HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS PROGRAM (HSGP)

FY 2021-22 PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

Connections for Children

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Santa Monica Child Care: Family Support & Quality Improvement

Program: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| **SELECT** |
|  |
| X |

###### FY 2021-22 SUBMISSION CALENDAR

**Instructions:**

* This document should be used by HSGP grantees to report on mid-year and year-end outcomes and accomplishments.
* All reports submitted to the City are considered public record. Please note that staff will use the information provided in the mid-year and year-end reports to provide Council and the public with summary reports of agency performance highlighting key outcomes, successes, findings and concerns.
* Some programs or agencies may be subject to additional or different reporting requirements per the program’s Exhibit A, Special Funding Conditions, of your executed Grant Agreement with the City.
* It is important, when preparing this report, to be familiar with the program’s Exhibit B, Program Plan, of your executed Grant Agreement with the City.
* Please insert responses in the spaces provided for Sections I-VII for both the Mid-Year and Year-End Program Status Reports.
* A separate Program Status Report must be prepared for each Program Plan specified in your contract.
* To submit your completed report to the City, upload the file to your agency’s SharePoint folder. A link to your agency’s SharePoint folder as well as instructions on how to use the site will be emailed to your staff separately.

**SECTION I: PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CHALLENGES, AND CHANGES**

Provide a brief summary of your program accomplishments, challenges, and changes that occurred during the reporting period. Please also provide information or observations related to population or service trends.

**Child Care Referrals**

Connections for Children (CFC) offers free child care resources and referrals to any parent residing and/or seeking care in our service area. CFC offers enhanced referrals to Santa Monica (SM) residents who qualify for child care subsidy and to all essential workers working during the COVID-19 pandemic. For enhanced referrals, CFC staff contact child care providers to confirm availability before giving families a customized list of licensed SM providers with current openings who meet their expressed needs and preferences.

CFC staff monitor and communicate with the network of licensed SM providers on a monthly basis to keep track of child care vacancies and program changes. We also regularly report these updates to city staff, the SM Early Childhood Task Force, the SM Economic Recovery Task Force – Child Care Subgroup, and the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles.

At the start of the pandemic, almost all licensed centers and most of the Family Child Care Homes (FCCs) in SM temporarily closed, but over time, they have opened. As of June 30, 2022, 96% of SM providers (97% Centers and 95% FCCs) were open and caring for children.

CFC regularly promotes child care openings among SM families and partner agencies and connects eligible families to our subsidy programs to help offset the high cost of care. We are an active member of the Early Childhood Wellbeing Project (ECWP) of Family Service of Santa Monica (FSSM) that supports cross-agency referrals and facilitates enrollment of vulnerable families into the SM Subsidy Program. Our participation in ECWP helps streamline the process for families enrolling in the child care subsidy program and eliminates obstacles families may face in accessing affordable, quality child care in the City.

**CHILD CARE INQUIRIES FIELDED**

|  |
| --- |
| **Data from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022** |
| Santa Monica Residents Requesting Child Care in Santa Monica | 87 |
| Non-Residents Requesting Care in Santa Monica  | 110 |
| **Total** | 197 |

**Child Care Subsidy**

In addition to offering child care referrals, CFC manages the eligibility list for state, county, and city child care subsidy funding. The number of SM children on the eligibility list as of June 30, 2022, increased by 2% (from 136 to 140 children) compared to this year’s Mid-Year Report. These are children of low-income families who rely on child care to work, attend school, and stay housed.

**SUBSIDY ELIGIBILITY LIST (SM residents on CFC’s child care subsidy eligibility list at Year-End)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Zip** | **Families** | **Children** | **Age** | **<1** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13+** |
| 90401 | 6 | 7 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 90402 | 2 | 2 |  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 90403 | 17 | 19 |  | 3 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 90404 | 57 | 74 |  | 8 | 12 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 90405 | 29 | 38 |  | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| **Total** | **111** | **140** |  | **15** | **20** | **26** | **28** | **17** | **17** | **5** | **2** | **3** | **0** | **3** | **1** | **2** | **1** |

Enrollment of SM children in CFC-administered subsidy programs is consistent with last year’s Year-End Report. To align the SM Subsidy Program with our state subsidy programs, per City of SM approval, CFC waived family fees for FY 21-22.

