Annual Report 2024-25

Los Angeles County Office of Education
Head Start and Early Learning Division

Head Start: A Springboard to Success

Los Angeles County Office of Education

HEAD START

Los Angeles County Office of Education

Mission Statement

We strengthen student potential and foster strong resilient communities through education, advocacy and strategic partnerships.

Vision

Empowered Students, Thriving Communities

HEAD START

Division Statement

LACOE Head Start and Early Learning Division offers comprehensive prenatal-to-five early learning programs. We partner with families, communities and providers to give children of all abilities the skills to succeed in school and life.

Vision

Cultivating Relationships to Foster Communities of Excellence

Head Start:
A Springboard to Success

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Superintendent's Message

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools
Los Angeles County Office of Education

In the constant rush of ever-busy lives, it can be easy to overlook or undervalue early learning, especially if you are not actively engaged as a parent or teacher of a young child. But in certain pivotal moments, like the beginning of the pandemic and the early months of 2025, there comes a stark reminder: Every child, without exception, deserves the opportunity to learn, be healthy and thrive.

As educators, and as parents, we are guided by one principle above all: children come first. The nation's essential early learning programs have long been the bedrock for our youngest children and their families, offering foundational support in times of need. The whole community is stronger when every child receives a quality education, early intervention and nutritional support services. These programs spur children's development, empower parents to work, strengthen the fabric of our communities and enhance our local economies.

High-quality early learning is an investment that pays dividends across a child's lifetime, and a key piece of the infrastructure on which our economy is built. I am a proud advocate of our Head Start and early learning programs and reaffirm the impact and value that these essential programs bring. Our children, families and communities deserve nothing less.

Executive Director's Message

Luis Bautista

Executive Director
Head Start and Early Learning Division

The 2024-25 program year marked the start of our new five-year Head Start project period and the launch of our new five-year strategic plan. Internalizing the values of being human-centered, innovative-minded and learning-focused, we embraced a new vision to guide our work: "Cultivating Relationships to Foster Communities of Excellence."

Throughout the 2024-25 program year, and into this one, we have nurtured both new and existing relationships to strengthen our services: with institutes of higher education to support aspiring educators in our Career Development Initiative; with health providers to provide all children the care they need; with our delegate agencies to reach more families in need of Head Start services; and with public schools and early learning providers to ensure that all programs under the Universal PreKindergarten umbrella are equipped to provide quality, developmentally appropriate services.

Most importantly, we continue to cultivate each day those essential relationships at the cornerstone of our mission: the bonds between children, parents and educators. The daily interactions between parents and children, children and educators, and educators and parents are fundamental to children's healthy development and, more broadly, critical to the health of our families and communities now and for years to come. They make Head Start a launchpad for future leaders and strong communities. Thank you for being a part of this work as we foster communities of excellence together.

Los Angeles County Office of Education

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is the nation's largest regional education agency, serving nearly two million students from infancy through adulthood across 80 school districts and over 350 charter schools. Led by a superintendent appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and governed by a seven-member County Board of Education, LACOE provides both direct instruction and functions as a strategic bridge between local districts and the California Department of Education. Districts depend on LACOE for essential services, including budget approvals, charter school authorizations, financial monitoring and appeals processes, while also relying on the agency as a trusted partner for fiscal operations, human resources, technology, curriculum and accountability support.

LACOE understands the importance of early childhood education, which is why we are deeply involved in supporting early learning and development.

Head Start and Early Learning Division

Every child deserves a great start in life with access to high-quality early learning experiences. For more than 45 years, LACOE has supported the development of children from prenatal stages to five years old—an essential time for shaping their growth and readiness for school and the world. Our programs are designed to nurture key developmental milestones, ensuring kids have the support they need every step of the way.

The division partners with 17 school districts and nonprofit organizations to provide comprehensive services to children and families. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards to give every child the best possible start.

We support the early learning field by managing the state's largest Head Start program and leading efforts to implement developmentally appropriate Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) programs. We also help guide UPK and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) programs across the county.

Community Assessment Summary

LACOE's most recent Community Assessment, presented to the County Board of Education on November 18, 2025, includes data on demographic and eligibility variables, services provided to children and families and changes that impact Los Angeles County, including a high cost of living and the downward trend in birth rates. The most significant changes identified in this community assessment include the declining enrollment of four-year-old children in Head Start, attendance barriers and the well-being of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) workforce.

Additional factors to consider in LACOE's strategic planning include the need to increase community knowledge of Head Start as an option in a mixed delivery system, supporting parent choice in selecting ECE programs that best fit the needs of families and children, navigating flat funding amidst rising program operational costs and the ongoing impact of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) expansion on ECE programs.

Head Start and Early Learning Division Programs

Early Head Start and Head Start Preschool

Early Head Start (EHS) is a comprehensive, family-centered early education program. EHS offers health, nutrition and support services to eligible families with infants, toddlers and pregnant women. With a focus on child development and school readiness, the program provides early learning opportunities, parent engagement, healthcare access, nutritious meals and support for families to set and achieve goals.

As children grow, the Head Start Preschool (HSP) program continues the journey of preparing them for kindergarten, supporting social, emotional and cognitive development for children ages three to five. Tailored services are provided for children with disabilities, ensuring individualized support. Recognizing parents as primary educators, we prioritize leadership and parenting development opportunities.

