

About

The Oakland Children's Initiative (Measure AA) is a 2018 Charter Amendment passed by Oakland constituents to deepen early investment in children and support them through college graduation. The Oakland Children's Initiative Early Education Fund expands access and enhances the quality of early care, education, and preschool for Oakland's children, families, and communities to improve educational outcomes and address systemic inequities. Funding for the Oakland Children's Initiative is provided by the City of Oakland.

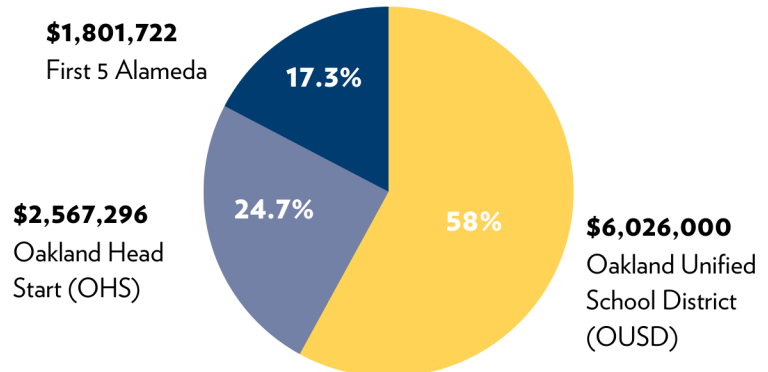
System, Infrastructure, and Capacity

In December 2022, First 5 Alameda County (First 5) was awarded the City of Oakland contract to serve as the OCI Early Education Implementation Partner and administer the Early Education Fund. In the first six months of implementation, First 5 worked closely with Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and City of Oakland Head Start (COOHS) — the OCI specified priority public system partners — to support neglected physical infrastructure and urgent staffing and capacity building needs.

Early Education Program Investments

January 2023 - June 2023

\$10,395,018



Children Served by Oakland Unified School District and Oakland Head Start with OCI Funding*

January 2023 - June 2023

2,345 GRAND TOTAL OF CHILDREN SERVED

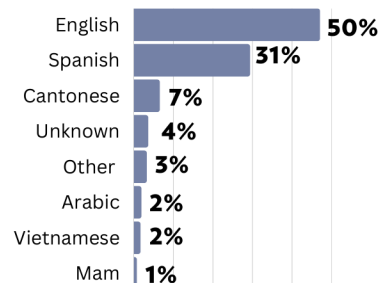
Children served by age group



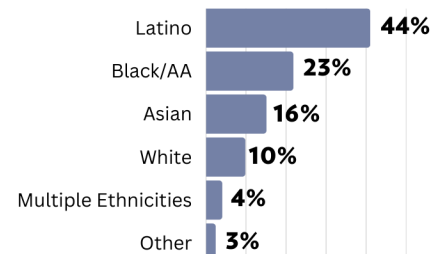
Children served by gender



Children served by home language



Children served by race and ethnicity



*Demographic data is preliminary and subject to change as data infrastructure among public systems is built and data analysis is refined.

Programming Highlights

From January 2023 to June 2023, First 5 Alameda County allocated over \$10 million from the Oakland Children's Initiative Early Education Fund to stabilize the early care and education ecosystem in Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and City of Oakland Head Start (COOHS). This initial investment will support infrastructure improvements, staffing, professional development, family navigation, resources, and materials to provide additional access and improved quality early care and education programming for low-income 3- and 4-year-old students served by OUSD and COOHS. The OUSD and COOHS sites that received funding during this time period are located in Oakland Council District 2, District 4, District 6, and District 7.



