

Head Start

2018 Annual Report



**THE CHILD
CENTER OF NY**

Strengthening Family. Building Community.

Who We Are



In addition to center-based Head Start programs, The Child Center of NY offers home-based Early Head Start services that provide comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income families with infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. Parenting education and the support of a positive parent-child relationship are integral to the program, as these photos illustrate.

The Child Center of NY began in 1953 as a children's counseling center in Queens. **Today, we are a powerful community presence in the borough and throughout NYC, reaching 35,000 young people and their families each year. Our mission is to strengthen children and families with skills, opportunities, and emotional support to build healthy, successful lives.** We also strengthen the communities they live in, realizing that children do not grow in isolation and need strong families and communities in order to reach their full potential.

Our Early Head Start and Head Start programs are an integral part of this mission. In the communities we serve, children are up against incredible challenges from birth. Parents often work long hours, do not speak or read English, and struggle with extreme poverty. Our dedicated and qualified staff — most of whom are from these same communities and speak the same languages as the families we serve — understand these challenges. **Drawing on their extensive training, experience, and firsthand knowledge, our educators ensure the children in our care are developmentally on track — academically, socially, and emotionally — so that they can begin school ready to learn and begin life ready to thrive.** We emphasize hands-on, play-based learning that teaches children academic concepts in ways that make sense to them and get them excited about school.

Above photo: Students at our Escalera Head Start in Manhattan got to know each other through an “All About Me” activity in which they shared things that helped describe them, such as a favorite toy.



The Whole Child and Entire Family



Allie, a student at our Head Start in Corona, received primary health care services on site through our collaboration with Northwell Health.

New This Year

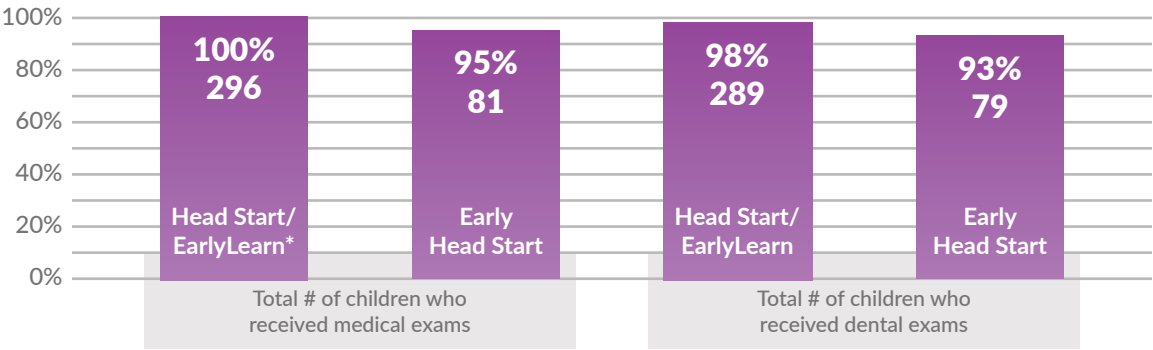
A Collaboration with Northwell Health

In FY18, The Child Center began offering physical health services through an alliance with Northwell Health, New York State's largest health care provider. Our collaboration has enabled both entities to care for clients holistically and address their “social determinants of health”: the socioeconomic factors, such as unsafe housing conditions or food insecurity, that affect overall well-being and ability to learn. Through the collaboration, pediatric residents and pediatricians (residents with supervising attendings) come monthly to our Corona Head Start center to provide parent health education workshops, consultations, and physical examinations free of charge.

Offering these services on site clears many obstacles to regular care. The children we serve often live in communities with poor access to high-quality care. The majority of parents balance multiple low-paying jobs and can't afford time off or travel expenses. Families know and trust us, and our programs are located right in the communities we serve, with staff who collectively speak two dozen languages.