California State Preschool Program (CSPP)

As a state-funded program, CSPP supports children's individual development and kindergarten readiness. LACOE enhances CSPP by combining state funding with Head Start to extend learning opportunities for two-, three- and four-year-olds. The program also provides parent education, social service referrals, health and nutrition resources and staff development.

General Child Care and Development (CCTR)

CCTR offers year-round center-based care for children under three, serving families experiencing homelessness or pursuing education, job training or employment. By integrating CCTR and EHS funding, LACOE enhances service quality, parental engagement and staff training opportunities.

California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) – Region 11

The Los Angeles County Office of Education's California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) provides high-quality, research-based professional learning and implementation support for early childhood educators across Los Angeles County. Guided by the California Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations (PTKLF), CPIN promotes inclusive, developmentally appropriate practices that advance young children's language, social, cognitive and physical development.

CPIN offers free in-person and virtual trainings for CSPP and Head Start programs, Transitional Kindergarten educators, family childcare providers and Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers.

As Region 11 of the statewide CPIN system, LACOE champions joyful, play-based, PTKLF-aligned learning environments that empower educators and enhance program quality and outcomes for children and families across Los Angeles County.

Universal PreKindergarten (UPK)

LACOE's Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Initiative is a countywide effort to expand joyful, high-quality early learning through a comprehensive, tiered system of support for districts, charter schools, educators and leaders. Since the launch of the UPK Planning and Implementation Grant in 2022, the initiative has grown to include institutes, leadership networks, professional learning communities and collaborative partnerships that strengthen developmentally appropriate, play-based learning across Los Angeles County.

Through its tiered service delivery model, LACOE provides foundational professional development for all partners (Tier I), targeted guidance and classroom enhancements for participating sites (Tier II) and transformative coaching for deeper, customized support (Tier III). The initiative now serves 44 districts and charter schools and supports more than 1,300 Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classrooms with ongoing institutes, coaching and classroom design work grounded in curiosity, choice and wonder.

Universal PreKindergarten Career Development Initiative (UPK-CDI)

Since its launch in 2022, the Universal PreKindergarten Career Development Initiative (UPK-CDI) has strengthened the prekindergarten workforce pipeline through a fast-track approach to educator preparation and advancement. Led by LACOE, the initiative expands access to well-prepared educators and supports clear pathways for early childhood professionals.

Program Outcomes to Date

UPK-CDI has made significant progress in building workforce capacity across Los Angeles County:

- 125 individuals hired as assistant teachers
- 109 participants active in the assistant teacher pathway
- 56 Transitional Kindergarten (TK) teachers working toward new state-required qualifications

These results reflect strong recruitment and ongoing support for educator advancement.

Early Education Teacher Development (EETD) Consortium

The EETD Consortium provides a collaborative structure that unites school districts and early childhood education (ECE) programs to maximize resources and align professional learning. Support is offered across four key areas:

1. Multi-day professional development funding
2. ECE coursework with higher education partner funding
3. Supplies and substitute teacher funding
4. Enrollment in Career Development Initiative pathways

Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA)

For over a decade, Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) has served as the countywide Quality Improvement System (QIS). It empowers early learning providers to strengthen and enhance the quality of care they offer to children ages birth to five. Since 2014–15, six agencies have championed QSLA's quality improvement services: the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), First 5 LA, the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA), the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), the Child Care Planning Committee and Partnerships for Education, Articulation and Coordination through Higher Education (PEACH).

In 2024-25, QSLA provided quality support services to 1,235 early learning sites and helped enhance the care delivered to 44,070 children, ages birth to five, who were enrolled in early learning programs participating in QSLA.

Inclusive Early Childhood Education

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) implements the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) grant, funded by the California Department of Education, to expand access to inclusive early education for children with disabilities, including those with severe disabilities. LACOE's IEEEP-2 grant (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027) focuses on professional development and adaptive equipment.

LACOE provides job-embedded professional learning through Intensive Individualized Coaching (IIC), Team Simulated Coaching (TSC) for administrators and additional training. Adaptive materials, equipment and mobile resources are available to support partner agencies.

Services also extend to 541 QSLA CSPP sites. A mobile RV unit supports screenings, trainings, recruitment, consultations and home visitations for IEEEP, QSLA and regional center partners.

HOPE on Wheels at the LA County Regional Center Wildfire Resource and Recovery Fair.

Average Enrollment

LACOE operates comprehensive Head Start Preschool (HSP) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs across Los Angeles County. In recent years, enrollment has been impacted by post-pandemic shifts in family preferences, increased competition from Transitional Kindergarten and State Preschool programs, declines in eligible populations and barriers related to transportation, health and documentation. As a result, LACOE was designated by the Office of Head Start (OHS) as a Chronically Under-Enrolled grantee and placed under the Full Enrollment Initiative (FEI).

In response, LACOE implemented enhanced recruitment and outreach strategies, strengthened community partnerships, streamlined enrollment and waitlist processes, expanded data-driven decision-making and prioritized family engagement and retention.

In the 2024-25 program year, average monthly enrollment for Head Start Preschool was 93% and 87% for Early Head Start.

LACOE served a cumulative total of 9,097 children and 86 pregnant women from 8,528 families.

