I’m often asked, “What does CNE do?” The short answer is, many things - all with the ultimate goal of connecting our youngest learners and their families to the stabilizing supports they need to thrive and enter kindergarten confident and ready to learn. This year, we reached over 400 children and families through a variety of programming highlighted above. But we recognize that not all children in our community have the same access and opportunities to high-quality early childhood programming. And we’re ready to change that.  Together, with your support, we can build children's futures today.

With gratitude,
Carol Teske, Executive Director
Head Start/Early Head Start

CNE's Head Start/Early Head Start program serves 116 children from birth to age five and pregnant women by delivering comprehensive family services and high-quality early education and childcare through 3 program options: center-based services, home visiting, and in-home family child care. Through Head Start programming, CNE aims to promote confidence, competency, self-determination, and healthy interdependence among family members, and to coach parents to be strong advocates for their children.

Illinois State Board of Education
Preschool for All

CNE's Illinois State Board of Education Preschool for All program (PFA) serves children ages three to five who are at-risk for school success. The program currently serves 118 children at no cost. CNE coordinates this program, which is offered through 5 local early childhood preschool partners: Infant Welfare Society of Evanston, Learning Bridge Early Education Center, Puerta Abierta, Reba Early Learning Center, and Toddler Town.

Social-Emotional Coaching

CNE's Social-Emotional Learning Coaching program (funded by United Way of Metro Chicago, through the Evanston Cradle to Career initiative) provides targeted classroom coaching and mentoring around issues of social-emotional regulation to 8 local classrooms, including CNE's Head Start classrooms. The program has a dedicated coach who spends time in the classrooms (when and as allowed by DCFS regulations) observing children and teachers. Teachers receive stipends for one-on-one sessions with the program coach, to help provide strategies for managing challenging classroom behaviors and situations. Over the past year, the program coach has provided over 210 hours of dedicated one-on-one-coaching services to local early childhood educators.
Our Programs

Learning Together
CNE’s Learning Together program, funded by the City of Evanston, provides on-site speech and occupational therapy as well as mental health services for children in local early childhood programs. Teachers and parents learn from the program therapists how best to help children with mental health and other developmental issues succeed early in life. With the support of this program, many children who might otherwise be excluded from early learning centers are able to remain in programming.

Trauma-Informed Mental Health Services
CNE continues to administer a program to provide no-cost mental health and crisis trauma services to children in early childhood programs in Evanston and surrounding communities. A new collaboration between The Family Institute at Northwestern University and the Evanston Early Childhood Council (of which CNE is the fiscal sponsor) led to additional funding from Northwestern, and an expansion of the program which will allow these critical services to penetrate more deeply into Evanston’s most vulnerable communities and early learning spaces at a time when the need for them is greater than ever.

English Language Classes
CNE has provided 2 different 7-week series of English Language classes for interested parents in our programming. Funded by a local family foundation, the classes were in response to a stated need of parents, the classes were very well-received and attended. A 3rd session is set to begin in March, 2022.
Supporting Parents and Families

Head Start parent involvement activities include regular Family Nights (held virtually this year), monthly Policy Council meetings, regular parent meetings/workshops at center-based sites, an annual Family Celebration, and a Holiday Gift Drive event. All of these activities continued in a virtual format during Covid, although limited in-person gatherings were possible on occasion as public health guidelines permitted.

Community Fridge

CNE has partnered with Evanston Fight for Black Lives to host Evanston’s first “Community Fridge” – a take what you need, leave what you can refrigerator stationed outside CNE’s office building in Evanston. Since its launch, the Community Fridge has been an important food resource for local families (including CNE families), and neighbors have kept it generously stocked with a variety of healthy and nutritious food. Food rotates in and out of the Fridge regularly, and we have received lots of positive feedback on how it has supported local families.

Car Seat Safety

In August 2020, two CNE employees (one Home Visitor and the Operations Manager) completed a 40-hour course developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and became Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. Since that time, they have installed 60 safety seats for enrolled children and their siblings, in some cases the seats were purchased with funds from the Head Start program.
Supporting Kindergarten Readiness

Parents are given a "Strong Start to Kindergarten" activity guide for families to use as a resource throughout the preschool years. The guide is available in English and Spanish, and contains a host of developmentally-appropriate activities for children across the pre-K age group (ages 3-5) covering all domains of learning, to help them build the necessary skills for kindergarten. As children approach the start of kindergarten, their dedicated Home Visitor or Family Support Specialist spends extra time communicating with families about how to prepare themselves and their children for the transition.
Our Impact

Over 400
Total number of children served in all CNE programming during the past year throughout the 8-community Head Start service area, which includes Evanston, Skokie, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Northfield, Northbrook, Wilmette and Winnetka. This includes the 164 children from 110 families enrolled in the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

89%
Blended average of children enrolled in CNE’s Home Visiting program meeting expectations across all developmental domains - physical, social-emotional, language, cognitive, literacy, and math. Outcomes measured in the spring of 2021, near the end of CNE’s HS/EHS program year.