Another key component of our collaboration with Northwell is our **Health and Well-being Questionnaire (CC-HWQ)**, an innovative screening tool that identifies clients' physical and/or behavioral health challenges and social determinants of health. The CC-HWQ allows us to understand the needs of each family and connect them to appropriate providers — such as a government housing authority for a family the questionnaire reveals to be homeless. Although just in its beginning stages, we are already seeing the usefulness of this assessment tool: **Out of 432 questionnaires agency-wide, 265 families — 61% of all those surveyed — demonstrated additional needs.**

The Child Center-Northwell relationship stands as testament that social determinants of health are not insurmountable, but rather obstacles that can be overcome through innovative thinking and collaboration.



The Child Center of NY has long recognized that just as we need to ensure children begin school academically ready to learn, we also need to ensure that they begin life socially and emotionally ready to thrive. When children walk through our doors, we look at them holistically — at their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional health — and help them achieve their full potential in each of these interrelated areas.

Emotional Well-Being • Our **Safe and Sound** enhancement screens all families of Head Start children for signs of depression, trauma, domestic violence, and abuse. We provide counseling for parents and children found to be at risk and help parents learn sensitive, responsive caregiving. Additionally, we practice **Emotionally Responsive Teaching**, through which our staff evaluate the emotional state of children as they come to school each day and, when they are showing signs of emotional distress, create safe opportunities for the children to express and process emotions that might otherwise interfere with their learning. Our **on-site licensed social workers and social work interns** serve as resources for teachers when they need help problem-solving children's behavioral issues.

Physical Health • Given today's childhood obesity rates, it is more vital than ever to instill healthy attitudes toward eating and exercise from the beginning. Our **Child and Family Nutrition Program** achieves this goal on a variety of fronts: guiding children in preparing and trying healthy foods in the classroom; a focus on movement activities; participation in food shares from upstate New York organic farms through an initiative called “Farm to Preschool”; and training parents to support healthy habits at home. Through **Health Case Management**, all families have the opportunity to work with a nurse practitioner who ensures children receive basic health care, monitors children's development, and guides families in the treatment of ongoing medical conditions.

Family Activities • A child's success depends on the total wellness of the family. At The Child Center's Head Start programs, we offer a variety of workshops, activities, parenting groups, and other initiatives to support parents so that they are able to care for their own health and well-being and equipped to encourage their children's development now and in the future. Among our most well-received initiatives in FY18:

- **Dads Take Your Child to School Day.** Hundreds of dads and other father figures participated in this state-wide initiative to engage male parents and caregivers in their children's education.
- **Curriculum Workshop.** Parents learned through the eyes of their child in hands-on ways, for example by “playing” with materials as the Education Director explained the concepts being learned.
- **ESL (English as a Second Language) classes.** Our Head Start programs serve a large immigrant population, and these classes assist non-native English speakers with learning the language so they can better support their children and reach their own personal, educational, and career goals.
- **Health Awareness Workshops** on such topics as emergency room vs. primary care office visit.
- **Mental Wellness Workshops** such as Zumba and meditation; mother and father support groups and parenting groups; immigration workshop; and parent-child classroom activities.

* EarlyLearn NYC is the program through which New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) combines city, state, and federal funds to provide Head Start, Early Head Start, and other child care programs for free or at low cost for low-income New Yorkers.

Commitment to Excellence

Escalera Head Start

By spring:

100% ↑ 71%

of 4-year-olds met or exceeded widely held expectations for cognitive development, up from 29% in the fall.

100% ↑ 71%

of 4-year-olds met or exceeded widely held expectations for social-emotional development, up from 29% in the fall.

The Child Center of NY’s annual independent audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2018 was issued by PKF O’Connor Davies, LLP on November 15, 2018. The auditor’s report reflected an unmodified opinion on the financial statements and there were no instances of non-compliance or matters that were required to be reported under the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America for the year ended June 30, 2018. Our EarlyLearn and Early Head Start centers did not have any federal monitoring audits in FY 2018.



Isabella, a student at our Escalera Head Start center, disassembled and explored flashlights. She discussed how the flashlight works, as well as what each piece is for and how they fit together.

