



**EARLY LEARNING
NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABORATIVE**

Annual Report

2016-2017



A Message From ELNC Board President

Just a few short years ago, 2010 data demonstrated that over 80% of children entering Grand Rapids Public schools were not ready for kindergarten. When you consider that success in school is one of the best ways to enable success as an adult, it underscores the importance of ensuring that every child has access to high quality early education.

Since that time, the innovative Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative has brought high quality, place-based early education to almost 1,400 children who otherwise would not have had access. The unique collaboration between ELNC and community-based organizations goes beyond what other early education



programs do. Children in most vulnerable neighborhoods are empowered through high quality, culturally-competent preschool that better prepares them for kindergarten.

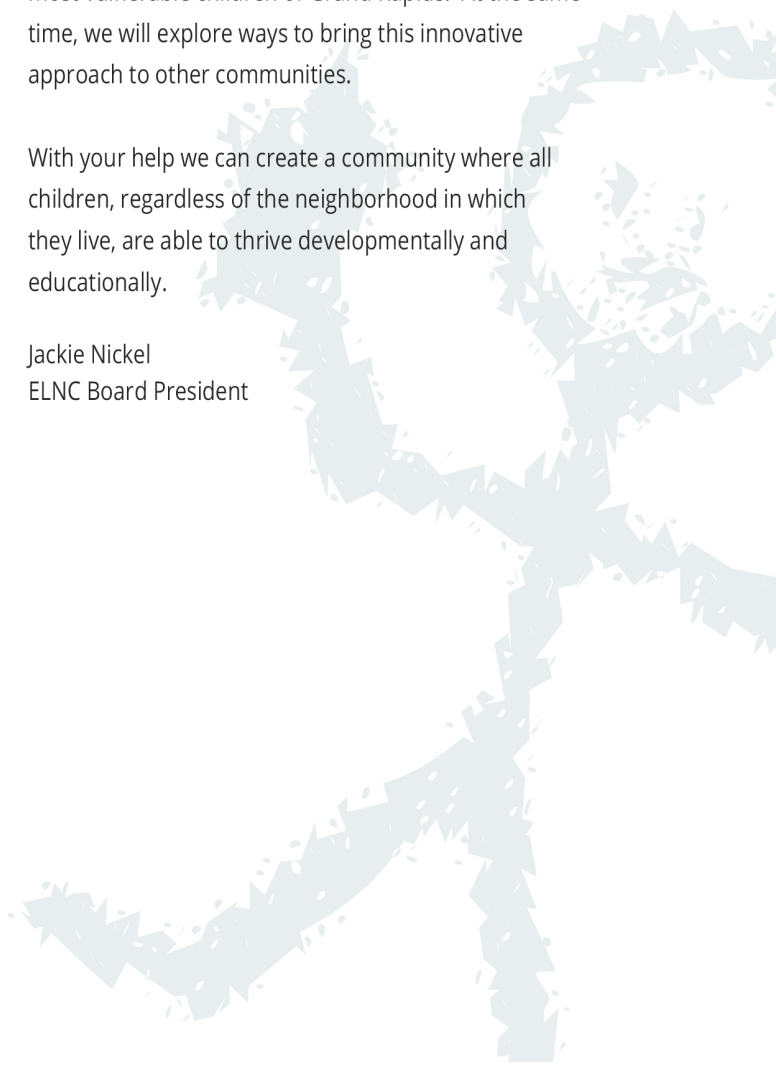
Their parents are enabled through the multi-generational EPIC program (Empowering Parents Impacting Children) that teaches parents how to support and advocate for their child.

Neighborhoods are strengthened when community-based organizations are empowered with the best practices in early learning education. The result? Children, parents, neighborhoods, and communities are empowered, enabling them to better solve their own issues.

I could not be prouder of what our Collaborative has accomplished and I look to the future with great optimism. ELNC, together with its Partners, will continue to focus on bringing high-quality early education to the most vulnerable children of Grand Rapids. At the same time, we will explore ways to bring this innovative approach to other communities.

