

# UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT

## *Early Head Start Annual Report – FY23*



### **Early Childhood Programs at University Settlement**

Social development. Emotional development. Developing a love of learning. To us, they're all vital. Our early childhood education programs work to narrow the achievement gap, create opportunities for young learners in our communities, and ensure that every child is prepared for kindergarten and beyond.

We begin partnering with families early in a child's life. Our programs for children include early childhood mental health counseling, center-based early childhood centers, and Early Head Start.

In addition to programs for children, we engage expecting mothers and parents with parenting skills workshops, counseling, and network development.

All programs are responsive to the needs of children and families. We are dedicated to teaching and caring for children with different learning approaches, including children with special needs. We integrate mental health screening and care for children and parents, knowing that this investment makes a big difference in young lives. Our staff reflects the diversity of our communities and speak a variety of languages, including English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

Families access our programs in a variety of contexts, including programs for expecting mothers, early childhood centers for children ages 2-5, evidence-based home visiting programs for children ages birth-4, and a family childcare network engaging children in home-based settings and serving Manhattan and Brooklyn residents. Across our early

childhood programs, we strive to partner with families to help build strong educational and social-emotional foundations, strengthening our community's future.

### Early Head Start Programs

At University Settlement, our Early Head Start programs serve infants and toddlers under the age of 3, as well as expecting moms. We provide multiple program options in Manhattan and Brooklyn, including full-day infant-toddler classrooms, home-based services, parent-child socialization groups, and Family Child Care partnerships.

### Public Funds Received and Budgeting

In FY 23, University Settlement Early Head Start programs were awarded \$6,773,746 and non-federal share of \$1,693,437. Our program year runs from September 2023 to August 2024. We do not receive any private funds for the program. The table below demonstrates our budget expenses through April 2024. This report will be updated upon completion of the FY23 audit in summer of 2024.

Budget Category	Budget	Actuals	Variance
Personnel	\$3,912,731.00	\$2,155,347.00	\$1,757,384.00
Fringe Benefits	\$1,557,079.00	\$927,931.00	\$629,148.00
Supplies	\$180,788.00	\$75,505.00	\$105,283.00
Contractual	\$343,508.00	\$190,329.00	\$153,179.00
Other	\$779,640.00	\$178,892.00	\$600,748.00
Total Direct Cost	\$6,773,746.00	\$3,528,004.00	\$3,245,742.00
Indirect Cost	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Federal Share	\$6,773,746.00	\$3,528,004.00	\$3,245,742.00
Non-Federal Share	\$1,693,437.00	\$721,698.00	\$971,739.00
<b>Early Head Start Program Cost</b>	<b>\$8,467,183.00</b>	<b>\$4,249,702.00</b>	<b>\$4,217,481.00</b>

Our proposed budget for FY24 is appended below. With the addition of cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and Quality Improvement award, our award of \$6,930,290 with non-federal share of \$1,732,572 is currently pending approval.

Budget Category	Early Head Start
Personnel	\$4,061,942.00
Fringe Benefits	\$1,909,463.00
Supplies	\$92,911.00
Contractual	\$342,506.00
Other	\$523,468.00
Total Direct Cost	\$6,930,290.00
Indirect Cost	\$0.00
Federal Share	\$6,930,290.00
Non-Federal Share	\$1,732,572.50
<b>Early Head Start Program Cost</b>	<b>\$8,662,862.50</b>



## Who We Served + Our Enrollment Statistics

As our FY 2023-2024 program year is still in progress, we are sharing numbers from FY 2022-2023 in this report. In FY 22-23, University Settlement's Early Head Start program served:

- 292 families
- 290 children

Our average monthly enrollment across all Early Head Start programs was 65%. As we are recovering from COVID-19 pandemic, programs are experiencing lower enrollment numbers.

Home visit programs have become a more challenging sell with parents after the COVID-19 pandemic. On the Lower East Side, where two families are often sharing an apartment, parents are more reserved about having someone from outside the families visit their homes.

Percentage of eligible children served = 100%.

90% of the families we serve in our programs were income-eligible or meet other categorical eligibility requirements. 10% of the families make above 100-130% of the federal poverty guidelines.

94% of children enrolled in our programs received medical exams.

Approximately 56% of children enrolled in our programs received dental exams through the dental screenings we have twice a year on site. Caregivers of our youngest children do not emphasize dental screenings as much.



## How We Engage Parents & Caregivers

Across our Early Head Start programs, we consistently seek to engage families and caregivers. In FY 2022-2023, we hosted events including a Lunar New Year Celebration, twice annual dental screenings, a bi-weekly cooking activity for parents and children to encourage healthy eating habits, workshops helping children with separation anxiety, a winter meet-and-greet with fun activities for caregivers and children, family day picnic, and stepping-up ceremonies.

In addition to events and workshops, parents and caregivers are also regularly invited to participate in meetings to discuss concerns and share suggestions with program. Parents and caregivers are also invited to assist with their child's transition during the first two weeks of school, and as needed by their children and families. We also encourage parents to join our policy council, which helps shape how our program operates.



## How We Prepare Children for Kindergarten

We begin transitioning children to kindergarten when they turn 2.6 years old. Program-wide transition efforts and collaboration with our 3K programs is a continuous process that typically begins in January or February. We begin meeting with our 3K program leadership to discuss the number of transition children and begin a transition timeline for the year. We host transition workshops for families with children going to general education settings and special education settings. In addition, we also prepare a transition packet for all families aging out of EHS consisting of a summary of the child's development, their most recent Teaching Strategies Gold Checkpoints report, and any

special needs service reports. Families receive a complete hand off with a 3K program with check ins with families and schools receiving them.