The Next Step: Getting Ready for Kindergarten



- Programs use the Teaching Strategies GOLD to assess children's progress in all developmental domains and for planning appropriate learning activities. Teaching Strategies GOLD is aligned with the New York State Common Core Standards for pre-K and New York State Early Learning Guidelines. Children were assessed three times during the year, and staff used the results to inform their planning for groups of children, as well as individual children.
- Staff development topics included Literacy, Observations of Children, and Intentional Planning.
- Sites have relationships with local elementary schools, and key staff from those schools spoke with parents about preparing for kindergarten.
- Various transition activities were planned in the spring to support the children and their families with their transition from pre-K to kindergarten. Activities included visiting area schools, having Head Start graduates talk to the preschoolers about kindergarten, studying the transformation from caterpillars to butterflies, and experiencing planting activities as metaphors for this transition.

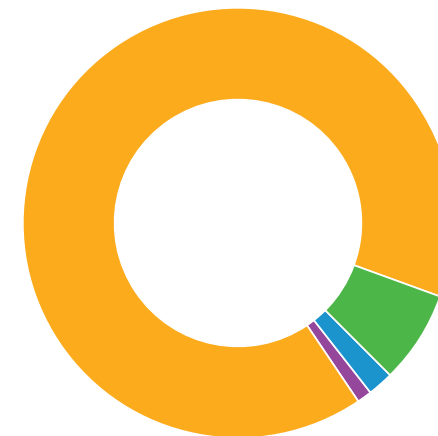
New This Year

I am Moving, I am Learning (IMIL), a proactive approach for addressing childhood obesity in Head Start children, seeks to increase daily moderate to vigorous physical activity, improve the quality of movement activities intentionally planned and facilitated by adults, and promote healthy food choices every day. Members of our staff attended trainings on implementing this obesity prevention program, and it is in place at all three of our Head Start centers. The concepts our preschoolers learn through IMIL will help them make better food and health choices in kindergarten and beyond.

As part of our emphasis on healthy eating, students at our Ficalora Family Foundation Head Start Center learned about gardening, so they were ecstatic when Lidia Bastianich (above) — award-winning television host, cookbook and children's book author, and proud Queens resident — read from her book series, "Nonna, Tell Me a Story," which depicts Nonna Lidia and her grandchildren in gardening and cooking adventures. The children were enthralled as they listened to an author read her own stories, and they were fascinated by her demonstrations with fresh herbs. Four-year-old Mahmud enjoyed smelling the basil!

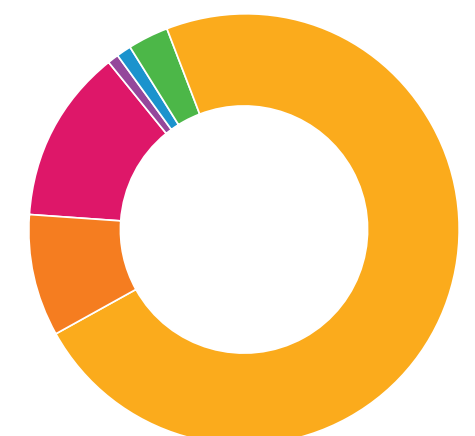
Who We Serve

Early Head Start Total Enrollment: 85



Income below 100% federal poverty line
217 children/ 78%
Public assistance such as TANF, SSI
10 children/ 4%
Foster child status
2 children/.7%
Homeless status
3 children/ 1%
Over income
37 children/ 13%
Incomes between 100% and 130%
27 children/ 10%

Head Start/EarlyLearn Total Enrollment: 296



Income below 100% federal poverty line
82 children/ 96%
Public assistance such as TANF, SSI
6 children/ 7%
Foster child status: 0
Homeless status
2 children/ 2%
Over income
1 child/ 1%

Percentage of children with disabilities

Early Head Start
14 children
16.47%



Head Start/EarlyLearn
78 children
26%

Homeless Status as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act*

Early Head Start
76 children
89%



Head Start/EarlyLearn
89 children
30%

*While only a small number of enrolled families identify as being homeless, there are many more who do not realize that they are considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which defines homelessness as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. We refer to these families as "doubled up," with overcrowded living spaces and shared or limited access to the necessities of kitchen and bathroom usage.

