

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

A YEAR OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE &
LEARNING

CHICAS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Chicas Youth Development Program

The Chicas Youth Development Program (Chicas) is an innovative after-school program for Latinx, female-identifying, youth in grades 3-12 that works throughout Washington County, OR.

Chicas incorporates academic support, leadership development, family partnerships, positive changes in cultural and gender identity, health education, and overall well-being.



History

The Chicas Program began in 2008 in response to Latinx, immigrant mothers who expressed the need for a safe space to support the social, emotional, and academic development of their daughters in order to reduce teen pregnancy, high school drop-out, substance use, and domestic violence.

Chicas began in 3 schools, serving 55 students in Forest Grove, and we now serve over 700 Latinx youth in grades 3-12 at 26 schools (27 sites) throughout Washington County, OR.

Financial Health

Chicas is an organizational priority. Supported by government grants, private foundations, corporations, as well as individuals. We reached our fiscal year (FY) ending 6-30-21 goals. Below is our current revenue and expenses for the Chicas Program.

FY22 Goals

\$810K

\$912k

KEY ACTIVITIES

473

Students in grades 3-12 were served in the 2020-2021 school year. All after-school activities were done virtually.

27

After-school sessions were delivered per week at 26 school sites.

203

Parents/Caregivers participated in virtual family engagement events. A total of 13 events were delivered.



ACCOMPLISHMENT

1

% Of Chicas participants were in grades 3-12 were promoted to the next grade.



ACCOMPLISHMENT

4

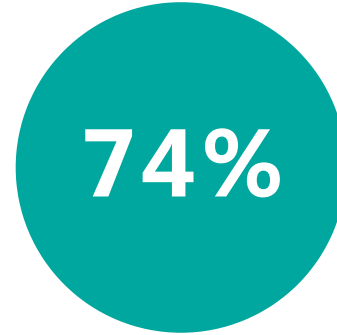
% Of graduated 12th graders, Chicas participants, were enrolled in post-secondary education.



ACCOMPLISHMENT

2

% Of 12th grade Chicas participants served graduated from high school.



ACCOMPLISHMENT

5

% Of Chicas participants at the end of the school year believe they can become leaders in their communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

3

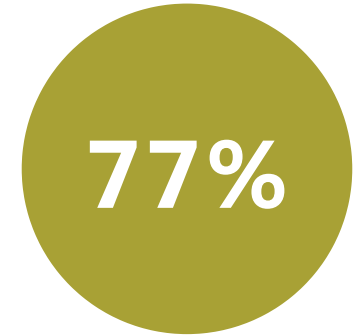
% Of Chicas participants reported positive behavior on self-efficacy and relationships with peers, families, and school personnel.



ACCOMPLISHMENT

6

% Of Chicas participants at the end of the school year believe they have good communication with their teachers & counselors.



CLASS OF 2021



CHICAS PROGRAM

COLLEGE MAP

Congratulations, to our graduation class of 2021! Key accomplishments below.



- Pacific University
- Portland State University
- Portland Community College
- Western Oregon University

75%

Of graduated Chicas received 1 or more scholarships.

- 2 individuals received full-ride scholarships.
- Pell Grant
- Individual Development Account recipients
- Bilingual Teacher Scholarship
- Joe Weston Foundation Scholarship
- Hillsboro Hops Dream Big Scholarship

PARTICIPANT STORY

The Chicas Program makes solid relationships with Latinx youth and their families. Chicas Advocates (mentors) provide participants with the tools to believe in their academic and social-emotional potential. Students connect with the program and start to believe in their ability to achieve social and academic success.

During the Chicas Virtual Graduation, Yolanda Díaz, Class of 2020, was the Guest Speaker. She is a first-year student at George Fox University in engineering. Yolanda shared her experience as a first-generation college student to the class of 2021. This virtual event had around 90+ attendees.

Yolanda highlighted the anxiety of being the only woman of color in her engineering classes, also how during the first day not feeling as prepared as other students. She participated in the first cohort of Chicas in College to continue having a support group of Latinx students in college and/or university. She successfully finished her first year and is excited to advocate for more Latinx students to stay in college.