Sources: Program Information Report 2024-25, Community Assessment Nov. 2025

Eligible Children Served in Los Angeles County

Early Head Start

Population	Eligible at 100% FPL	Served by EHS*	Served by CCTR	Total Served	% Served
257,641	47,391	7,399	1,045	8,444	18%

** Served by EHS includes LACOE and other EHS grant recipients.*

Head Start Preschool

Population	Eligible at 100% FPL	Served by HSP*	Served by Others	Total Served	% Served
177,777	30,025	13,566	5,724	19,290	64%

** Served by HSP includes LACOE and other HSP grant recipients.*

School Readiness

LACOE's approach to school readiness is grounded in three core elements: preparing children for success in school, equipping schools to effectively support young learners and empowering families to advocate for their children's education and development.

The School Readiness Framework serves as a structured guide that illustrates how education is interconnected with broader systems of support and services. The framework is built on essential components, including high-quality curriculum implementation, ongoing child assessment, targeted professional development and meaningful collaboration with parents, families and the community.

Together, these elements ensure that children are supported across developmental domains and prepared for successful transitions into kindergarten and beyond.

Family engagement is a critical driver of school readiness. Through the Family Partnership Process (FPP), LACOE delegate agencies partner with families to identify strengths, assess needs and establish goals that promote positive child and family outcomes. While the FPP is not a direct measure of school readiness, it is an essential system-level strategy that strengthens family capacity, supports child development and reinforces the shared responsibility between programs and families in preparing children for school success.

Developmental Assessment

Tracking Progress

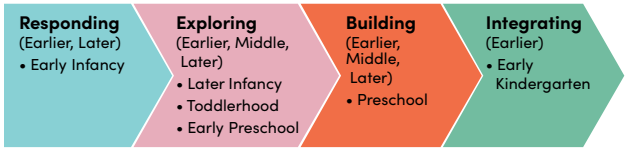
The Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) is a research-based tool developed by the California Department of Education and required for all LACOE programs. It helps educators observe, document and reflect on children's learning and development. DRDP results show each child's developmental level and are used to guide curriculum planning, inform professional learning and support continuous program improvement.

LACOE uses the DRDP to assess the developmental progress of children from birth to age five across five developmental domains:

- Approaches to Learning – Self-Regulation
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy Development
- Cognition – Math and Science
- Physical Development – Health

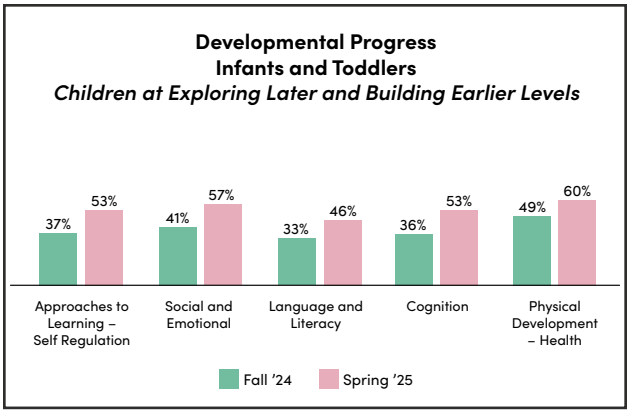
Children's progress was assessed at the beginning of the year (Fall 2024) and at the end of the year (Spring 2025). DRDP ratings are organized into four categories that reflect a developmental continuum from early infancy up to kindergarten entry: Responding, Exploring, Building and Integrating.

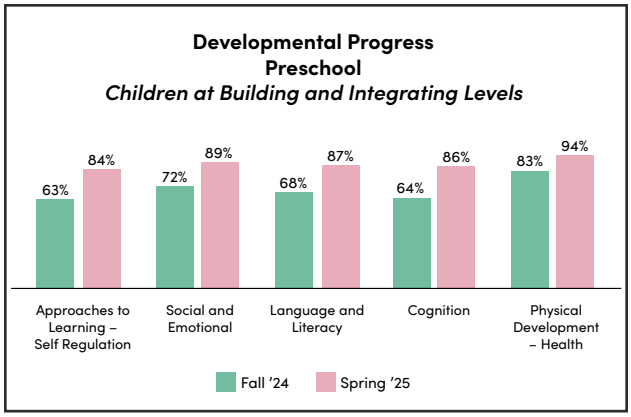
Children are not expected to be rated at the highest developmental level at the end of their preschool years. However, DRDP research shows that most preschoolers will reach the Building level by the end of preschool.



Between fall and spring, infants and toddlers demonstrated age-appropriate progress, particularly in reaching the Exploring Later and Building Earlier levels across all developmental domains. Similarly, most preschool children reached the Building and Integrating levels by the end of the year (Spring) for all developmental domains. Children demonstrating skills at the Building and Integrating levels show knowledge and abilities typically seen in preschool and kindergarten.

The following charts illustrate age-appropriate progress for both infant/toddler and preschool-age children.





Classroom Quality

Progress in improving the quality of teacher-child interactions in preschool classrooms.

Preschool Classroom Quality Results

In 2024–25, LACOE conducted 168 CLASS observations of Head Start preschool teachers to collect data on the quality of teacher–child interactions.

