


ANNUAL REPORT 2021

*Pioneering equity & innovation in
early childhood for 70 years*





I just want to let you know how impressed we are with our experience this year. Our daughter is absolutely thriving during a time of such uncertainty, thanks to you. You provide a safe and loving environment and show them they are valued. **THANK YOU** for all you do for our kiddos.

-HP Community Parent

**OUR VISION
IS EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO THRIVE**

**OUR MISSION
IS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CARE
AND EARLY EDUCATION TO ALL CHILDREN**

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LISA ADELMUND



Dear Friends of HP Community,

2020 was a year of unparalleled challenges, testing the resilience of early childhood care in communities all over the world. It was also a year that shined light on systemic inequities in our social justice and educational system.

As we approach our 70th anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment to meeting the needs of working families, many essential workers, by continuing to follow our mission of providing a safe, caring and enriching environment where children and families are supported, diversity is celebrated and each child's individual development is fostered by skilled and loving staff.

We believe that every child deserves to thrive. We work diligently to provide an environment rich in opportunities to explore not only materials and ideas, but also relationships between children, adults, and the world around them. Like our name, we believe in *community* and all that that word entails.

We are incredibly grateful for our parents, volunteers, and the generosity of our donors. With your continued support, we commit to serving our community and fulfilling our vision where every child deserves to thrive.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lisa Adelmund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Adelmund" clearly distinguishable.

Lisa Adelmund, Executive Director

OUR PROGRAMS

For 70 years, Highland Park Community Early Learning Center has provided exceptional and affordable early care and education to families from a diverse array of economic, cultural and ability backgrounds.

Support of our students uses a holistic approach, providing education that goes beyond the classroom to consider circumstantial needs of the entire family. HP Community works with families to ensure they are utilizing all the resources that are available to them to provide a stable, nurturing environment for their children.

Founded in 1951, HP Community was created for the purpose of providing affordable, high-quality early childhood education to working families.

HP Community offers year-round programming for children ages 2 to 5 from 7 am to 5:30 pm.

Our qualified educators include bilingual and ISBE licensed teachers in each classroom as well as specialists in art, music, social work and curriculum development.



THE HIGHEST QUALITY EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE TO *ALL* CHILDREN



- AWARDED THE GOLD CIRCLE OF QUALITY THROUGH EXCELERATE ILLINOIS FOR THE 5TH YEAR
- THE FIRST INDEPENDENT PROGRAM IN LAKE COUNTY TO RECEIVE THE GOLD CIRCLE; EXCEEDING QUALITY ON EVERY MEASURED STANDARD
- PIONEERING EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH EQUITY AND INNOVATION SINCE 1951



PARENT LOVE DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

-We love Community and are so happy with our decision to send the boys there. The combination of the pandemic and my new job made us look into new daycare and we could not be happier with the outcome.

- I feel my daughter's growth as a person at HPC has been amazing. There have been so many changes and challenges in her time there and the administration and teachers have handled everything so incredibly well. Moving to a new building, a pandemic - HPC continued rolling with the punches and she loves it.

-Great job! I don't want to jinx anything, but I think the measures the school has taken is what has allowed us to stay open, safely with no disruptions.

-The staff is doing a great job teaching the kids the importance of hand sanitizing, mask wearing, and social distancing.

-I am so impressed with all the policies and procedures put into place to ensure our children can continue to have some sense of normalcy.

-We think you are doing a great job! Also, the kids are doing a great job keeping masks on which is a testament to your hard work norming this practice!

-We appreciate the entire TEAM at HP Community for their efforts and safety.

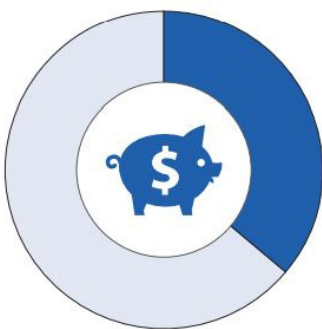
OUR IMPACT

Children from lower-income earning households often arrive at the kindergarten door substantially behind children from higher-income households. On average, children from poor families score far below their higher-income earning peers in vocabulary & literacy development, early math, as well as in social skills (Halle et al., 2009; Lee & Burkham, 2002).

A 2018 study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation found the short-term benefits of a high-quality ECE program included school readiness skills such as language development, numeracy and math skills and long-term benefits, including achievement through secondary education, into college and college graduation.

HP Community narrows this achievement gap by preparing students for social and academic success when they enter Kindergarten through:

- Licensed and credentialed teachers and support staff
- Implementation of a research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum
- Individual screenings, assessments & portfolios
- Regularly scheduled parent/teacher conferences
- Resource referral by social work consultants
- Dedicated art and music specialists
- Dedicated indoor and outdoor playspace