**SUBSIDIES PROVIDED**

**(SM children enrolled in all CFC-administered subsidy programs at Year-End)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subsidy Enrollment** | **SM Subsidy Program** | **Other Subsidy Programs (State and County funds)** | **TOTAL** |
| Infants/Toddlers (up to 24 months) | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Preschool Age | 49 | 51 | 100 |
| School Age | 29 | 54 | 83 |
| Enrolled as of 6/30/22 | 82 | 112 | 194 |
|   Type of care utilized |  |  |  |
|    Center | 64 | 46 | 110 |
| Small FCC | 2 | 19 | 21 |
| Large FCC | 16 | 21 | 37 |
|    Exempt Care |  | 26 | 26 |
|  **Total** | **82** | **112** | **194** |
|  Children in Sites Rated High Quality/Top Tier  (3-4 quality-rating stars or NAEYC or NAFCC accredited) | 19 | 3 | 22 |
|  |  |  |  |

**SUBSIDY FUNDING BREAKDOWN**

**(SM children enrolled in all CFC-administered subsidy programs by**

**home zip code and funding source at Year-End)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program** | **90401** | **90402** | **90403** | **90404** | **90405** | **Total** |
| CalWORKs Stage 1 (County) | 6 | 0 | 5 | 17 | 10 | 38 |
| CalWORKs Stage 2 (State) | 2 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 19 |
| CalWORKs Stage 3 (State) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 15 |
| CAPP (State) | 1 | 0 | 2 | 25 | 9 | 37 |
| Bridge (State) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| SM (City) | 5 | 2 | 2 | 51 | 22 | 82 |
| **Total** | **15** | **2** | **13** | **111** | **53** | **194** |

**Early Learning Playgroup**

Since the pandemic began, CFC provided our signature Family Time program for caregivers and children virtually on a bi-weekly basis. When children returned to in-person school, we saw a shift in participation from parents to Center and FCC staff, mostly based outside of the City. Providers show enthusiasm in participating with the children as they learn new activities aligned with the Early Development Instrument (EDI) developmental domains. With our “Mindfulness Moment” segment, we help support children’s and caregivers’ self-regulation and resiliency during this challenging time.

To increase our reach to SM parents and caregivers, CFC promotes our programming and shares resources with partner agencies in our newsletter and social media platforms. We anticipate an increase in participation among SM residents when we can resume in-person Family Time at Virginia Avenue Park. CFC plans to return to monthly, in-person sessions in September 2022 and hopes to increase frequency to bi-monthly.

|  |
| --- |
| **Family Time Participation 7/1/21-6/30/22 – 25 Sessions**  |
| **Total Children:** **Total Adult Participants:** |  | 430165 (5 or 3% are SM residents; of those, 4 reside in 90404, 1 in 90405) |
|  |  |  |
|  *Parents*: |  |  75 (45%) parents |
|  *Center & FCC Staff*: |  |  90 (55%) Center & FCC Staff |
|  |  |  |

**Quality Improvement Support**

CFC offered quality improvement efforts with a focus on child care programs that serve families receiving subsidy. In addition to CFC’s ongoing professional development series, which is aligned with the California Early Care & Education (ECE) Core Competencies, we offered special “Health & Safety during COVID” and “Trauma-Informed Care” trainings where additional support and resources are provided by CFC staff throughout the year. Providers also received phone consultations, technical support, and resources from CFC staff. As always, it is our goal to encourage all licensed providers in SM to actively recruit and enroll families receiving subsidy so that all children, regardless of family income, have access to high-quality early learning experiences. In SM, there are currently 12 centers that are National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited, and one FCC with National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) accreditation. This includes three centers who were NAEYC accredited over the past year, an increase from last year.

Throughout the pandemic, CFC was an active member of the SM Economic Recovery Task Force – Child Care Subgroup and regularly attended meetings to discuss community concerns and needs among teachers, providers, and families during COVID-19. Group members share updates on child care availability in the City, current news with the Santa Monica Malibu School District (SMMUSD), grants available for child care providers, additional community resources including subsidized child care, food access, and wellness.