With your help we can create a community where all children, regardless of the neighborhood in which they live, are able to thrive developmentally and educationally.

Jackie Nickel
ELNC Board President



Who We Serve

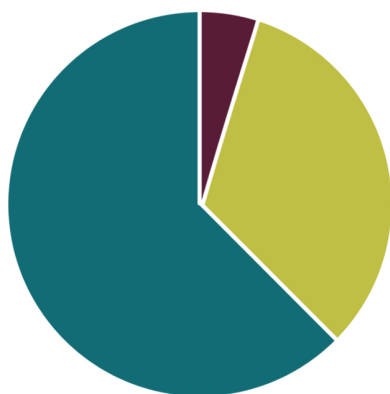
ELNC's intentional preschool service system is aimed at providing, expanding and sustaining the capacity of high-quality early care and education programs in the vulnerable neighborhoods of Grand Rapids.




576

Students Served

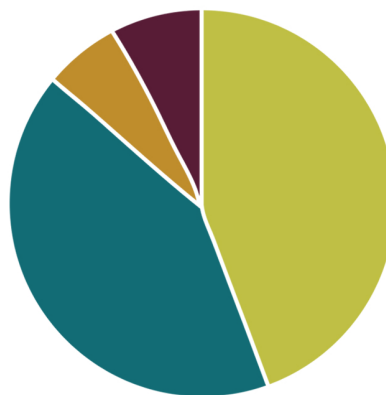
In 2016-2017, ELNC provided **576 slots** to students in Grand Rapids neighborhoods. To date, ELNC has served **1398 students**.





Ages of Students Served



-  4 Year Olds (62% | 212 Students)
-  3 Year Olds (33% | 114 Students)
-  Infants & Toddlers (5% | 16 Students)

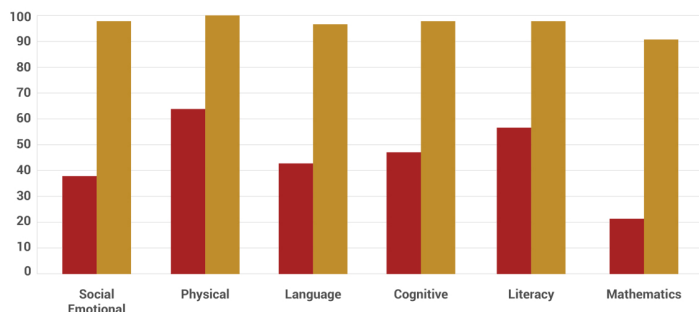
Student Demographic





-  African American (45% | 153 Students)
-  Hispanic (41% | 140 Students)
-  Multiracial (8% | 27 Students)
-  Caucasian (6% | 21 Students)

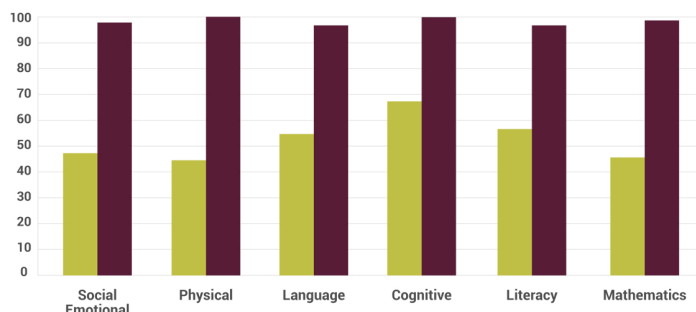
How Our Services Impacted Children Served

"I want to thank ELNC for the great job they are doing with my child. She is off to a great start, and I think it has to do with the one on one contact and the fun attitude they create toward education. You guys keep up the good work!" - ELNC Parent





4 YEAR OLD GROWTH IN TS GOLD

-  Children Meeting or Exceeding Age Expectations in Fall
-  Children Meeting or Exceeding Age Expectations in Spring



3 YEAR OLD GROWTH IN TS GOLD

-  Children Meeting or Exceeding Age Expectations in Fall
-  Children Meeting or Exceeding Age Expectations in Spring

A Message From Our Founder

"Genes provide a blueprint for the brain, but a child's environment and experiences carry out the construction." - www.urbanchildinstitute.org

Imagine having all of the raw materials to build, but no tools to make it happen! The Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative (ELNC) was formed for vulnerable children and families living in poverty. Although the blueprint was in place, the available resources for construction were sorely lacking.

