



SCFO

Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities
Early Childhood Development Programs



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR _____	1
LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT _____	2
ABOUT US _____	3
PROGRAM GOALS _____	4
SCFO PROGRAM INFORMATION _____	5
ENROLLMENT _____	6
CHILD OUTCOMES _____	7
HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION SERVICES _____	8
HEALTH OUTCOMES _____	10
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES _____	11
FINANCIALS _____	12
SCFO RESPONSE TO COVID-19 _____	13
PROGRAM MONITORING _____	13
SCFO LEADERSHIP _____	14
SCFO SITE LOCATIONS _____	15

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2020-2021 program year definitely came with challenges! The COVID 19 pandemic caused challenges in the lives of families, businesses, and communities. Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities (SCFO) was not immune to those challenges. State imposed limitations on class size, due to COVID 19, limited SCFO's enrollment in classrooms to just 12 children each. Children enrolled, after the first 12 children in each classroom, were provided home learning services for most of the year. These children were able to return to classrooms when the COVID status dropped down to the yellow tier in the county where they lived. For our home-based programs, we started the year providing face-to-face home visits and quickly had to move to virtual home visits due to the COVID status in each county. Again, when the COVID tier dropped to yellow we were able to resume face-to-face home visits. Health Department and CDC requirements required: extensive cleaning & disinfecting; health screens & temperature checks; and face masks and social distancing, which were all things that weighed heavy on staff and on children and families enrolled in SCFO programs.

Head Start and Early Head Start programs across the State and nation have had great difficulty fully enrolling children in their programs during the pandemic, many enrolled less than 20%. SCFO was able to keep the Head Start and State Preschool programs enrolled at 86% and the Early Head Start enrolled at 88% on average, throughout the year. Another area SCFO excelled in was providing face-to-face services during the 2020-2021 program year. Again, many programs across the State and nation have provided only virtual services since the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020.

Even though SCFO staff were unable to spend time together with staff from other sites for more than 18 months, the teamwork approach to providing high quality services and supporting each other never waned. Teaching staff provided in person services AND home learning/virtual services with energy and enthusiasm, which kept children interested, learning, and building their school readiness skills. Family support staff provided home visits that engaged families and assisted them with the support and resources they needed to meet their family's needs during the pandemic.

I hope we never again have to experience a pandemic like COVID 19! However, though it has been challenging and stressful, SCFO staff from administration and managers to teaching staff, kitchen staff and family support staff have shined through it all as the needs of children and families were at the forefront of every decision made and every service provided as we weathered the storm called COVID 19. Many of the accomplishments and highlights of SCFO programs are outlined in this report for your information. Please take time to read through the report and discover the difference we make in the lives of children and families, even through the last year of the pandemic. We are looking forward to the 2021-2022 program year!

~ Brenda Poteete, Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

When we started the 2020/2021 Head Start and Early Head Start preschool year, who could have predicted that everything would be turned upside down by the arrival of a pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has caused us to scuttle many of our plans and procedures. Stay at home orders and school closures in order to mitigate the spread of the virus have challenged us to find ways to continue to provide services.

The 2020 federal appropriation across the country to the 1600 Head Start agencies amounted to \$10 billion; but now, as a result of the challenges faced by the pandemic to provide services, the Congress has secured more than \$6 billion in additional funding to help supplement human services. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act earmarks \$750 million of this funding to Head Start and Early Head Start programs to provide family strengthening strategies via virtual, electronic, telephonic, and other remote services as well as supplement where possible summer programs to get kids ready for kindergarten.

SCFO is using this supplemental funding to promote distance learning and services in a number of ways that includes but is not limited to salary and wages for staff and teachers, disinfectant for vehicles and take home activity materials, laptops for use while working from home, additional mental health contract services for our families, and expanded Zoom subscriptions for online class sessions.

Amongst all this turmoil, the 55th birthday (May 18th, 1965) of Head Start went practically unnoticed.

