

City of Lawrence Outside Agency Annual Report For Calendar Year 2017

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org by Thursday, February 15th 2018 at 5:00pm. For the following questions please refer back to your [2017 application for funding](#).

Reporting Period: Calendar Year 2017

Agency Name: Success By 6 Coalition of Douglas County

1. Refer to the program in which your agency received funding; provide a participant success story that helps demonstrate the accomplishments of the program.

The Meaning behind Tuition Assistance in Child Care

Child care financial aid has provided many opportunities for families to attend Children's Learning Center, Inc. There is one situation that I will always remember because services were a result of three partners working together to assist one family. I think that is what I love most about our collaborative early learning community here in Lawrence. We see a family in need and we work together to meet those needs. I reached out to the parents regarding their situation, and quickly realized that they were experiencing some struggles with co-parenting; living arrangements had recently changed, and agreement between cultures regarding discipline and early learning experiences was difficult to discuss – let alone agree upon, and finances were limited.

The mother reached out to Parents as Teachers and quickly formed a relationship with her advocate. She began to see and understand signs of her child struggling socially and behaviorally, and her advocate strongly recommended enrolling their child in a preschool environment.

While both parents agreed this would benefit their child, the cost of care was overwhelming and they began to worry about "staying caught up on their bills" and "what if I didn't make enough, how would I pay?" The PAT advocate suggest that they contact the Douglas County Child Development Association (aka Positive Bright Start) for scholarship information, and so their journey began.

The family was notified that they had been awarded a scholarship to help with monthly tuition, and was given a list of participating child care centers and home providers. They were looking for a center that would provide a safe and nurturing environment. After several preschool visits, they decided to enroll at CLC.

So what does all of this mean? Scholarship assistance protected the parents from financial hardships and afforded their child an opportunity to be loved, to learn, and to grow, so that they could maintain their jobs.

The staff at CLC have noted several positive changes in their child's development including ease of separation anxiety, increased confidence in social settings (building friendships, learning to share and take turns, verbally labeling feelings and emotions). Their child is now able to self-regulate and has learned many new strategies that will continue to empower and foster growth.

"We, at Children's Learning Center, are thankful for scholarship assistance that helps provide support for the children and families of Lawrence."

