

REPORT 2020 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: 2020 July Cycle	Report Date: 05/11/2021 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: 07/27/2020
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

Yes, the original objective from the original proposal was met. The main objective was to provide full and partial tuition assistance for families to access childcare at the Harvey E. Najim Early Learning Center at Haven for Hope. Funds were used to provide 41 children with scholarship funding and tuition subsidies for childcare services during the July 2020-May 2021 time period and to purchase supplies.

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

The projected number of unduplicated children served was 160, but due to the COVID pandemic, the number served from June 1 until May 12 was 115. We anticipate enrolling additional children in June. The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the operations and census of childhood education. In May 2020, Texas Health and Human Services severely limited the number of children able to receive childcare services by only allowing children of "essential workers" access to childcare. As a result, the majority of families at Haven for Hope did not qualify for childcare. During this time, most of the families at Haven for Hope used personal contacts and family for childcare if they were not able to stay home with their child. In addition, the increase of unemployment compensation and blocking of evictions helped prevent families from becoming homeless. Therefore, the census for Haven for Hope decreased, which reduced the number of children served by the Harvey E. Najim Early Learning Center. The San Antonio Homeless Point in Time Count for 2021, showed that there was a significant (41%) decrease from last year's count of families in shelters and a 42% decrease from the 2020 combined counts of sheltered and unsheltered families.

4: What needs were addressed?

The YMCA Early Learning Center (Y-ELC) offers year-round, full-day childcare and pre-kindergarten programs five days a week for infants (4 weeks to 17 months), toddlers (17-24 months), and pre-school-age children (3-5 years) and is open from 7am to 6:30pm daily. The childcare provides parents with the ability to maintain employment or access other critical services they need to overcome homelessness. In addition, children are provided with the full day of guided activities focused on fostering brain development, early literacy, healthy habits, and self-regulation.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic presented so many challenges to our community, the Najim ELC staff quickly pivoted to meet the needs of families it served. For example, ELC staff became advocates for families to help them connect with essential resources. Although most families were not physically attending the childcare center due to COVID restrictions, the ELC staff delivered household essentials directly to where families were staying. These essentials included diapers, wipes, clothing, and food. In addition, ELC staff made phone calls on behalf of families to secure virtual and phone appointments with medical providers that were willing to treat children during the quarantine period. With several of the parents at Haven for Hope being survivors of trauma, they often are not accustomed to advocating for the medical needs of their children. ELC staff were able to help parents navigate the new virtual realm of making and attending medical appointments due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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

Qualitative and quantitative data through pre and post evaluation tools, curriculum-provided assessments, child developmental milestones, teacher observations, and parental feedback to evaluate the appropriate growth and development of toddlers and preschool-aged children are used assess program impact. ELC teachers conduct pre and post child development screenings at the beginning and end of each program year (June and May) and as needed as children enroll/leave the center. Children receive their pre-assessment within two weeks of enrolling to allow children to become comfortable in the center.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the children were not tested in May 2020. We are in the process of testing this year and results can be made available upon request.

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

Yes, the YMCA of Greater San Antonio plans to continue childcare services at the Harvey E. Najim Early Learning Center (Y-ELC) at Haven for Hope. Since childcare program fees are subsidized according to the family's income, program service fees only provide one-third (32%) of the revenue for the childcare services. Government funds from the City of San Antonio through Child Care Subsidies (CCS) provide 29% of the program funding and United Way of San Antonio provides an additional 30% of childcare program funding. Additional subsidy support is provided by a diverse fundraising strategy by YMCA's financial development. The fundraising effort includes the Y Partners Annual Campaign that raises funds from staff, individuals, volunteers, and businesses. In addition, grant requests are made foundations to provide scholarship subsidies to qualifying families.

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

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, most of the ELC children were not provided in-person services at the Harvey Najim ELC at Haven for Hope. Instead, the staff physically delivered their educational curriculum to their home and provided virtual zoom lessons with the parents. As a result of the children being physically separated from ELC staff, parents began teaching their children the curriculum. This provided the opportunity for parents to make deeper connections with their children through educational lessons for the first time. This is especially crucial, since parents that are lower income or from communities of color often perceive that professional teachers should be their child's only instructors, not realizing that as parents they truly are their child's first teachers.

The transition to remote learning made the ELC staff aware of the major technology gap that exists when comparing parents from the Harvey Najim ELC at Haven for Hope to other ELC sites. The parents from Harvey Najim ELC at Haven for Hope lacked the technology skills, electronic devices, and WiFi access needed to transition to off-site childcare. For example, ELC staff needed to teach parents how to use Zoom, access a computer, and attend online events from their phone for parent meetings and student events. Also, special training is needed to show parents how to navigate and use childcare technology apps that communicate important information and educational moments with childcare providers regarding their children.

The Harvey E. Najim Early Learning Center (ELC) also realized the need to ensure that families are aware of the COVID-19 precautions that have been taken to alleviate the concerns that families may have about COVID-19. The Harvey E. Najim ELC at Haven for Hope has diligently followed all Texas Health and Human Services COVID-19 safety protocols, which includes curbside pick-up, mask wearing and sanitizing. In addition, staff have been consistently trained on implementing the COVID-19 precautions throughout the pandemic.

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	\$372,334	\$0	\$291920	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$60,830	\$0	\$41770	\$0
Payroll Taxes	\$34,070	\$0	\$25674	\$0
Contracted Service Fees	\$1,446	\$0	\$455	\$0
Supplies	\$17,018	\$3,000	\$8444	\$3000
Telephone and Communications	\$600	\$0	\$1200	\$0
Occupancy	\$72,785	\$0	\$72890	\$0
Tuition Assistance	\$479,200	\$97,000	\$307249	\$97000
Equipment Costs	\$1,585	\$0	\$7664	\$0
Promotion and Publications	\$7,821	\$0	\$7821	\$0
Travel and Transportation	\$3,900	\$0	\$0	\$0
Conferences and Conventions	\$700	\$0	\$365	\$0

Membership Dues	\$7,179	\$0	\$6994	\$0
Other Insurance Premiums	\$596	\$0	\$596	\$0
General Operating Allocation	\$101,404	\$0	\$101404	\$0
Staff Shirts	\$900	\$0	\$600	\$0
License & Permits	\$745	\$0	\$745	\$0
TOTAL:	\$1,163,113	\$100,000	\$875,791	\$100,000
Signature				
Catherine Alvarado				