



CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER
for Learning

Head Start
Annual Report Addendum
FISCAL YEAR 2021



Public and Private Funding

Fiscal Year 2021

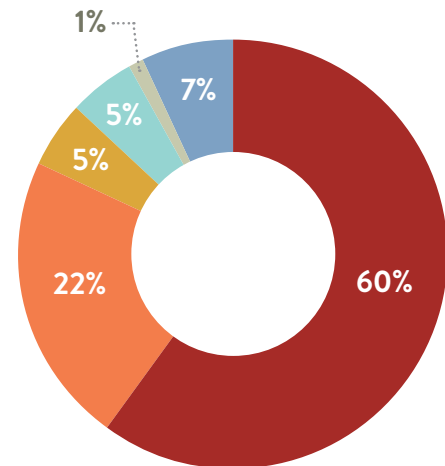
July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

PUBLIC FUNDS		PRIVATE FUNDS	
Source	Amount	Source	Amount
City of Chicago (DFSS)	\$10,066,670	In-Kind	\$174,545
State of Illinois	\$4,803,933	Individuals/Foundations/Corporations	\$1,481,735
Chicago Public Schools/ Chicago Board of Education	\$100	United Way	\$95,983
Federal	\$1,198,751	Client Fees	\$165,125
Other	\$492,391	Earned Revenue, including Special Events	\$105,510
Total Public	\$16,561,845	Total Private	\$2,022,898
Total public and private funds received: \$18,584,743			

Budgeted vs. Actual Expenditures

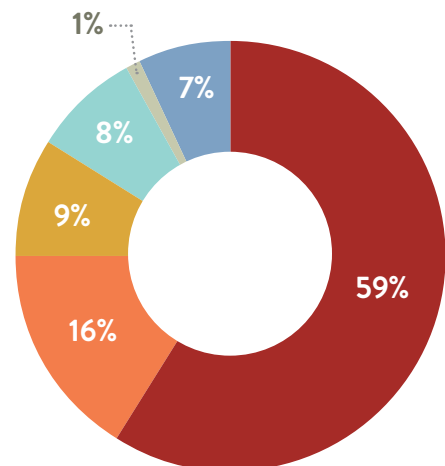
FY 2021 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

- Salaries/Benefits
- Program Expenses/Food
- Contractual Services & Provider Fees
- Administrative, Including Fundraising
- Staff Development, Travel and Meetings
- Other, including depreciation, non-GAAP expenses, pass-through (delegates), and other expenses, including pass-through grants



FY 2021 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

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Enrollment

Total Number of EHS/HS Children And Families	670
Average Monthly Enrollment – EHS (As a Percentage of Funded Enrollment)	61%
Average Monthly Enrollment – HS (As a Percentage of Funded Enrollment)	82%
Funded Enrollment Slots – EHS	261
Funded Enrollment Slots – HS	124



Parent Involvement Activities

Across sites and program models, all families are supported by family support staff in **individual goal attainment**. Family Support Specialists (FSS) collaborate with families to complete a Family Assessment and Family Partnership Agreement. When parents set up their individual goals, the FSS provide support finding resources or services in support of families' goals and needs. Site-based FSS provide support with a child's behavior or development; serve as a bridge to community resources and support, such as housing/food resources, health providers, employment opportunities, educational options, ESL classes; assist them in applying to various financial assistance programs; and more.

Family Support Specialists follow up with parents regularly to ensure that they are still working on achieving their goals. FSS provide at minimum a **monthly individualized engagement** with families based on family input. The FSS use a combination of text messages, emails, Zoom, Facebook, and phone calls to communicate with families. To facilitate virtual engagement and minimize the digital divide, we are continuing to distribute laptops and hotspots to families in need.

Family Support partners closely with families around **employment and leadership goals**, assisting with resume writing, completing applications, preparing for job interviews, and exploring leadership opportunities. The team continues to recruit parents and community members to apply for Teacher Aide and Home Visitor positions at the Carole Robertson Center. Some of them have already been hired and receive extensive professional development to support them in their new positions.