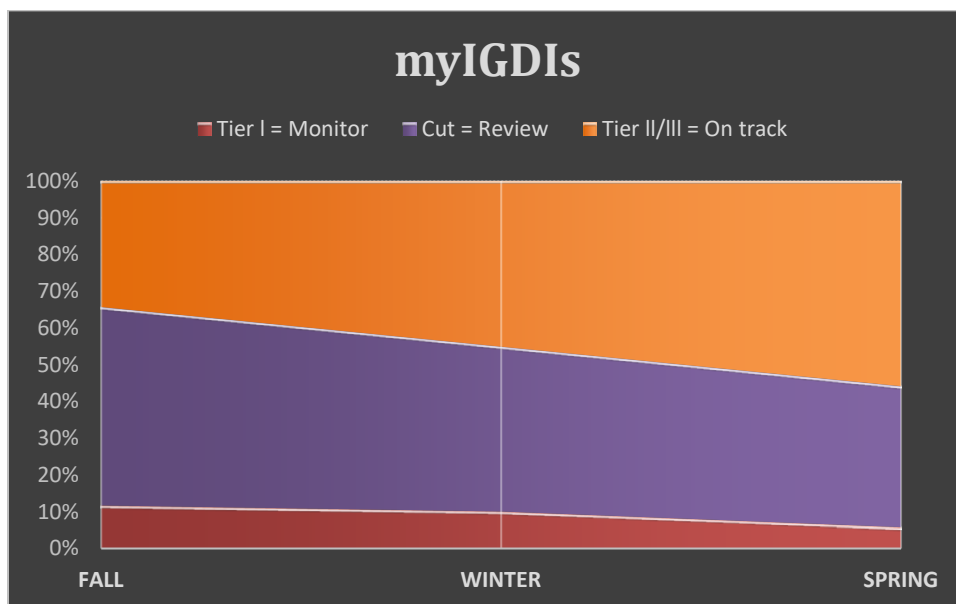
- Tara Glanton, Executive Director

2. Refer to your 2017 application for funding; provide a brief narrative of the activities funded with City funds.

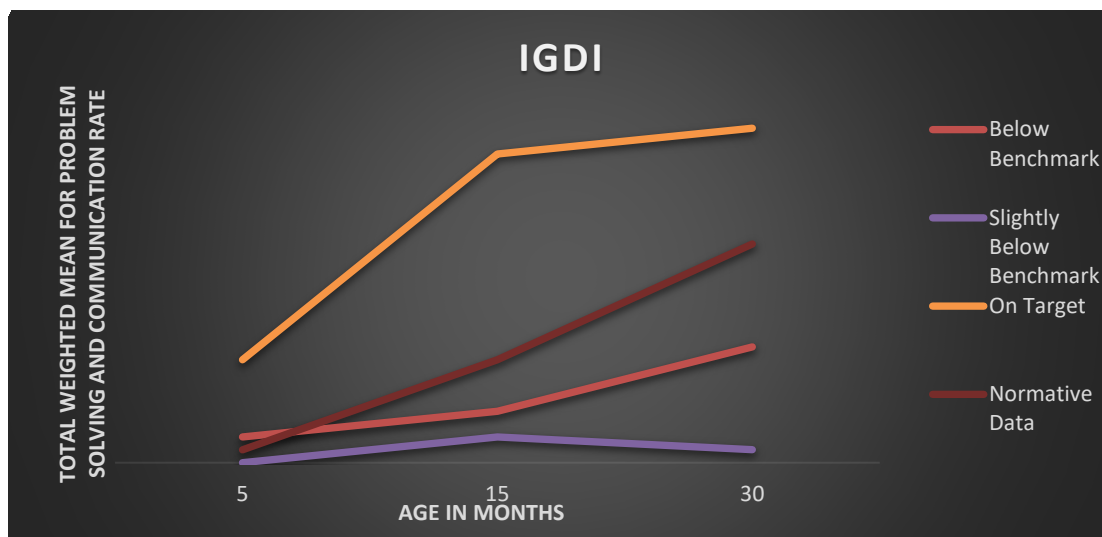
During this reporting period we continued to implement the child care financial aid. This involves identifying eligible families, calculating their financial aid amounts, verifying the enrollment of the recipients' children in qualified early care and education programs. Within their classrooms CLASS observations are implemented and the child receives either age appropriate assessment: the Individual Growth and Development Indicators for toddlers (IGDI) or Preschoolers (myIGDI). This project integrates City funds with other financial aid funds from the Early Childhood Block Grant, United Way of Douglas County, and funds for continuous quality improvement in the recipients' classroom settings and their individual academic needs. In 2017 we continued a Peer Leadership Group for Center Directors as a requirement for participation in the child care financial aid program. The focus of this group is to use CLASS observation data to plan and implement continuous quality improvement. This peer group began in 2017 to formulate individualized benchmarks for their centers to consistently strengthen their classroom environment and CLASS scores.

3. Refer to your 2017 application for funding; provide specific detail (use supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate what progress was made toward your proposed outcomes.