CFC provided quality support to programs by offering virtual workshops on COVID-19, resources on staying safe, and links to available grants and stipends. In addition, with donations from state agencies and local businesses, CFC distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies like disinfecting wipes, bleach, hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, diapers, baby wipes, books, and activity kits to SM providers.

CFC also leveraged resources from the State’s Child Care Development Division’s Learning Innovation, and Improvement Office to provide all child care providers the opportunity to receive a variety of free, educational material bundles—in the areas of art, science and nature exploration, manipulatives, and social-emotional skills—to enrich student learning.

**SECTION II: ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT**

Briefly describe or list any program assessment or evaluation efforts during the reporting period and summarize the results achieved. Specifically highlight any program participant involvement in these efforts.

Please highlight any new efforts to collaborate with other service providers and/or leverage services. Please include the agency name(s) and service(s) provided.

Parent surveys are conducted at each family’s subsidy enrollment or re-certification appointment to assess the impact of the SM subsidy program on the lives of participating families. Fifty-four percent of participants (44 of 82) completed the survey this year. Of the respondents, 30 were re-certifying to continue receiving child care subsidy and 14 were newly enrolling in the program. Some of the key data points include:

* 93% indicate that the child care subsidy assistance significantly improves their family's life.
* 84% believe the subsidy assistance gave them greater choices in selecting quality child care.
* 84% stated their child care provider has helped them to much better understand their child's growth and development.
* 100% note that child care subsidy assistance was important in helping to keep a job or go to school.

###### SECTION III: BOARD INVOLVEMENT

* Connections for Children held three Board of Directors meetings (1/26/22, 3/23/22, 5/25/22) and a two-part Board Retreat (2/5/22, 3/26/22) during this reporting period.
* Average attendance was nine Board members per Board of Directors meeting.
* CFC engaged Envision Consulting to help plan and facilitate the Board Retreat and related Board engagement trainings, focused on recruitment, fund development, and strategic planning.
* The Board continued to focus its attention on monitoring implementation of the organization’s strategic plan, positioning the agency for financial sustainability and growth, and COVID-19 response efforts.
* CFC currently has twelve Board members. Three Board members reside in SM. Board members serve on the following SM-based boards: Rotary Club of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Education Foundation, and SMMUSD PTA. One Board member (who was an influential civic leader and volunteer in SM and served on numerous SM-based Boards) passed away during this reporting period. CFC is actively recruiting additional Board members who hold civic and/or professional leadership roles in the SM community.
* The CFC by-laws allow for up to 20 Board members. CFC is committed to expanding and diversifying its board as we recruit new Board members. One new Board member was elected to begin their term on July 27, 2022, bringing the total number of Board members to twelve.

###### SECTION IV: STAFFING PATTERN

* The Community Partnerships Coordinator concluded employment at CFC on March 25, 2022. The R&R Supervisor assumed their primary responsibilities related to the SM-funded program, supported by the R&R Manager and team of R&R Specialists. This change was formally communicated to City staff.
* This program does not utilize volunteers or unpaid interns.

**SECTION V: SPECIAL FUNDING CONDITIONS**

*Provide a status report on how the agency is meeting its funding conditions listed in Exhibit A of your Grant Agreement, clearly addressing each individual funding condition in bullet point format.*

**Standard Funding Conditions**

1. CFC stands ready to participate in the City’s efforts to develop an outcomes measurement system to better track human services program demographics and outcomes. CFC participates in relevant meetings and provides program data to the City, as requested.
2. CFC followed guidance from public health officials to provide services in adherence to the safety protocols related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including modifications to service delivery, physical infrastructure, safety equipment, and protocols to protect participants and staff. Our office reopened to the public (by appointment), and we continue to provide our core services virtually using phone, email, and videoconferencing. CFC staff are also co-located at the Santa Monica Early Childhood Lab School twice monthly and by appointment. We hosted contactless, drive-through events to equip child care providers with personal protective equipment (PPE) and other critical program supplies. CFC drafted a COVID-19 Prevention Plan as required by Cal/OSHA. All staff working onsite follow strict masking, social distancing, and safety protocols, per public health guidelines and best practices. We also adopted an agency vaccination policy.
3. CFC assists eligible participants in submitting applications to applicable Santa Monica Housing programs, and leverages relationships with other social service agencies in our community, such as those in the ECWP, to support families in need of housing.