Financials

FY 2018 Budget and Expenditures

For the years ended June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019

	Head Start			Early Head Start		
	FY 2018 Budget	FY 2018 Expenses	FY 2019 Budget	FY 2018 Budget	FY 2018 Expenses	FY 2019 Budget
Personnel	1,496,701	1,476,051	1,460,940	645,005	610,355	545,005
Fringe Benefits	496,796	435,485	467,761	219,303	147,517	171,405
Facilities	281,966	259,666	261,626	23,770	163,469	104,313
Travel	5,891	1,905	1,566	45,000	4,203	5,625
Supplies	32,674	35,132	16,723	14,000	13,738	38,500
Other	88,828	95,813	35,441	34,307	97,010	49,746
Health and Safety	50,000	18,397	123,699	-	-	-
Total Direct Costs	2,452,856	2,322,450	2,367,757	981,385	1,036,292	914,594
Administrative Expenses	245,286	276,487	269,287	133,566	103,629	91,709
In-Kind Expenses	900,000	909,933	601,200	90,000	165,160	228,649
Food Program	160,000	223,626	193,700	40,000	26,389	3,000
Head Start UPK (Non-Federal)	83,890	92,471	559,426	-	-	-
Head Start UPK Enhancement	224,473	232,325	234,213	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	4,066,505	4,057,292	4,225,582	1,244,951	1,331,470	1,237,952

FY 2018 Public vs. Private Funding

	Head Start	Early Head Start
Total Federal Funding	2,822,563	1,007,774
Public Non-Federal Expenses	324,796	42,693
Private Non-Federal Expenses	909,933	281,003
Total Non-Federal Expenses	1,234,729	323,696
Total Financial Support	4,057,292	1,331,470



Corona STEM Fair: Students of our Head Start center in Corona learned about the life cycle of plants and much more as they prepared for and enjoyed the center's STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Explosion Fair.

Summary of Recent Community Needs Assessments

Community Needs Assessments were conducted in February 2018 for our community districts: CD3 and CD2 in Queens and CD7 in Manhattan. The needs of children and families remain unchanged from the prior year. Our programs continue to serve low-income families who struggle with poverty, unemployment, immigration, community violence, overcrowded housing, and inadequate access to social services. Affordable, adequate housing is the primary need for families in all districts, with an increase of children living in shelters. All districts have seen an increase in available child care services for UPK (universal pre-kindergarten) with the expansion of NYC Pre-K for All. The landscape of Head Start services throughout NYC is anticipated to experience significant changes, as the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) will no longer be the "super grantee," and the NYC Department of Education is expected to apply as the super grantee on behalf of NYC.