26,700
diapers distributed
to families

100%
of enrolled children
received medical exam

Monthly Enrollment and Service Area coverage
Average monthly enrollment was 92, or 79% of funded enrollment of 116. Based on recent demographic data, CNE’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs served 13.6% of the eligible children in our service area.
76% of families enrolled in CNE's HS/EHS programs racially identify as other than White

12% of children enrolled in CNE's HS/EHS programs are either homeless or in foster care

38% of program referrals were from community partners, underscoring the importance of these connections
To support our 2021 operating budget of $4 million, CNE relies on the support of a variety of government funders, as well as foundation and corporate contributors. Together we strive to create positive, impactful early childhood experiences for all.

**Governmental Funders**
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- Office of Head Start
- Illinois Department of Human Services Child Care Assistance Program
- Illinois State Board of Education - Preschool for All Program
- City of Evanston - Social Services Committee

**Foundation and other Funding Partners**
- Chicago Community Trust
- Chilanta Community Foundation
- Cless Family Foundation
- Evanston Community Foundation
- Finnegan Family Foundation
- Franklin Square Foundation
- First Midwest Bank Charitable Foundation
- Francis Beidler Foundation
- Hanson Family Foundation
- Kiwanis Foundation of Evanston
- Miller Cooper & Co. Charitable Foundation
- Karen and Jason Sussman Family Foundation
- Schorr-Lieberman Family Foundation
- United Way of Metro Chicago
- Woodward Charitable Trust
- Bundled Blessings (diaper donations)
- Cradles to Crayons (in-kind donations)
- Cycle Forward (period product donations)
**Individual and Corporate Contributors**

**July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation Level</th>
<th>Contributors</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Over $10,000** | Anonymous  
Paul and Sue Brenner |
| **$5,000+** | Barb and Mike Davis  
Jane and Dave Doyle  
Paul and Mary Finnegan  
MacArthur Foundation  
(employee matching gift program) |
| **$2,500+** | Paul and Martha Arntson  
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Mark and Margie Zivin |
| **$1,000+** | Jenny and Dave Blickenstaff  
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Judy and David Schiffman  
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Therese and Mark Vande Hey  
Jeremy and Jane Wilson |

**With special thanks to the Evanston Community Foundation, whose Building the Future program encouraged us to form the CNE Connectors Circle - our first major gift recognition society. All donors who contribute $1,000 or more in any fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) are members of the Circle. We are grateful for their meaningful support.**
(Continued)

$250+
Michael and Nancy Basofin
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Judith Borchers
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Celeste Stolz
Sean Thornton
Barbara Tubekis
John and Jean Wadsworth
Caryl Weinberg
Julie Zare
# CNE Financial Summary

**FY2020 (audited)**

## INCOME - $3,472,817

### Government Contracts
- **$2,709,941**
  - Head Start/Early Head Start
  - IL Dept of Human Services
  - IL State Board of Education
  - Evanston Mental Health Board-Scholarships
  - Evanston Mental Health Board - Learning Together

### Grants, Contributions & Other
- **$662,876**
  - Grants
  - Unrestricted Contributions
  - Fundraising & Miscellaneous
  - In-Kind Contributions

## EXPENSES - $3,405,061

### Program Services
- **$3,025,710**
  - Head Start/Early Head Start
  - Site Administered
  - IL State Board of Education
  - Learning Together/Trauma
  - Childcare Network
  - Systems Building

### Supporting Services
- **$379,351**
  - Management and General
  - Fundraising

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Childcare Network of Evanston
CNE Board of Directors

Jonny Basofin, Chair
Meghan Rice, Vice Chair
Barbara Davis, Secretary
Jeff Froelich, Treasurer
Ricardo Aceves
Mary Ann (Ty) Harvey
Chantell Johnson
Talaya Johnson
Tracy Levine
Sheila Merry
Hibo Mohamed
Travis Wood

CNE Head Start Policy Council

April Garretson
Jes Handley
Julian Hernandez
Ely Lemus
Helen Oushana
Valentina Partida

Connecting our youngest learners and their families to essential early childhood experiences

Annual Report 2021
What our parents are saying

CNE program was a jumpstart for my babies to build the different phases in growing up and learning. It helped a lot in many ways and I would recommend this program to others.

I love the communication we have with staff, how friendly and happy to help everyone is. I don't feel a sense of shame for the help I get because of the awesome attitude everyone has.

El personal es muy eficiente en todo. Me han ayudado mucho en todos los ámbitos que eh necesitado. En verdad estoy muy agradecida.

My son's staff were extremely helpful throughout the pandemic. I was given resources to help me cope with my anxiety.

Creo q pues todo esta muy bien me encanta estar en este programa.

The most recent Federal Review was conducted during the week of November 27, 2017 and identified only 2 areas of noncompliance. Both areas were swiftly addressed by CNE management and were determined to have been corrected in an "Overview of Findings" dated October 2, 2018. CNE is scheduled for a Federal Review in 2022.
CNE STAFF

Executive Director  Carol Teske
Director of Programs/Head Start  Deepa Mehta
Fiscal Officer  Vicky Guzman
Home Visiting Manager  Lisa Shines
Program Manager  Carolyn Myszkowski

Benjamin Adashek
Abby Alpert
Chava Alpert
Martha Arntson
Jenny Blickenstaff
MK Clayton
Sonia Collins
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1335 Dodge Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
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www.childcarenetworkofevanston.org