The 2024–25 average CLASS domain scores are shown in the table below. To understand how teachers' interactions compared to national thresholds, these scores were reviewed alongside the OHS Designation Renewal System (DRS) Competitive and Quality Thresholds.

CLASS Domain	2024-25 LACOE Average (n=168)	OHS Competitive Threshold	OHS Quality Threshold
Emotional Support	6.38	5.00	6.00
Classroom Organization	5.81	5.00	6.00
Instructional Support	3.07	2.30	3.00

Key findings based on the analysis of CLASS domain scores showed that LACOE's teachers:

- Surpassed the OHS Competitive Threshold in all three domains
- Fell below the OHS Quality Threshold in the Classroom Organization domain

Comprehensive Services

LACOE provides high-quality, comprehensive services for infants, toddlers and preschoolers to support their overall growth, development and readiness for school.

Health

Our dedicated staff helps families access medical and dental providers so children can receive important health, dental and developmental screenings. We also assist with providing referrals for healthcare services and immunization scheduling. Teachers support children in building healthy routines, such as practicing good personal hygiene, to encourage lifelong wellness habits.

Nutrition

Children receive nutritionally balanced meals each day to support their growth and development. To encourage healthy eating beyond the classroom, parents receive nutrition education, and delegate agencies incorporate nutrition into classroom activities, fostering lifelong healthy habits.

Child Development & Education

LACOE's early childhood education programs align with the Office of Head Start's school readiness outcomes and provide developmentally appropriate curricula. We continuously monitor children's progress in language, early math skills and social-emotional development to ensure they are well-prepared for future learning.

Mental Health

Emotional well-being and strong relationships are fundamental to child development. LACOE takes a holistic and proactive approach to mental health services for children, families and staff. Our efforts include ongoing monitoring, training for parents and staff and access to mental health professionals who can provide necessary support.

Children with Disabilities

LACOE is committed to ensuring that children of all abilities receive the resources and support they need to thrive. At least 10% of funded enrollment is designated for children with disabilities. Collaborations with local educational agencies (LEAs), regional centers and other providers help deliver specialized services, individualized education plans, adaptive equipment and accessible facilities.

Family & Community Engagement

Families play a vital role in their child's education and development. LACOE supports parents in setting and achieving family goals, provides parenting education and equips families with skills to support their children's needs. Additionally, we foster community partnerships to connect families with essential resources that promote long-term success.

Services Received by Children and Families

Health

Service	Head Start Preschool	Early Head Start	Total
Completed Medical Exam	3,905 (71.1%)	1,734 (47.8%)	5,639 (61.9%)
Completed Medical Treatment	947 (79.2%)	500 (80.3%)	1,447 (79.5%)
Completed Dental Exam	4,637 (84.5%)	2,540 (70.0%)	7,177 (78.9%)

Disability Support

Service	Head Start Preschool	Early Head Start	Total
Children with Disabilities	1,172 (21.4%)	845 (23.8%)	2,017 (22.2%)
Special Education and Related Services	1,163 (99.2%)	843 (99.8%)	2,006 (99.4%)

Mental Health

Service	Head Start Preschool	Early Head Start	Total
Staff Consultations	325 (86.9%)	424 (95.7%)	749 (91.7%)

Classroom Teachers w/ Credentials

Service	Head Start Preschool	Early Head Start	Total
Teachers Meeting Degree and Credential Requirements	367 (98.1%)	427 (96.4%)	794 (97.2%)

Services Received by Families

Adult Education/Job Assistance Training	1,324 (15.5%)
Mental Health Services	6,350 (74.5%)
English as a Second Language (ESL)	117 (1.4%)
Health Education	4,393 (51.5%)
Nutrition Education	1,787 (21.0%)
Parenting Education	1,326 (15.5%)
Supporting Transitions to Preschool/Kindergarten	5,736 (67.2%)
Emergency/Crisis Intervention	1,369 (16.1%)
Received at Least One Family Service	8,359 (98.2%)

Source: Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start Program Information Report 2024-25

Family and Community Engagement

Family and Community Engagement (FCE) staff continued to support families by introducing a variety of engaging initiatives, including volunteer opportunities, onsite health screenings, male-involvement activities and Parent Cafés—providing spaces for parents to connect and learn. Staff updated parent boards and resource binders to help families access food banks, diapers, wipes and many other resources. FCE staff also connected families with social services tailored to their specific needs, demonstrating a commitment to holistic support and overall well-being.

Across LACOE's service area, delegate staff work with and engage families to assess their needs and strengths and offer opportunities to work on setting goals and supporting families in making progress towards achieving their goals. The table below outlines the percentage of families receiving at least one service and those who participated in goal setting and needs assessments.

Family Service	Head Start Preschool	Early Head Start
Percentage of families receiving at least one service	98%	98%
Percentage of families participating in goal setting and assessed for strengths and needs	93%	89%

Parent Engagement

Parent engagement is central to LACOE programs. LACOE partners with parents and community members to promote shared decision making and meaningful participation through workshops, conferences, committees and special projects. These activities help parents build skills that support their children's learning at home and in early education settings.

