Objectives met:

Objective: Provide families with quality childcare for their infant, toddler, and pre-school aged children regardless of financial status.

Outcome: The YMCA provided \$436,861 in scholarship funding and tuition subsidies and served 178 children.

Objective: Provide immediate childcare services for families experience the trauma of poverty and homelessness.

Outcome: 93% of parents surveyed reported that the YMCA's childcare services were essential for them to maintain employment or further their education.

Objective: Minimize the academic achievement gap between low-income children and their higher-income peers by preparing at-risk children for kindergarten.

Outcome: At the Harvey E. Najim Y Early Learning Center, 64.5% of children surveyed in 2018 demonstrated school readiness.

Objective: Implement a curriculum that targets children who are developmentally behind, and provide stimulating activities that catch children up in their development.

Outcome: Our high-quality teaching and curriculum implemented in birth to preschool age classrooms ensured 72.8% of children demonstrated age-appropriate skills in the cognitive/intellectual domain, 78.9% of children demonstrated mastery in the social/emotional domains, and 85.4% demonstrated age-appropriate language skill development in 2019.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

There were no changes made.

4: What needs were addressed?

Without low to no cost childcare services, parents have been forced to quit or extend the start of GED programs, job training, and other critical services, prolonging their goals towards self-sufficiency. A lack of accredited providers, long waitlists, and limited subsidies prevent many struggling families from accessing the care they need. With the support of generous community partners including the Najim Charitable Foundation, this center can offer full and partial tuition assistance for families in need, in addition to quality care focused on whole-child development.

Chronic stressful events impair children's cognitive function and limit their ability to cope with negative emotions. The Y's early learning opportunities instill resiliency in children and give them the knowledge and skills needed to become happy, productive adults. The stress of poverty inhibits children's early brain development and can have damaging effects on the child's learning, behavior, and health for a lifespan (Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University).

Our families often face significant barriers to housing stability such as long-term unemployment, substance abuse, illness, and/or domestic violence. YMCA teachers are trained to create encouraging teaching environments that prevent the downward cycle of poor physical and mental health associated with chronic poverty and toxic stress. Teachers also teach children how to talk, breaking their silence, and getting children the services they need as the children served at our center are much more vulnerable to abuse and neglect if their families are experiencing the trauma associated with extreme poverty and homelessness.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

The Y's pre and post-program developmental checklists analyze the appropriate growth and development of toddlers and preschool-aged children. We evaluate the following Core Competencies that are integrated into all Y Early Learning programming: Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Communication and Literacy Goals; Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy, Knowledge and Understanding of the World; and Physical Development.

The Harvey E. Najim Y Early Learning Center at Haven for Hope's 2019 Early Childhood Developmental Checklists demonstrate the following positive outcomes, a testament of the quality teaching and services provided:

- o 64.5% of children demonstrated school readiness;

- o 78.9% of children showed improved social interaction with peers and adults;
- o 85.4% of children demonstrated age-appropriate self-expression and communication skills;
- o 94.4% of children improved their physical development, including large and small muscle development; and
- o 72.8% of children demonstrated cognitive/intellectual growth.

The children at the Harvey E. Najim Y Early Learning Center at Haven for Hope start at a disadvantage by not having a stable environment that supports learning. Our caregivers work hard to build their skills, knowledge, and confidence. The center's caregivers specialize in trauma-informed care that is critical for this population. Our staff teach homeless children how to talk, breaking their silence, and getting children experiencing abuse the services they need. Family engagement activities involve parents in a group, giving them a voice and empowering them to communicate issues in their lives and receive help.

6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

As one of a coalition of agencies providing services to assist San Antonio's homeless population, the YMCA operates one of the only child-development centers in the nation located on a homeless shelter campus. We are committed to our partnership with Haven for Hope and continuing our legacy of quality early childhood education and care for families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Our childcare services are essential for parents to maintain employment or accesses other needed services to secure a better future for their families.

The YMCA of Greater San Antonio is dedicated to sustaining our legacy of providing quality early childhood programs by incorporating best practices in early childhood education and creating new pathways for greater community investment. The Y's Financial Development Team works year-round to ensure the ongoing success of this program by sharing the importance of quality early education with potential foundation and corporate partners. The Y's Annual Support Campaign receives recurring donations from loyal donors across the San Antonio Metro Area, which go towards scholarships and program subsidies for low-income communities like families at Haven for Hope. Current supporters of the Harvey E. Najim Y Early Learning Center at Haven for Hope are the Najim Charitable Foundation, the United Way, Government funding (through CCS subsidies), and individuals, but additional funding is crucial to provide full and partial tuition assistance at this center.

7: Please provide any other comments or information relevant to this grant.

In addition to quality early learning, the Harvey E. Najim Y Early Learning Center at Haven for Hope prevents abuse and neglect often associated with extreme poverty and homelessness. The Y's childcare services provide immediate relief for parents and caregivers experiencing trauma and who are stressed out by continuous childcare responsibilities, reducing the risk of child abuse. Staff and teachers at the Harvey E. Najim Y Early Learning Center at Haven for Hope place a high priority on delivering trauma-informed care. They attend over 30 hours of professional development annually specifically covering topics such as the social-emotional development of children and trauma-informed practice. Trainings prepare staff to create the kind of teaching environments that address children's social-emotional needs before academics, offering targeted intervention to catch children up in their development. Children learn basic social skills so that they can communicate their needs. Children also benefit from therapeutic treatment programs through the Y's partnership with Family Services Association.

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
Salary and Wages	\$346,564	\$0	\$322,038	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$57,753	\$0	\$56,853	\$0
Payroll Taxes	\$31,953	\$0	\$28,984	\$0

Purchased Professional Fees	\$1,585	\$0	\$1,471	\$0
Telephone and Communications	\$660	\$0	\$600	\$0
Occupancy	\$73,471	\$0	\$75,826	\$0
Tuition Assistance	\$350,000	\$97,200	\$436,861	\$97,200
Equipment Costs	\$1,577	\$0	\$0	\$0
Promotion and Publications	\$6,500	\$0	\$6,757	\$0
Travel and Transportation	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,402	\$0
Conferences and Conventions	\$1,795	\$0	\$4,159	\$0
Membership Dues	\$4,520	\$0	\$4,270	\$0
Other Insurance Premiums	\$542	\$0	\$542	\$0
General Operating Allocation	\$98,451	\$0	\$87,289	\$0
Youth Development Administration Allocation	\$59,755	\$0	\$55,808	\$0
Program Supplies	\$16,240	\$2,800	\$32,334	\$2,800
TOTAL:	\$1,053,166	\$100,000	\$1,115,194	\$100,000
Signature				
Catherine Alvarado, Sr. Director of Grant Administration & Program Innovation				