

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

A YEAR OF COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE & LEARNING

EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program is a bilingual program that teaches early literacy skills and builds kindergarten readiness among Latinx & Immigrant children from prenatal to preschool-aged in Washington County, OR.

Adelante's ECE Program provides culturally-specific services in 8 public classrooms to support over 100 Immigrant children to address prevailing educational disparities. It is rooted in two-generation, culturally-responsive instruction.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

History

The ECE Program officially began in 2003 as a response to the immediate needs and benefit of our first program, Adult Education. We were founded with the launch of the Adult Education program in 2002, which offered childcare. The biggest barrier for many of our participants to pursue and/or finish their education was the access and affordability to childcare. The majority of our participants were English Language Learners and Immigrants, providing a safe and nurturing environment for their families, particularly their bilingual children was essential.

In 2003, with the support from Even Start funds, Adelante Mujeres opened its first early childhood and preschool classrooms. Not only is Adelante Mujeres implementing culturally-appropriate literacy and kindergarten readiness programming, but it is also addressing the lack of culturally-appropriate teachers of color in Oregon by hiring past participants as teachers.

Financial

ECE 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 program.

FY22 Goals

\$1.74 million

\$1.89 million

KEY ACTIVITIES

104

Children from pre-natal to 5 years old enrolled in the ECE program.

60

children served in our preschool classrooms.

8

Weeks of summer programming for preschoolers were provided during the summer of 2021. A total of 15 preschoolers received ongoing education & learning throughout the summer.



ACCOMPLISHMENT 1

% Of preschool students successfully transitioned and graduated by meeting or exceeding the developmental areas needed for kindergarten readiness.

100%

83%

ACCOMPLISHMENT 2

% Of parents/caregivers believe in their value to their child as their primary teacher and take an active part in their child's education.

ACCOMPLISHMENT 3

Of ECE students & their families enrolled in the program received hybrid engagement through virtual & in-person classroom opportunities. This was done throughout the eight classrooms.

100%



PARTICIPANT STORY

When Joaquin began attending preschool at Adelante Mujeres in 2019, he would enter the class screaming and had a very hard time transitioning from home. But later, as he adjusted to the schedule, and became familiar with attending school, he would come in smiling.

And then the pandemic hit in early 2020. "I remember that it was March 17 and they told us at school that we are going to close." said his teacher, Norma.

Closing the schools and moving online was hard on our teachers. But it was hardest was for the kids, especially kids like Joaquin. "He needs consistency, and he needs a set schedule. And I remember, when everything was shut down, I was scared. I was like 'well, what am I going to do?'. This was the main thing that he looked forward to and that just broke everything." Said his mother, Rubi.



A child's development doesn't stop just because a pandemic happens. This is the most critical time in a child's growth and development. During the pandemic lockdown Joaquin was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Two months after closing, Adelante's preschool classrooms re-opened, and Joaquin returned to in-person classes. It was very important to the mission of Adelante Mujeres to ensure that there was quality in-person care for the children we serve.

"Adelante Mujeres, they advocate for my son. They truly care and you can tell. The doctor was like 'how did you pick up on all of these cues and signs for him to be brought up this early because not that many parents do that' and I'm like, 'my daycare, the teachers are the ones that are telling me how he is'." Said his mother, Rubi.

ONGOING CARE & LEARNING



ECE kept its doors open throughout the pandemic, and they continue to do so.

Some of the activities and resources that the ECE team offered and continue to offer for their students and families to promote resiliency during this time of crisis and uncertainty included:

- Access to Caring Adults – Our ECE teachers connect with families to offer educational programming and frequent check-ins through online, virtual sessions, text messaging, phone calls, dropping off family activity kits at their homes, and other interactions to help them feel a sense of normalcy and feel connected to their teachers as well as their family members.
- Meeting Basic Needs – Since the crisis began, we have been connecting with families on a regular basis to track their needs, make referrals to culturally-responsive providers in the community for food, shelter, and physical and mental health care.
- Social Connectedness – We provide virtual learning opportunities, video, text messaging, and phone connection with ECE teachers, and we make referrals to community support groups and our Beyond Trauma classes that provide outlets for families to connect in a meaningful way to the community.

THE STATE OF EARLY LEARNING

Childcare and early learning are essential to the health and well-being of families and set the stage for lifelong learning for children. Latinx families, especially Latinx women-led households, face economic fragility and are often unable to provide the basic needs to sustain their families. Childcare is an increasing social service barrier and a primary determinant of the quality of life a family's income can provide.

In 2019, infant care in Oregon averages \$13,518 per year compared to \$10,610 for in-state college tuition (Childcare in Crisis Report, 2020).

This social service barrier is a loss for the economic welfare of the community when Latinx households are unable to afford childcare services and are forced to leave the workforce or miss several days of work risking long-term employment or the opportunity for career growth (i.e. education and certification courses to increase pay and/or to receive promotions).

TEACHER REPRESENTATION

11.2%

Of teachers are ethnically and linguistically diverse while 39.9% of students are ethnically and linguistically diverse (Educator Equity Report, 2019).

In Oregon

100%

Of teachers are ethnically and linguistically diverse. The ECE team is a total of 29 staff members.

In Adelante Mujeres



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT GROWTH



Education Department: Adelante's Education programming supports Latinx families from birth to adulthood with culturally specific education services that are grounded in popular education. Each program provides state and/or national certified-curricula that prepares Latinx individuals (children, youth, and adults) to achieve academic success with an emphasis on social-emotional learning.

Family Engagement Component: Through strategic growth and the support of the Student Success Act funds, we have been able to grow our capacity and engagement for Parent-Children Interaction through the hire of 2 Family Engagement Facilitators, former Adult Education participants, and the Family Engagement Manager. This supports a new component of the Education Team: Family Engagement. The 2021-2022 academic year, will have a fully equipped Family Engagement team that is culturally-responsive, bilingual, and shares the lived-experience of our Latinx community. This team works directly with our Adult Education & Early Childhood Education teams to engage the whole family of our participants. This team also functions as a Family Engagement Center which across the U.S. are expected to:

- Carry out parenting education.
- Provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to participants, community members, and local partners.
- Advocate for family engagement programming for the most underserved and for family members to be included in the planning and decision-making process for state and local action.



THE FUTURE

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

During this difficult time, the ECE program has done an extraordinary job delivering ongoing services and support to our Latinx & Immigrant children. At the beginning of the pandemic, they focused efforts on supporting the families through the process of converting to virtual platforms (e.g., Zoom, Google Classroom). The ECE team trained the families to use these new platforms and developed a new virtual curriculum while keeping participants informed about the various relief aid and resources available in the community.

The program reinforced teamwork by creating activities to celebrate with the families and keep the community spirit high. The program is a safe place where they feel happy, protected, and supported. The ECE Education team has begun in-person learning in all their classrooms for the 2021-2022 academic school year.

We do not know the extent of the impact the pandemic has had or will have on our BIPOC community, or our adult student'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.