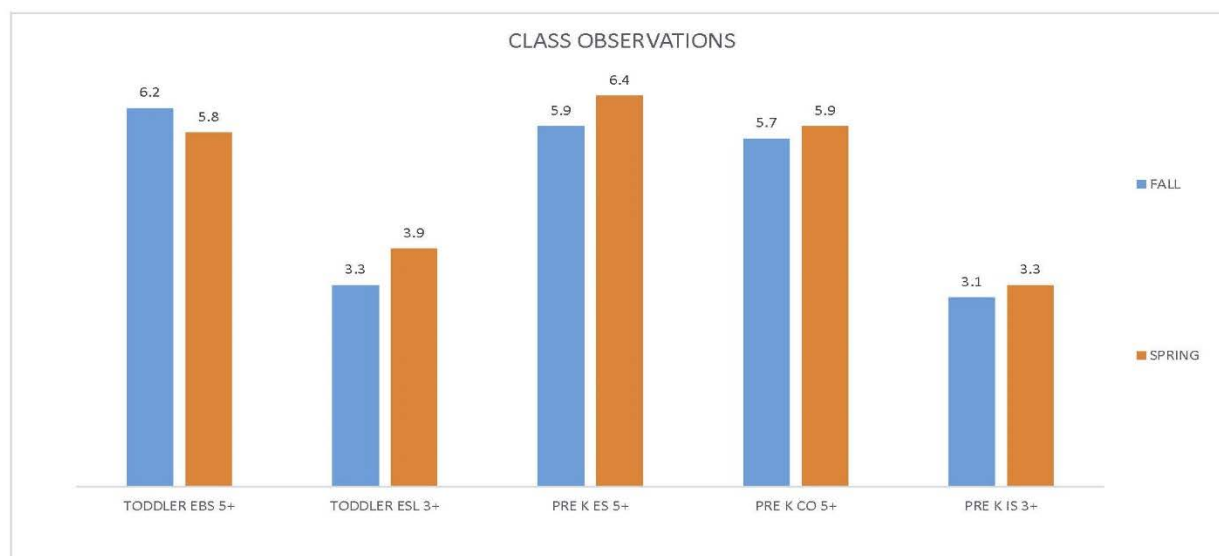
Child Care Financial Aid can only be used if their children attend early care and education programs that are engaged in our continuous quality improvement (CQI). This CQI involves collecting and using data provided by: Individual Growth and Development Indicators for toddlers (IGDIs), myIGDIs for preschoolers and Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). IGDIs and myIGDIs are used by teachers to differentiate instruction for each child depending on their needs. CLASS measures the quality of the relationships between teachers and children. The following graphs indicate overall patterns of continuous quality improvement of children whose parents received Child Care Financial Aid.



MyIGDIs data is from 2016-2017. myIGDIs are administered on preschool age children. The percentage of children in Tier I (there are concerns calling for specific and intentional interventions) fell from fall to spring. The percentage of children who did not make the on track cut off declined as well. The number of children on-track increased. This data indicates that teachers are using the data to differentiate instruction and improving the growth and development trajectories for children receiving Child Care Financial Aid.



IGDIs measure growth and development for toddlers. This data indicate problem solving and communications proficiencies compared to benchmarks demonstrated by toddlers between 5 and 30 months of age who were administered the IGDI during the data collection period.



CLASS measures the quality of the relationships between teachers and children. CLASS Observations are conducted during the fall and spring. The graph shows aggregate scores across multiple classroom in our financial aid recipients' centers. Overall scores show general improvement except in younger toddler classroom but still ranks above the national average of '5'.

4. Refer to the line-item budget provided in your 2017 application for funding; is this accurate to how your allocation was actually spent? If no, what changed and why?

In 2017, the overall financial aid program served 37 children, of which 7 were served by City funds. All of the children received individualized developmental screenings and individualized assessments of growth and development in areas related to literacy and numeracy. Their classroom teachers received coaching and training. These strategies display we have ensured City funded financial aid supports positive outcomes at both the child and program level.

Source of Funds	Number of Scholarships	Amount of Scholarships	Dates of financial aid assistance
United Way of Douglas County	16	\$52,217	Jan – Aug 2017
Early Childhood Block Grant – KS Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund	14	\$32,029	Jan – Dec 2017
City of Lawrence	7	\$25,033	Jan – Dec 2017