Thank you,

Mike Butler

Mike Butler

Board of Directors, SCFO

ABOUT US

It is Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities' (SCFO) goal to create a strong foundation for young children that is rich with experience and opportunity based on a child's individual need. This foundation is built in an environment that establishes trust and security for both the child and their parents and focuses on the skills and strengths of each child within a group and/or home setting. In our centers we utilize the High Scope approach and the Second Step social and emotional development curriculum. We believe that children should be involved actively with hands on materials and carrying out projects of their own choosing. The adults working with the children see themselves as facilitators or partners. Our approach encompasses all aspects of child development and involves teachers and parents in supporting and extending children's emotional, intellectual, social, and physical skills and abilities. This means learning is a process in which children discover, explore and create through direct experience with people, objects, events, and ideas. Head Start and Early Head Start are fully inclusive programs. All children are able to take advantage of the Head Start and Early Head Start environment, including children with mild to severe disabilities. In our learning environments, different areas of the classroom are age specific and designated for different activities, for example water play, reading, sand play, art, writing, dramatic play, etc. Children are able to access all facilities independently and take some responsibility for use of these areas. Children are provided with tools and opportunities to make real, meaningful decisions.

VISION

Our agency vision is that all children and families will achieve success throughout school and life.

MISSION

The mission of Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities, Inc., (SCFO) is to operate quality early child development programs which provide comprehensive opportunities for children and families that encourage growth, support positive relationships and foster health and well-being.

PROGRAM GOALS

The 2020-2021 program year was the second year of Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities (SCFO) current grant cycle. Based on Community Assessment, Self-Assessment and ongoing monitoring data, SCFO established two Program Goals to focus on during the five-year grant cycle related to attendance and SCFO staff.



Program Goal 1

SCFO will employ, compensate and retain qualified staff who have a passionate commitment for supporting young children and families.

Program Goal 2

SCFO will establish a culture of regular attendance through strategies involving parents, staff and the community that will promote success throughout school and life.

SCFO PROGRAM INFORMATION



9* Child Development Centers

SCFO operates 8 Head Start/State Preschool classrooms, 1 Stand Alone Head Start Classroom, 2 Stand Alone State Preschool Classrooms and 3 Early Head Start classrooms.

*SCFO combined two of the child development centers in the winter of 2021 going from 10 to 9 total center locations. The same number of classrooms/slots remained.



2 Home Visiting Programs

SCFO operates one Early Head Start Home Visiting Program in Lassen County and one in Plumas County.



76 Staff Members

In the 2020-2021 program year, SCFO had a total of 76 staff members. 48% of the staff members are past or current parents in the program.



3 Counties

SCFO provides services in Modoc, Lassen and Plumas counties.



10,840 Square Miles

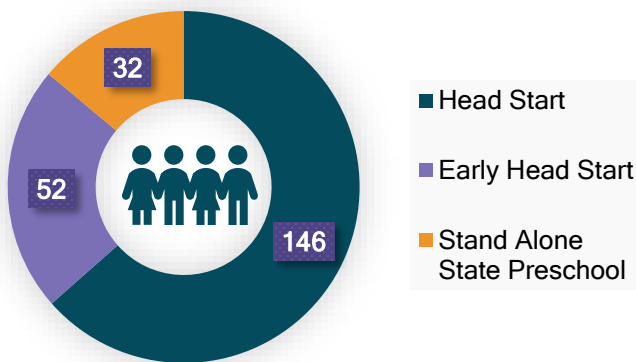
The SCFO service area covers a large geographical area in the rural northeastern California communities. The three counties span a 10,840 square mile area that borders the State of Nevada on the east and the State of Oregon to the north. The area is very rural with small pockets of population interspersed throughout the vast geography.

ENROLLMENT

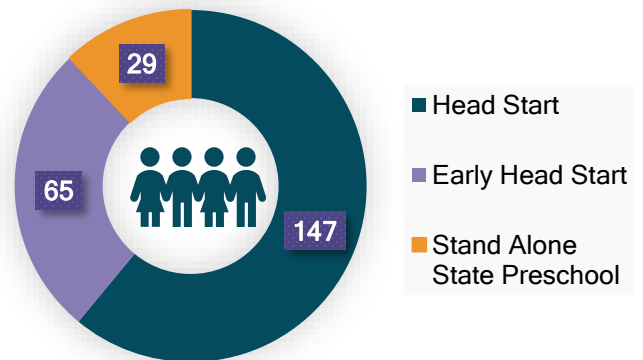
SCFO Enrollment

Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities enrolled a total of 241 children and pregnant women in the 2020-2021 program year between the Head Start, Early Head Start and State Preschool programs. 63 of those children who enrolled for center-based services took advantage of our Home Learner option for part or all of the 2020-2021 program year.