Where You Can Find Us

Traci Donnelly, M.S.
Chief Executive Officer

Linda Rodriguez, M.A. Ed.
Vice President, Early Childhood and Prevention

Early Head Start Home-Based Services
34-10 108 Street
Corona, NY 11368

Corona Head Start
34-10 108th Street
Corona, NY 11368
347-287-0175

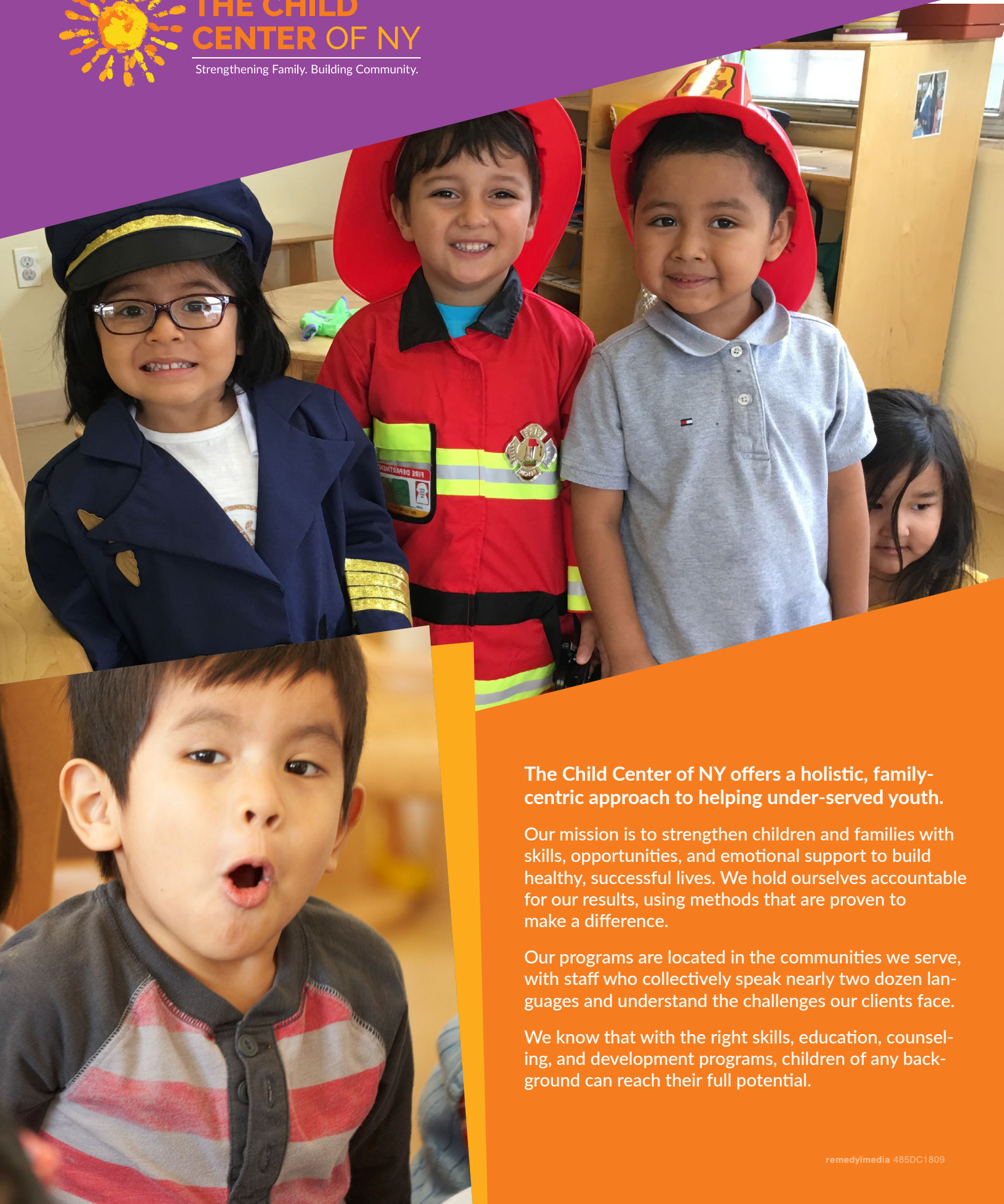
Escalera Head Start
169 West 87th Street
New York, NY 10024
212-799-2440

**The Ficalora Family Foundation
Head Start Center**
60-02 Roosevelt Avenue
Woodside, NY 11377
718-943-2800



THE CHILD CENTER OF NY

Strengthening Family. Building Community.



The Child Center of NY offers a holistic, family-centric approach to helping under-served youth.

Our mission is to strengthen children and families with skills, opportunities, and emotional support to build healthy, successful lives. We hold ourselves accountable for our results, using methods that are proven to make a difference.

Our programs are located in the communities we serve, with staff who collectively speak nearly two dozen languages and understand the challenges our clients face.

We know that with the right skills, education, counseling, and development programs, children of any background can reach their full potential.