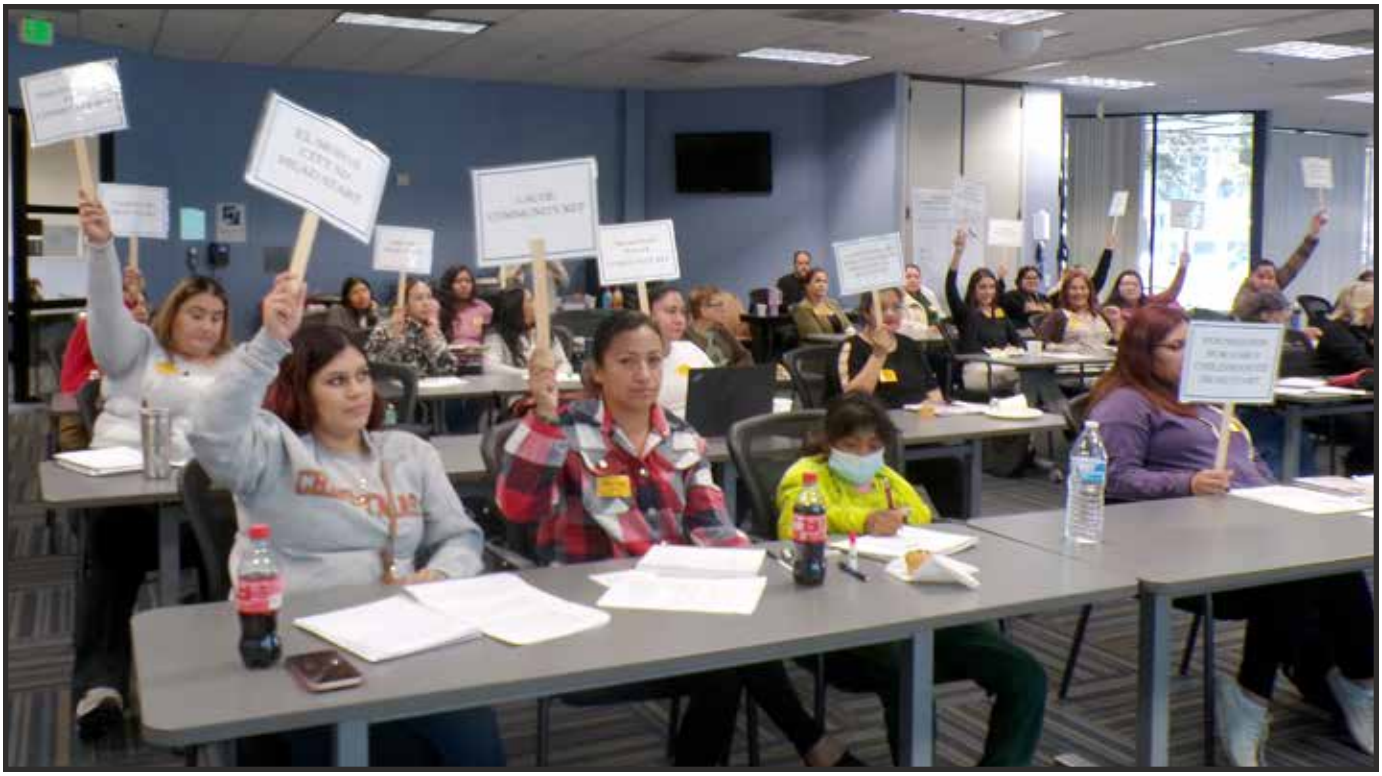
Policy Council

The Head Start Policy Council (PC) includes parent representatives from each delegate agency and community members. Working with the County Board and County Superintendent, the PC provides essential input on program direction and policy development.

PC members strengthen their leadership and advocacy skills and have access to certification courses, conferences and workshops. Participation can lead to career advancement, including eligibility for two-year office assistant positions with LACOE, with many parents moving into roles in school districts and early childhood programs.

Policy Committees

At each delegate agency, parents of enrolled Head Start children serve on Policy Committees alongside community representatives. Their input helps shape agency policies and procedures, ensuring programs remain responsive to family and child needs.



Parent Spotlight: Rocio Calel and Daniel Morales

"Early Head Start has been a blessing for my family. I've watched my son grow socially, emotionally and academically, and I've grown as a parent too. The support, kindness and structure this program offers truly makes a difference."—**Rocio Calel**

Rocio Calel and her partner, Daniel Morales, first learned about Early Head Start while Rocio was studying child development in college. Although she understood the program academically, it wasn't until the family attended a community event on Riverside Drive and visited an Early Head Start booth that they felt encouraged to enroll their son.

The couple wanted their child to have a strong educational foundation, social interaction with peers and a program that supported the whole family. Like many parents, they had early concerns—especially about their son's adjustment and nutrition, since they are careful about limiting sweets and processed foods. Meeting the warm, professional staff and reviewing the school's daily menus reassured them they had found the right place.

Since joining, their son has grown socially, emotionally and academically. He communicates more clearly, shows greater independence and has made significant progress in speech, including switching confidently between languages. The entire family has benefited from the program's resources, guidance and structured learning environment. Support such as developmental activities and diapers provided on site have helped them feel connected and supported.

Rocio and Daniel both stay engaged with the program. Rocio participates in meetings, workshops and represents Ramona Gardens EHS on the Parent Committee. Now fully cleared to volunteer, she visits the classroom weekly. Together, the couple have learned more about child development, positive discipline and how to support their child's learning at home.