38%

of Community families earn less than \$53,000 annually



47%

our students come from single-parent households

53%

of our students are considered "at risk" for academic and developmental delays

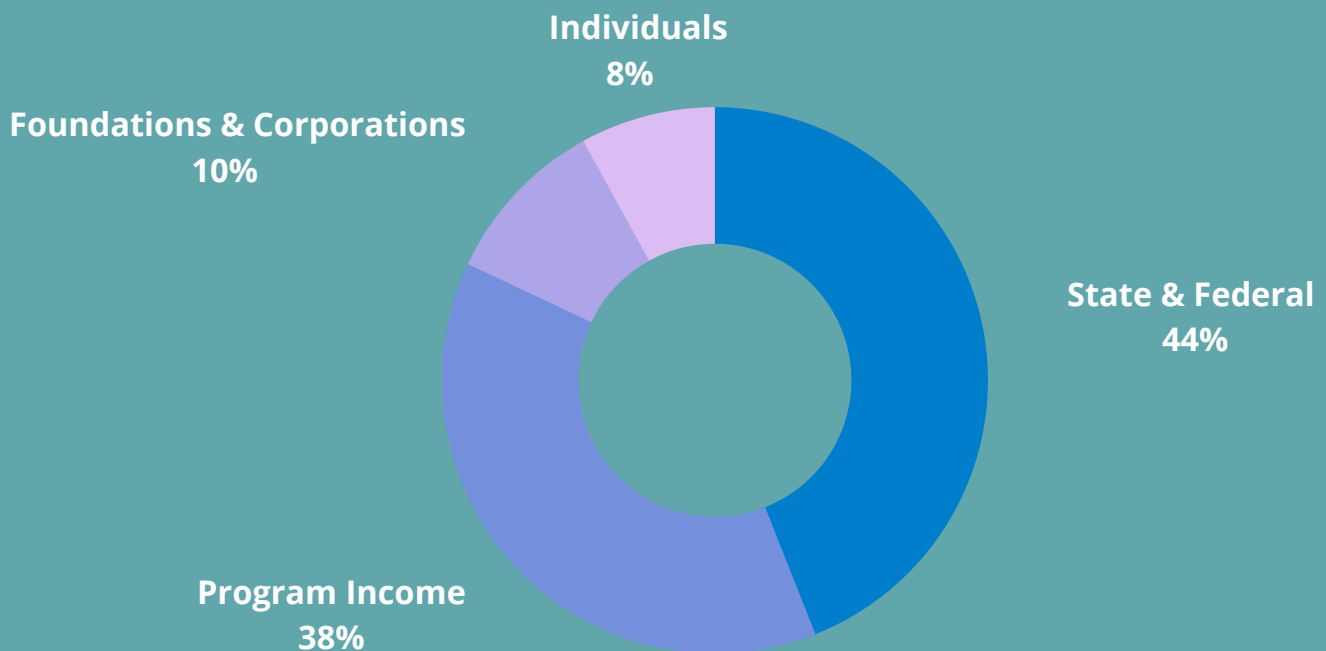
50%

of students speak a different language than English at home, 38% of which is Spanish

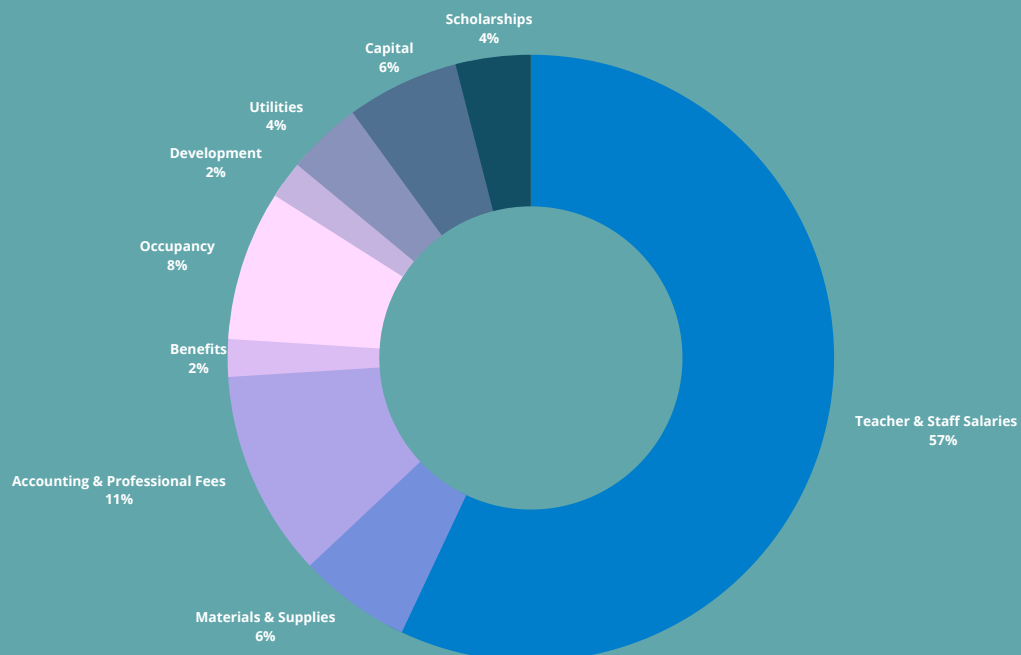
FINANCIALS

The 2020-2021 operating budget for HP Community was \$1,381,594. 44% of this revenue came from state and federal government sources, 38% from sliding scale tuition, 10% from foundations and corporations, and 8% from individual donors.

2020-2021 REVENUE



2020-2021 EXPENSES



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Teachers

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Amy Garcia
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Cecilia Vasquez
Amelia Walsh

The staff at HP Community is experienced and highly qualified, degreed professionals in early childhood education and related fields. Educated and experienced staff is the core of our programs. They attend, present, and actively participate in continuing education programs on an ongoing basis, including national and international early childhood conferences in order to improve their understanding of child development and best practices for early childhood education. The teachers and staff are nurturing professionals who are passionate about what they do.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$50,000-\$999,999

Highland Park Community Foundation
Illinois State Board of Education
Illinois Department of Human Services

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Thomas H & Donna M Stone Foundation
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\$5,000-\$9,999

First Bank of Highland Park
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\$1,000-\$4,999

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\$100-\$499

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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



First Bank of Highland Park
Where Community is First!



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