"[Chicas] taught me to be proud of my culture, my background, and to be proud of being able to speak Spanish...When I joined Chicas, they told me that they were going to help me plan for my future, learn about different colleges and scholarships, and how to pay for college."

Yolanda began Chicas in 4th grade. In 2020, she became a first-generation college student with a full-ride scholarship.



CHICAS IN COLLEGE



The Chicas program mentored 15 students enrolled and attending post-secondary schooling.

This was the first complete year the College and Career Component (Chicas in College) has supported students throughout an entire academic year.

Support throughout the year was provided in the following ways:

- Individual check ins with students.
- Letters of recommendation for jobs, internships, and scholarships.
- Helping students create resumes.
- Interview preparation for scholarships and jobs.
- Reviewing/editing college applications and scholarship applications.
- Filing the FAFSA/ORSAA.
- Helping students understand financial aid packages from colleges.

CHICAS IN STEM

Centering Latinx youth and women in STEM is a direct response and part of the solution to the racial disparities felt by our community. The Chicas Program and its strength in building future leaders through culturally-specific programming has the tools to ensure growth in STEM interest and empowerment for Latinx women.

Chicas STEM Goal: To positively transform youths' attitudes towards STEM through culturally-specific engagement of STEM curricula with both the support of their school and local institutions.

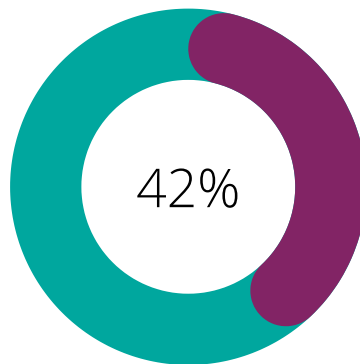
For the past 11 years Chicas STEM achieved the following:

- 80% of participants finish the year improving their attitude toward STEM topics and activities.
- 648 youth have participated in the Chicas STEM Camp since 2010.

STEM REPRESENTATION



In the U.S, 28% of those who identify as women are in the STEM workforce



42%, on average, of graduated Chicas are pursuing STEM-field careers in a post secondary-institution.



SUMMER CAMPS 2021



Togetherness & Inclusivity

This summer, the Chicas Program was able to provide enriching summer learning during day-long camps that allowed students to express themselves through art and culture, explore healthy lifestyles, and engage in STEM filled activities.

Chicas provided in-person summer camps for 68 youth.

In our Chicas summer camps, youth were provided with:

- Daily Check-Ins
- Group Activities
- Reflection Time



THE FUTURE

**"We will rebuild,
reconcile, and
recover"
-Amanda Gorman**

Students, particularly youth of color, had a lot more to confront and worry about than course content. Latinxs communities were and are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. During one of the most challenging years for all community members, particularly our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) youth, Chicas-centered youth voice into every crisis decision-making and implementation plan. Our BIPOC youth and their family members are experiencing high levels of trauma. Chicas is preparing for another school year centering on the needs of Latinx youth and their families with an eye towards continued peer-mentor relationships and access to mental health.

We do not know the extent of the impact the pandemic has had or will have on our BIPOC community, or our youth's future. Our communities are no stranger to rebuilding, but with the lesson learned from our past generations, the community will be rebuilt with community-based solutions at the forefront. Adelante will continue to exist through its core focus on education, microenterprise, and leadership. Our organization is part of the infrastructure to rebuild our community at the local, state, and national levels. We ask you to join us in uplifting the voices of those most impacted by racial injustice to become our current and future leaders.

GRACIAS GRACIAS GRACIAS

This past year has been a challenge for all of us, and particularly for our Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. We have been tested mentally, emotionally, and physically by the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 to our BIPOC communities. To have partners that invest directly to BIPOC communities is critical for the long-term sustainability of community-based organizations.

As community-based organizations have taken bold steps to advocate for racial equity, it is needed for funders to make bold, courageous action as well. We are incredibly grateful for the partnership with our funders who have supported us in this past year and more importantly, advocated for a more just society.