Rocio and Daniel envision a future where their son grows up confident, kind, educated and ready for any path he chooses. They believe Early Head Start is helping build that strong foundation. To other parents, they encourage giving the program a chance, describing it as supportive, family focused and dedicated to children's well-being—including nutritious meals and a caring learning environment.

Division Highlights

Inclusive Early Childhood Expansion Program (IEEEP)

In 2024-25, the Inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) team trained 5,135 participants on various inclusion topics through 88 events supported by the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) grant. Job-embedded professional development plans were completed for each IEEEP partner, informed by inclusion data, enrollment trends, eligibility categories, unusual incidents and staffing patterns. These plans guide training opportunities and identify eligible classrooms for IEEEP resources. Intensive individualized coaching was provided to 84 staff, often including distribution of adaptive materials and equipment.

In addition, LACOE continued offering the Inclusive Practices Course in partnership with Cal State LA; 15 participants received scholarships and completed three professional development units. Demonstration classrooms were set up at Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) and St. Anne's Family Services (St. Anne's) to build administrative capacity to design universally accessible learning spaces using adaptive equipment and materials. In November 2024, Inclusive ECE hosted a networking and training session with partners and all seven L.A. County Regional Centers, as well as the Access and Belonging Conference in April 2025, which included all seven Regional Centers and the County Department of Public Health. Finally, HOPE on Wheels, a mobile unit designed to promote access to resources for children with disabilities and their families, served as a demonstration site and training space, supporting various events.

Golden Apple Awards

Each year, LACOE celebrates one outstanding teacher from our infant-toddler program and one from our preschool program with the Golden Apple Award. In January 2025, the LACOE Superintendent and Board recognized Elsa Guerrero, a Head Start Preschool teacher at Cogswell Elementary School (Mountain View SD), and Anthony Marroquin, an Early Head Start teacher at Marshall Early Education Center (Garvey SD), with the Eleventh Annual Golden Apple Award.

In the Community

LACOE teams traveled across Los Angeles County to spread the word about the incredible advantages Head Start provides to children and their families. By connecting with people at community events and sharing inspiring stories, LACOE staff, Policy Council parents and volunteers showed how Head Start can help build brighter futures. Their outreach encouraged families to learn more and see firsthand how the program changes lives.

Notable Visits

In 2024-25, LACOE welcomed six members of Congress to visit Head Start classrooms in their respective districts. Interacting with children, parents and teachers, these elected officials witnessed Head Start in action in their communities.

Rep. Jimmy Gomez
Foundation for Early Childhood Education

Rep. Laura Friedman
Blind Children's Center

"I visited the Blind Children's Center earlier this year, where I heard from parents about how the center's Head Start program has given their children the opportunity and ability to succeed despite their income."—Rep. Laura Friedman

Notable Visits

"Had the joy of visiting a local Head Start program in Pomona, and spending time with our young learners. Their bright smiles and boundless energy were heartwarming!"—Rep. Norma Torres

Rep. Norma Torres
Pomona USD

Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán
St. Anne's Family Services

Notable Visits

Rep. Gil Cisneros
El Monte City SD

Rep. Judy Chu
Garvey SD

"Had a great time today visiting Marshall Early Education Center in San Gabriel, a Head Start recipient school committed to preparing children from low-income families for success."
—Rep. Judy Chu

Delegate Agencies

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) maintains strategic partnerships with 10 nonprofit agencies and 7 school districts to provide comprehensive child development services to eligible pregnant women and families with children from birth to age five. Among these partners, Volunteers of America (VOA) plays a distinct role: while it does not directly operate Head Start services through LACOE, it holds a contract for California State Preschool Program services integrated with its independent Head Start program. The following illustrates LACOE's general service area for the 2024-25 program year, as supported by the other 16 delegate agencies.

East and Central Los Angeles

Includes: Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw, Boyle Heights, Central-Alameda, Echo Park, Downtown, East Hollywood, East Los Angeles, El Sereno, Highland Park, Hollywood, Koreatown, Lincoln Heights, Pico-Union, Silver Lake, South Park, Vermont Square and Westlake

Zip Codes for Early Head Start range: 90001 through 90069

Nonprofit Agencies: Blind Children's Center (BCC), Children's Institute, Inc. (CII), Foundation for Early Childhood Education (Foundation), Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF), Para Los Niños (PLN), Plaza de la Raza Child Development Services, Inc. (Plaza), St. Anne's Family Services and YMCA of Metropolitan LA

San Gabriel Valley

Includes: Alhambra, Bassett, El Monte, La Puente, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera, Rosemead, San Gabriel, West Puente Valley and Pomona

Zip Codes for Early Head Start range: 91108, 91702 through 91801

Nonprofit Agencies: Plaza

School Districts: Bassett USD, El Monte City SD, Garvey SD, Mountain View SD and Pomona USD

South Los Angeles and South Bay

Includes: Florence, Gardena, Harbor Gateway, Lawndale, Vermont Vista, Westmont and Watts

Zip Codes for Early Head Start range: 90002, 90003, 90037 through 90062

Nonprofit Agencies: CII, MAOF, Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) and YMCA of Metropolitan LA