**Youth & Families Agencies**

1. CFC actively participates in Santa Monica Cradle to Career (SMC2C) collective impact meetings and initiatives, including the Building Blocks for Kindergarten Work Group and the Early Childhood Task Force (and Steering Committee). CFC staff are also part of the ECWP network.
2. CFC is prepared to work with the City and families on any community crisis. CFC staff participated in the Santa Monica Economic Recovery Task Force – Child Care Subgroup and the City’s Volunteer/Nonprofit Leader Connection calls to collaborate with other nonprofit agencies to address urgent community needs and leverage available resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. CFC led various emergency response efforts to support families and caregivers during the pandemic: enhanced child care referrals for essential workers, child care subsidy vouchers for essential workers, emergency and safety supply distributions for providers, regular check-ins, and sharing of timely resources for providers. CFC also provides quarterly updates to the City on provider status and capacity to serve families.

**Early Education**

1. CFC Subsidy Program Specialists verify subsidy eligibility based on employment or school records of all parents and the residency by reviewing utility bills, valid driver’s license, or identification cards; verification is also based on referral from supportive housing programs or referral from the ECWP network. Participants in the State-funded essential worker voucher are able to self-certify their eligibility information, per state guidelines.
2. CFC’s Provider Specialist conducts an annual review to document that all providers have a current license to operate. The last review was in August 2022, documenting that each provider accepting SM subsidy had a current license to operate.

**SECTION VI: SERVICE NEEDS AND REFERRALS**

The following tables track data on program participant needs and the inter-agency relationships utilized to address them. Please provide this information as completely and accurately as possible for participants entering your program.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ASSESSMENT OF ADDITIONAL SERVICE NEEDS****(Santa Monica Participants)** | **FY 2021-22****Number Responding “Yes”****at Mid-year** | **FY 2021-22****Number Responding “Yes”****at Year-end** |
| 1. “Do you or anyone in your household have unmet employment needs?”
 | 1 | 4 |
| 1. ”Have you missed or been late on a home rental or mortgage payment within the last 12 months?”
 | 3 | 15 |
| 1. “Do you or anyone in your household have an unmet childcare/afterschool need?”
 | 0 | 0 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **INCOMING PARTICIPANT REFERRALS** **(Santa Monica Participants)** | **FY 2021-22****Number****at Mid-year** | **FY 2021-22****Number****at Year-end** |
| Participants referred by another agency | 13 | 24 |
|  **Please list the top 3 referring agencies** |  |  |
| * 1. **Family Service of Santa Monica**
 | 11 | 20 |
| * 1. **Venice Family Clinic**
 | 2 | 4 |
| * 1. **N/A**
 | 0 | 0 |