Parent workshops focused on mental health, child development, parenting practices, and community resources are hosted monthly. Examples include a UIC Fair Housing Clinic presentation, Virtual Career Fair, OwlLight Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy presentation, Parents As Teachers/Developing Routines workshop, Parents As Teachers/Positive Discipline workshop, and Women Caregiver/Self-Care session.

Family Support continues to work diligently in **identifying children with possible disabilities by collaborating with families** in advocating for timely evaluations and to ensure that children receive the services outlined in their IEPs or IFSPs. Since COVID-19, we have partnered with families to make sure that remote early intervention services are provided and that Chicago Public School evaluations occur virtually.

At partner sites FSS work closely with site directors to create a safe environment and healthy relationships for open communication and support, engaging parents during drop off or dismissal when FSS are on site. FSS participate in family literacy activities, encouraging parents to read to their children and providing new books for families in a monthly basis. They develop creative activities for parents to engage and participate in their children's development through the lesson plans.

The Carole Robertson Center engages parents directly in **organizational governance** through two bodies. Our **Parent Policy Council (PPC)** provides the regular and direct participation of parents and community residents in the design and implementation of the Head Start program. In addition, the Chair and Vice Chair of the PPC serve as parent representatives on the **Board of Directors**, ensuring communication between the two governing bodies.

Efforts to Prepare Children For Kindergarten

The Carole Robertson Center builds school readiness through a holistic, culturally sensitive approach to high-quality early education that promotes children’s cognitive, social-emotional, and physical growth in partnership with families. Our classroom management approach gives children consistent opportunities to exercise independence and autonomy. We focus on holistic development and recognize the important responsibility we hold to nurture the potential in each child, including how our rising kindergarteners show up on the first day of elementary school.

In 2021, we began implementation of the **Community Parenting Saturation Project “Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for Life,”** a collaboration of organizations in North Lawndale working toward community saturation of parenting supports for kindergarten readiness. Our collaboration worked with support and leadership from Illinois Action for Children and Greater Good Studio.

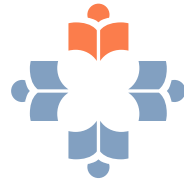
This community saturation effort is laying the groundwork for the eventual community scaling of our in-house kindergarten readiness initiative, **BASES-K—Bridging Academic and Social Emotional Supports in Kindergarten.** BASES-K is an innovative, systems approach to ensuring kindergarten readiness and long-term success for all Carole Robertson Center children from infancy through preschool.

BASES-K is posited on the idea that there are three pillars supporting each child: the early learning and after-school provider (the Center), the local school, and the family. With this understanding, our initiative seeks to build strong partnerships between families, teachers at the Center, kindergarten teachers, and school administrators in community schools in the following key ways:

- Breaking barriers by creating spaces for dialogue between schools, families, preschool, and kindergarten teachers. We create deeper and regular connections and relationships between elementary school leadership and staff in our service areas.
- Supporting teachers through ongoing learning, reflection, and coaching.
- Building the capacity of families to advocate for and support their children and each other, including working with families to select and apply to the best elementary school fit. We foster a continued partnership with the families about their child’s learning and development.

The Carole Robertson Center’s vision is that every child in our programs has consistent opportunities to become pre-Kindergarten graduates who are:

- **Persistent Problem Solvers** – Children actively participate and persist through challenging tasks and activities as they develop cognitively and academically.
- **Resilient and Inclusive Community Builders** – Children understand and value the importance of contributing to caring, collaborative, and equitable spaces with their peers.
- **Self-Confident Advocates for Social Justice** – Children see and advocate for themselves and their communities throughout their learning journeys while seeking justice for all.
- **Proactive Explorers and Investigators** – Children demonstrate genuine inquisitiveness and love of learning based on their growing knowledge of the world around them.



CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER *for Learning*

OUR MISSION

To educate, enrich and empower children and families

FOR FAMILIES, BY FAMILIES, WITH FAMILIES

Carole Robertson Center for Learning pairs high-quality education and enrichment for children and youth with one-on-one support services to open opportunities for the whole family.



AN HONOR AND RESPONSIBILITY

Since its inception, the Center has worked to honor the life and memory of Carole Robertson who, together with her friends Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, and Denise McNair, was killed in the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

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