Southeast and Gateway Cities

Includes: Bellflower, Cudahy, Downey, Florence-Firestone, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, Lakewood, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Whittier and Willowbrook

Zip Codes for Early Head Start range: 90021 through 90280

Nonprofit Agencies: CII, MAOF, Plaza de la Raza and YMCA of Metropolitan LA

School Districts: ABC USD and Norwalk-La Mirada USD

San Fernando and Antelope Valleys

Includes: Burbank and Van Nuys

Zip Codes for Early Head Start range: 91405 through 91411

Nonprofit Agencies: PLN and YMCA of Metropolitan LA

Westside Cities

Includes: Santa Monica, Sawtelle, Venice and Westwood

Zip Codes for Early Head Start range: 90247, 90248, 90249

Nonprofit Agencies: PACE

Delegate Agency Support

Program Management

LACOE partners with delegate agencies to support the well-being of children and families. Through collaborative planning and clear policies, we ensure strong program management, accountability and strategic decision making across our services.

Workforce Development & Professional Learning (WDPL)

To maintain high-quality services and continuous program improvements, LACOE provides a comprehensive system of training and technical support for delegate agencies. These resources empower staff with professional learning opportunities that enhance their skills and knowledge. During the program year, WDPL activities focused on Creative Curriculum, Parents as Teachers, CLASS and the Family Development Credential. In addition, the WDPL team provided the First Annual Early Head Start Institute to staff working with infants and toddlers and their families throughout LA County.

Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance (ERSEA)

LACOE implements targeted strategies to help delegate agencies achieve full enrollment and reach eligible families across Los Angeles County. In 2024-25, we continued to conduct extensive community outreach through social media campaigns, digital marketing and participation in local events alongside delegate agencies. These efforts ensured that families were well-informed about Head Start programs and the opportunities available to them.

Human Resources

LACOE implemented several high-impact professional development initiatives in 2024-25 that engaged both LACOE and delegate agency staff. The Human Resources Community of Practice (CoP) aimed to foster a collaborative space to engage in peer-led discussions, share best practices, and explore innovative solutions to common challenges. The Leadership Institute and Rising Leaders Academy aimed to ensure high-quality, sustainable service delivery across the delegate agencies through a focus on practical management skills, including implementation science and efficient communication techniques.

Comprehensive preservice presentations served as a critical touchpoint for aligning teaching and administrative staff with federal and state regulations, ensuring staff were equipped to maintain safe and healthy learning environments from the first day of instruction. Standards of Conduct training was transitioned to a digital, on-demand format, reducing administrative burden while allowing staff to complete an annual requirement conveniently. In addition, Unusual Incident (UI) Refresher Trainings aimed to refine agency response protocols and data integrity, empowering agency leaders to transition from simple reporting to meaningful root-cause analysis. This approach ensures that every incident—from medical emergencies to lapses in supervision—is utilized as a learning catalyst to strengthen the overall management system and prevent future risks.

Upgrades and Renovations

Children deserve to learn in safe, clean and modern environments. LACOE works closely with delegate agencies to ensure their facilities meet the highest standards for children, parents and staff.

In 2024–25, LACOE undertook several major upgrades and renovations, including El Monte City School District's Cortada site, Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment's (PACE) Anderson and Green sites, and Mountain View School District's Cogswell Center. The total investment in renovations on these sites was more than $9.2 million.

Delegate Agency Support

Upgrades and Renovations

El Monte City School District's Cortada Site

Before

Before

After

After

For El Monte's Cortada site, LACOE replaced two older buildings which had been in service for more than 25 years. Two new state-of-the-art high-performance modulars and a new dedicated play area were provided as a replacement.

Delegate Agency Support

Upgrades and Renovations

El Monte City School District's Cortada Site

Delivery

Playground

Construction

Interior

Delegate Agency Support

Upgrades and Renovations

PACE's Anderson Site

Before

Before

After

After

PACE's Anderson site previously consisted of one of LACOE's oldest portable classrooms, originally manufactured in 1967. This structure was replaced with a new building and a dedicated play area at a different location within the school campus.

Delegate Agency Support

Upgrades and Renovations

PACE's Green Center

Before

Delivery

Delivery

After

PACE's Green Center had been housed in an older portable classroom located in a remote parking area. This was replaced with a new modular building situated in a more appropriate location on campus, closer to other district classrooms.

Delegate Agency Support

Upgrades and Renovations

Mountain View School District's Cogswell Center

Before

Before

After

After

At the Cogswell Center, the district provided unused kindergarten classrooms, which LACOE fully renovated for the Head Start program. The exterior was also improved, including the installation of new play equipment.

Annual Summary

Funding, Audit, and Federal Review

LACOE's Head Start and Early Learning Division provides internal and external fiscal oversight for a combined federal and state budget totaling **$324 million for the 2024-25 fiscal year**. Tables 1 to 3 present a detailed breakdown of federal, state and local grant funding. The division monitors and expends all grant funds in accordance with LACOE contracts and applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

The LACOE Independent Audit, conducted by **Eide Bailly**, evaluated the Head Start and Early Learning Division's fiscal operations and compliance. The audit concluded that the division complied, in all material respects, with the requirements of **Section 200.516(a) of the Uniform Guidance**.