**SECTION VII: PROGRAM SERVICES AND OUTCOMES**

Provide a status report on the program activity levels and outcomes for Santa Monica program participants as indicated in Section VII of your Program Plan. Examples have been provided for your reference; please insert rows as needed to align with your Program Plan. For outcome achievement not documented in a report, please provide narrative explanation and/or documentation of how outcome data is captured.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Service Category/ Program Goal** | **Activity Type** | **Activity Description** | **Annual Target\***  | **Documentation****Method** | **Mid-Year** **Status Report** | **Year-End****Status Report** |
| 1 | ***Increase*** ***Child Care Access (Referrals)*** | Output | Any SM subsidy participants (families) receive enhanced referral upon request | 100% | Case File | 100% of (10) SM subsidy participants received anenhanced referral upon request. | 100% of (27) SM subsidy participants received an enhanced referral upon request. |
| Output | CFC staff provide ongoing outreach and support to licensed child care providers in Santa Monica. | 340 points of contacts | R&R Database | 585 points of contact which include updates, technical support and assistance. | 840points of contact which include updates, technical support and assistance. |
| Outcome | Maintain or increase the number of SM licensed providers who accept child care subsidy | 38 | Case File | 43 providers accept CFC-administered subsidy. | 52providers accept CFC-administered subsidy. |
| 2 | ***Increase*** ***Child Care Access (Subsidy)*** | Output | SM children enrolled in child care subsidy program | 180 | Case File | 161 SM children are enrolled in child care subsidy program. *(See Page 3 for breakdown of subsidy funding)* | 194SM children are enrolled in child care subsidy program.*(See Page 3 for breakdown of subsidy funding)* |
| Output | SM subsidy participants (families) are able to gain/maintain/improve employment | 153 (85% of 180) | Case File | 100% of parents with children enrolled report they are able to gain/maintain/improve employment.  | 100% of parents with children enrolled report they are able to gain/maintain/improve employment. |
| Outcome | SM subsidy participants (families) are able to attend education/training | Case File |
| Outcome | SM subsidy participants (families) are able to gain/maintain housing | 25 | Case File | 8 of 11 (73%) SM subsidy families said they were able to gain/maintain housing.  | 37 of 44 (84%) SM subsidy families said they were able to gain/maintain housing.  |
| 3 | ***Improve*** ***Child Care Quality*** | Outcome | SM early childhood educators participate in CFC professional development trainings | 25 | Training Registry | 6 SM early childhood educators participated in 26 CFC professional development trainings. | 9SM early childhood educators participated in 30 CFC professional development trainings. |
| Outcome | SM providers who accept subsidy complete Gateways Passport, maintain/increase quality rating or accreditation | 8 | Training Registry & Provider Records | 13 SM providers who accept subsidy completed Gateways Passport (5), maintain/increase quality rating or accreditation (8) | 19 SM providers who accept subsidy completed Gateways Passport (6) or maintained/increased quality rating or accreditation (13) |

###### VARIANCE REPORT:

###### Year-end: Please provide an explanation for each output or outcome for which achievement is above or below 10% of the projected target.

Child Care Referrals

Total contact points with SM child care providers at year end was nearly three times (840 vs. 340) CFC’s annual target. This increase can be attributed to the number of PPE distributions, grants, and webinars that became available to child care providers this fiscal year to support the ECE workforce in staying open. CFC also leveraged our relationship with the LA County Department of Health and Community Care Licensing to provide timely guidance to child care providers on COVID-19 testing and exposure management.

The number of SM child care providers who accepted CFC-administered subsidy increased by 20% from mid-year to year-end (43 to 52). CFC’s enhanced referral process always provides subsidy clients with information on SM providers accepting subsidy. The increase may also be partially due to the fact that there were more open child care slots in SM, as compared to pre-pandemic times, which gave parents more child care options within the City.

Subsidy

There was an 11% increase from mid-year to year-end (73% to 84%) in the number of SM subsidy families who were able to gain/maintain housing. CFC’s increased efforts in outreach and engagement with SM agencies who work with housing insecure families, such as the Westside-Infant Family Network and the Los Angeles Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment, has improved CFC’s ability to assist families in maintaining stability. COVID-19 rent relief also could have contributed to this shift.

Quality Improvement Support

While SM provider participation increased from mid-year to year-end, attendance at CFC professional development trainings is under our program target. CFC offers free Early Care and Education Trainings for providers to attend virtually at least twice a month. CFC notifies providers of these trainings and other professional development opportunities through emails. Although trainings were offered during evening hours and Saturday mornings, providers shared that they are busy maintaining COVID-19 safety guidelines in their programs and are low on staff, leaving them without much flexibility to attend trainings. At this time, we are finding that one-on-one consultation and distribution of supplies is the greatest need among providers. They have less time and ability to attend trainings compared to pre-pandemic times.

CFC staff continue to support providers with technical support such as assistance with stipends/grants, COVID testing and guidance, supply distributions, and monthly workshops. CFC plans to provide a combination of virtual and in-person trainings, following public health guidance.

CFC will continue its in-person office hours at the SM Early Childhood Lab School and explore options to host provider trainings at the Lab School. CFC also plans to resume in-person Family Time at Virginia Avenue Park in September 2022, which will allow CFC to reconnect with the SM community and increase awareness of among parents and providers.

**SECTION VIII: PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

If this program has entered into a lease agreement with the City of Santa Monica, please provide a status report of facility improvements and routine maintenance performed during the reporting period. **N/A**

**By submitting this report to the Housing and Human Services Division, I certify that this report is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that all disbursements have been made in compliance with the conditions of the Grantee Agreement and for the purposes indicated.**