Strategy

Activity



\$4,860,359

Infrastructure improvements

Building quality spaces for children

- \$4,800,000 - *Oakland Unified School District*
 - Major renovation of all spaces at the Kaiser Early Childhood Center (97 children, 94618) to enable the creation of four early care and education classrooms, staff room, outdoor play yard, administrator office, and shared kitchen, as well as ADA-compliant access throughout the campus.
- \$60,359 - *City of Oakland Head Start*
 - Playground equipment enhancements, operational and maintenance expenses at Franklin (14 children, 94606), Arroyo Viejo Park (6 children, 94605), and Tassafaronga (14 children, 94621) sites.



\$2,675,857

Staffing and family supports

Supporting educators, staff, and families

- \$687,000 - *Oakland Unified School District*
 - 6 Family Navigators to provide parents and caregivers with support, information, and resources to access educational services.
- \$1,988,857 - *City of Oakland Head Start*
 - Support staffing for all direct service, administrative, and substitute teaching staff.



\$924,802

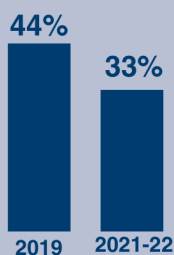
Professional development, curriculum materials, coaching and training

Expanding professional development opportunities and supports

- \$539,000 - *Oakland Unified School District*
 - Purchase curriculum materials and cloud subscription to provide educators with access to curriculum resources, planning documents, curriculum differentiation tools, and professional development modules.
- \$385,802 - *City of Oakland Head Start*
 - Attendance at STEM Conference for educators serving the following OHS sites: Franklin (14 children, 94606), Arroyo Viejo Park (6 children, 94605), Tassafaronga (14 children, 94621), 85th Avenue Center (17 children, 94621), and Brookfield (26 children, 94603).
 - Coaching and training (CLASS training, ASQ training, Child Plus training, CLASS Observations, Health and Safety training, and CPR Training) for early learning staff serving the following OHS sites: Franklin (14 children, 94606), San Antonio Park (8 children, 94606), San Antonio CDC (16 children, 94606), Arroyo Viejo Park (6 children, 94605), Lion Creek (18 children, 94621), Tassafaronga (14 children, 94621), 85th Avenue Center (17 children, 94605), Brookfield (26 children, 94603), and Home Based programs (19 children, 94601).

KINDERGARTEN READINESS REQUIRES SYSTEMS CHANGE

The [2021-22 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment \(KRA\)](#) findings illustrate the need for investment in the early childhood system and policy advocacy for structural changes to address persistent inequities.



Children Prepared
for Kindergarten

According to parents/ caregivers, 33% of children were fully ready for kindergarten in 2021 compared to 44% in 2019. Structural inequities compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted children, families, and communities.

Key Findings:

- Families reported needing **activities for young children and child care** as their highest priority.
- **Family income** was strongly related to readiness.
- Use of **kindergarten transition supports**, especially among fathers, was linked to higher readiness.
- 65% of families indicated help **connecting to resources was important to them**; only 12% of all families had actually received this kind of assistance.
- 88% of **kindergarten teachers reported feeling stressed**. Educators who reported high levels of stress were over four times more likely to say they plan to leave the profession.
- Early care and education (ECE) professionals **experienced the greatest changes to their hours and income during COVID-19**: 49% reported decreased hours, 43% decreased wages, and 57% decreased household income.

For more on the conditions facing communities, families, and children, see the [2021-22 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Executive Summary](#).

OUR NORTH STAR

Our “North Star,” the population result that guides our work, is that All Children Are Ready for Kindergarten; our work is to ensure that policies, systems, communities, and schools support families and children by creating the conditions that position all for success.

Building an equity-centered early childhood system, which centers a whole community, whole family, whole child approach, to improve kindergarten readiness is essential to the current and future overall health of Alameda County. It will require the prioritization, commitment, and investment of a cross-section of partners, including public systems, community-based organizations, parent advocates and leaders, and philanthropic organizations. To this end, First 5 funds, partners, administers, and advocates to ensure that families have what they need at every stop along the “[Road to Kindergarten Readiness](#)” and that systems are prepared to meet the needs of children, families, and communities.

CONNECT WITH US

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