As of publication, LACOE's most recent review was a Focus Area One review conducted in January 2026. No areas of noncompliance or deficiency were identified, and the performance area of Staffing and Staff Member Supports was identified as a strong practice.

2024-25 Traditional Grant Funding

Table 1: 2024-25 Traditional Grant Funding	Amount
Federal Grants	
Head Start Preschool (HSP)	125,502,834
Early Head Start (EHS)	76,138,345
Low-Cost Extension (LCE)	
Head Start Preschool (HSP)	42,108,777
Head Start (EHS)	7,266,173
HS CARES Carryover (CO)	6,618
Early Head Start CCP Expansion (EHS-CCP X)	8,445,746
Head Start COVID and ARP CARES 3	307,926
Total Federal Grants	259,776,419
State Grants	
California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	11,278,397
Preschool – Reserves	10,511,538
General Child Care and Development (CCTR)	18,187,389
CCTR – Reserves	13,445,589
CSPP Supplemental	10,207,615
CCTR Supplemental	939,440
Total State Grants	64,569,968
Total Traditional Grant Funding	324,346,387

Annual Summary

2024-25 Traditional Grant Expenditures

Table 2: 2024-25 Traditional Grant Expenditures	Amount
Federal Expenditures	
HSP & EHS Costs	
Personnel	19,128,155
Operating	8,811,276
Delegate Agency	159,695,856
Total HS & EHS Expenditures	187,635,287
HSP & EHS LCE Costs	
Personnel	(368)
Operating	2,312,522
Delegate Agency	20,274,825
Total HS & EHS LCE Expenditures	22,586,979
EHS-CCP Expansion LCE Costs	
Personnel	0
Operating	301,547
Delegate Agency	2,366,847
Total EHS-CCP Expansion LCE Expenditures	2,668,394
Head Start COVID and ARP CARES 3 LCE Costs	
Personnel	0
Operating	307,145
Delegate Agency	(71,096)
Total Head Start COVID and ARP CARES 3 LCE Expenditures	236,049
State Expenditures	
CSPP, CCTR & Reserves Costs	
Personnel	1,823,585
Operating	1,076,251
Delegate Agency and Child Care Contracts	20,803,815
Total CSPP, CCTR & Reserves Expenditures	23,703,651
CSPP Supplemental, CCTR Supplemental Costs	
Personnel	0
Operating	12,085
Delegate Agency and Child Care Contracts	175,202
Total CSPP Supplemental, CCTR Supplemental Expenditures	187,287
All Traditional Grant Expenditures	237,017,647

Annual Summary

2024-25 Special Grants Funding

Table 3: 2024-25 Special Grants Funding	Amount
State Grants	
QSLA – California State Preschool Block Grant (QSLA-CSPP)	13,613,723
QSLA – Quality Counts California Block Grant (QSLA-QCC)	3,000,013
California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN)	665,000
Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP)	2,930,607
Educator Effectiveness Block Grant (EEG)	197,080
UPK Countywide Planning and Capacity Grant (UPK)	5,791,466
Early Education Teacher Development Grant (EETD)	14,167,133
Total State Grants	40,365,022
Local Grants	
Early Care and Education - HRTP (DEO)	734,422
QRIS Supplemental	32,060
QSLA IMPACT Legacy	2,983,140
California Community Foundation	3,491
Total Local Grants	3,753,113
Total Special Grant Funding	44,126,079
State Expenditures	
QSLA – California State Preschool Block Grant Costs (QSLA-CSPP)	
Personnel	2,196,800
Operating	2,034,702
Partner Agency Contracts	8,099,924
Total QSLA-CSPP Expenditures	12,331,426
QSLA – Quality Counts California Block Grant Costs (QSLA-QCC)	
Personnel	313,462
Operating	816,785
Partner Agency Contracts	1,535,087
Total QSLA-QCC Expenditures	2,665,335
California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) Costs	
Personnel	472,882
Operating	197,118
Total CPIN Expenditures	670,000
Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) Costs	
Personnel	709,456
Operating	1,274,005
Partner Agency Contracts	0
Total IEEEP Expenditures	1,983,461

Annual Summary

2024-25 Special Grants Funding (Continued)

Table 3 (Continued): 2024-25 Special Grants Funding	Amount
Educator Effectiveness Block Grant (EEG) Costs	
Personnel	0
Operating	106,400
Total EEG Expenditures	106,400
UPK Countywide Planning and Capacity Grant (UPK) Costs	
Personnel	1,328,179
Operating	686,326
Total UPK Expenditures	2,014,506
Early Education Teacher Development Grant (EETD) Costs	
Personnel	1,276,981
Operating	1,897,999
Total EETD Expenditures	3,174,980
Local Expenditures	
Early Care and Education – HRTP (DEO) Costs	
Personnel	53,515
Operating	388,886
Total Early Care and Education – HRTP Expenditures	442,401
QRIS Supplemental Costs	
Personnel	0
Operating	30,064
Total QRIS Supplemental Expenditures	30,064
QSLA IMPACT Legacy Costs	
Personnel	343,616
Operating	301,800
Partner Agency Contracts	1,995,480
Total QSLA Impact Legacy Expenditures	2,640,895
California Community Foundation Costs	
Operating	3,491
Total California Community Foundation Expenditures	3,491
All Special Grant Expenditures	26,035,839

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