ELNC recognizes that parents are the "project managers" in their children's lives and must have access to the tools necessary for them to build an environment that allows for their child's optimum brain development. To address this issue, we partnered with PONA Consulting L3C, to develop Empowering Parents Impacting Children (EPIC), an innovative model that utilizes a human-centered design process and includes system-based thinking. EPIC is now embedded within all of our ECE programs, providing support to parents through the services of a Family Coach.

It has been five years since we opened the doors of our first preschool program in 2012. Thanks to all of you, our partners, board members and staff that wouldn't take "no" for an answer, here we are starting our sixth school year! We have created over 576 slots and have also expanded our services so that each year, over 488 vulnerable children, from birth to 4 years old, have access to quality, culturally-competent early childhood learning opportunities. That makes my heart smile!

Thank you for your past support.
We couldn't have done it without you!

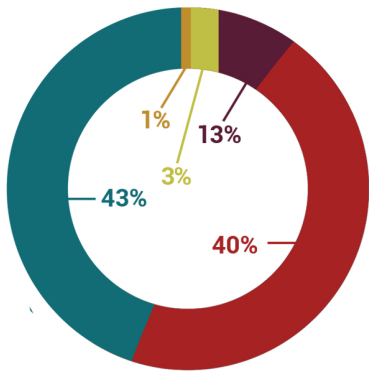
Peace,



Dr. Nkechye Ekeh Ekeh
Founder/Chief Executive Officer



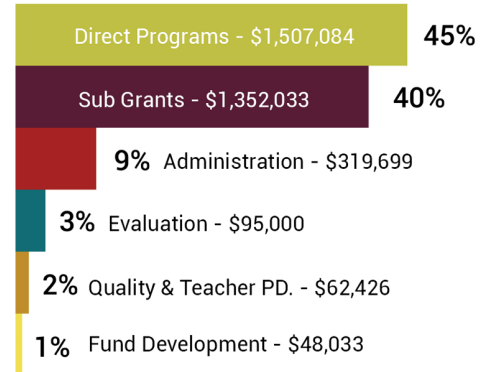
FINANCES



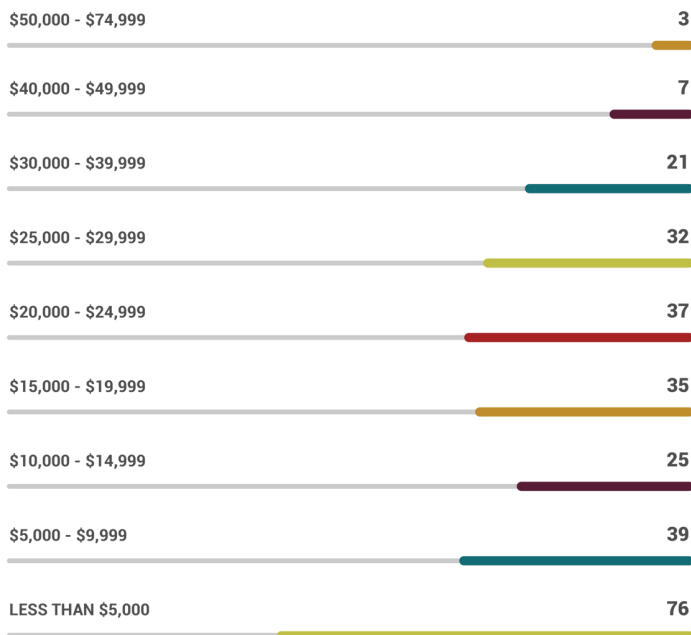
2016 Income

- State & Local - \$1,439,727
- WKKF - \$1,350,000
- Foundations - \$440,000
- Corporate & Individual - \$91,480
- Non-Program Income - \$14,513

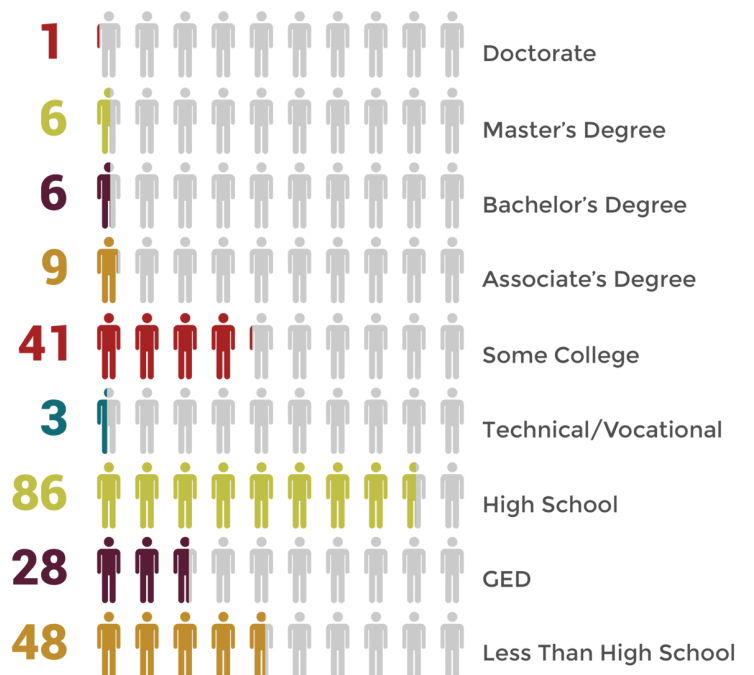
2016 Expenses



Average Family Income



Parent's Education



Families Making Progress Towards Basic Needs Goal

% improving towards goal



TRANSPORTATION



SHELTER



FOOD & CLOTHING



FINANCES



MEDICAL CARE

PROGRAM FEEDBACK

My daughter has been attending ELNC four days a week and has shown a major improvement in counting and conversation. She wants to learn so much more and enjoys her classmates as well as her great teachers. ELNC has provided my child a safe place to learn, filled with greetings and smiles when my family, or myself bring her to school. I look forward to growing with ELNC as my daughter enters the 4 year old program.

- Claire Smith, Mother of Malaysia Smith

ELNC is one of the best preschools I have come across. I had one of my other children attend this school before my daughter and it is then that I decided to enroll my current child who currently attends. I love that they are passionate and involving. Anytime I come across someone with a 3 or 4 year old I make sure I tell them about my wonderful experience at ELNC.

- Marieline Rodriguez

We are very pleased with the school, ELNC because my son Samuel has learned a lot of English. And here in our home, he also speaks more English. We recommend ELNC to many parents because they have very good English and Spanish teachers. And, there have been neighborhood meetings with the school and teachers. That is good because action has been taken on certain matters.

- Parents of Samuel Ernestino Sosa

I am very happy because my daughter learned how to relate with children and speak. I think ELNC has done good work with my daughter. Teachers and all staff have been extremely supportive and friendly. For future children, I recommend it because it's a school that is very supportive during the children's time there.

- Ana Trujillo Gonzalez



EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS

The Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative is dedicated to doing everything that we can to prepare vulnerable children for kindergarten and life. We are asking you to join us on this journey by donating whatever you can so that we can do whatever it takes.



Pledge Card

Date: _____

Gift Amount: \$ _____

Payment Method:



Please bill my Visa / Mastercard / Discover

CC Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Sec. Code: _____

- ☐ Once for the total amount
☐ Recurring payments (please contact ELNC to set this up)



Check (payable to ELNC)



Online payment (available at www.elncgr.org)

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

LEARN. TEACH. GROW.



Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative (ELNC)

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