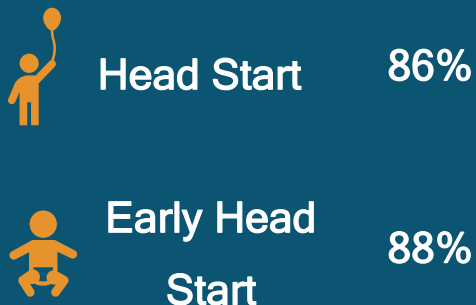
Funded Enrollment



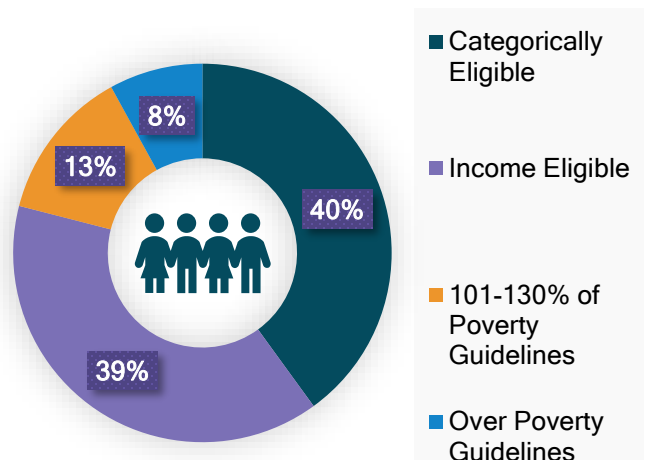
Total Enrollment



Average Monthly Enrollment



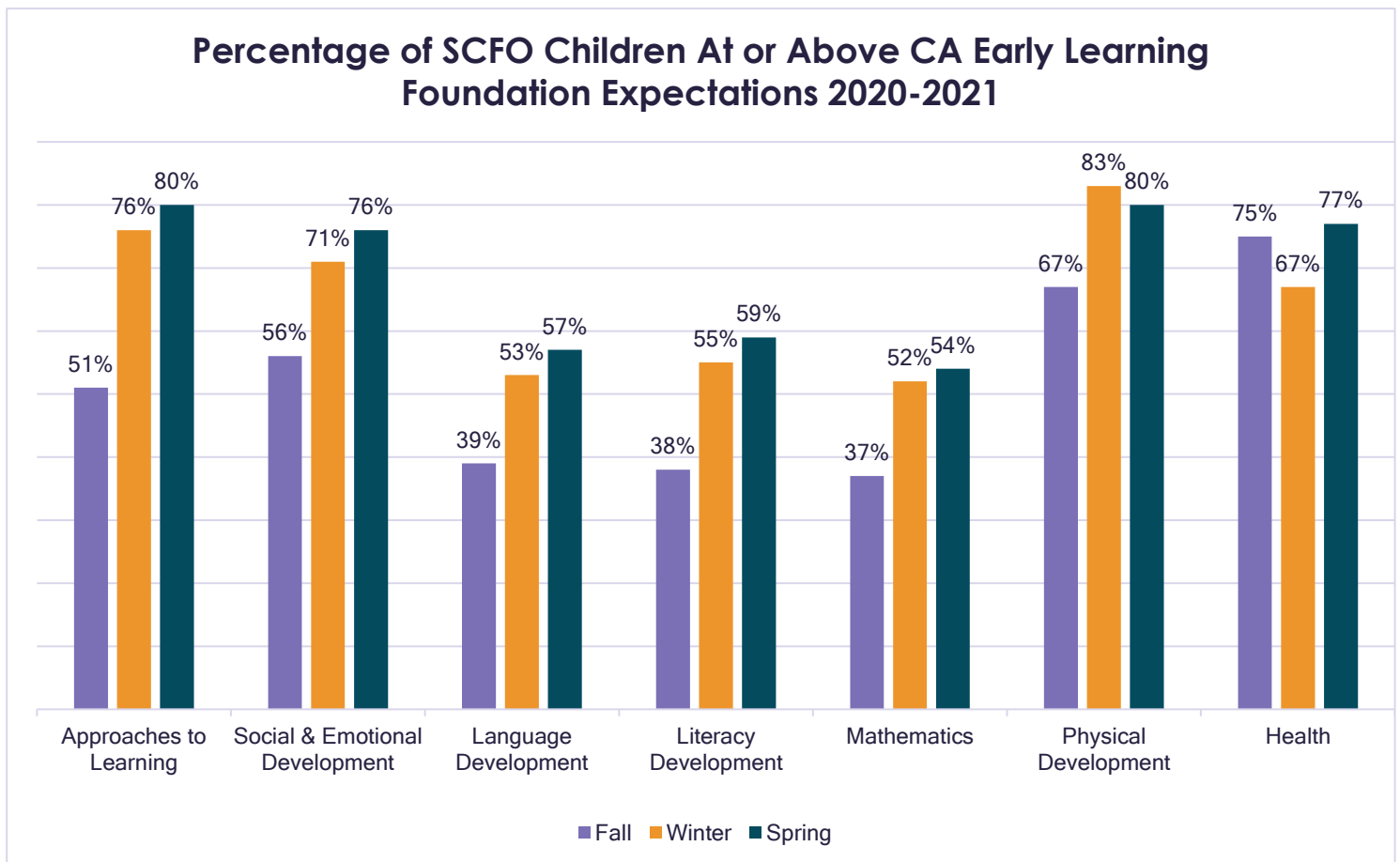
Eligible Children Served



CHILD OUTCOMES

Child Progress due to Program Participation

Through tracking and monitoring school readiness data each year, SCFO is able to show the difference that our quality child development program can make in the development of young children. The graph below is representation of the developmental gains that preschool children enrolled in the SCFO program have made from the beginning of school in the fall through the spring of the same program year. This graph contains comparisons from fall, winter and spring developmental assessments and shows the percentage of children that are at or above the California State Learning Expectations. The data in this graph was collected using the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP).



HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION SERVICES

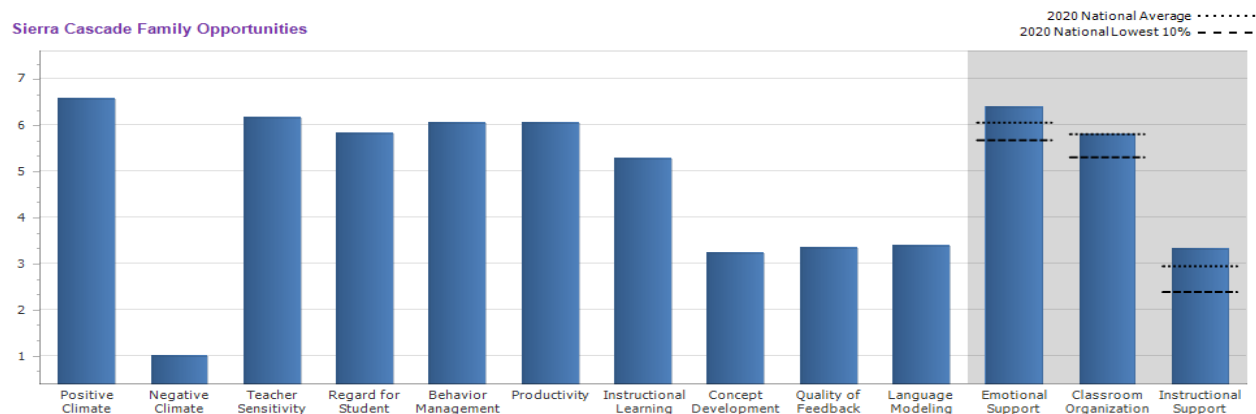
Curriculum and Individualized Planning

The High Scope, Partners for a Healthy Baby and Second Step curriculums provide children and parents with rich opportunities that support developmental milestones and positive outcomes through consistent daily routines, key developmental indicators and supportive relationships. Individual child goals are created to support the unique learning style and development of each child enrolled in an SCFO program. Parents and educators work together in creating activities that are based on each child's individual level of development, interest, and cultural competencies.

SCFO CLASS Scores

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observational tool that assesses quality interactions in center based preschool classrooms. Each year SCFO conducts CLASS observations on each of its preschool classrooms, to ensure that the environments meet the performance standard requirements as well as to ensure that the children enrolled in an SCFO classroom are exposed to quality experiences and opportunities.

All SCFO classrooms received modified CLASS observations during the 2020-21 program years due to COVID restrictions. Despite the trials and tribulations of the pandemic, SCFO classrooms were still able to maintain CLASS scores that met or exceeded the national thresholds set by the Office of Head Start and require grant re-competition if not met.



COACHING

PRACTICE BASED COACHING

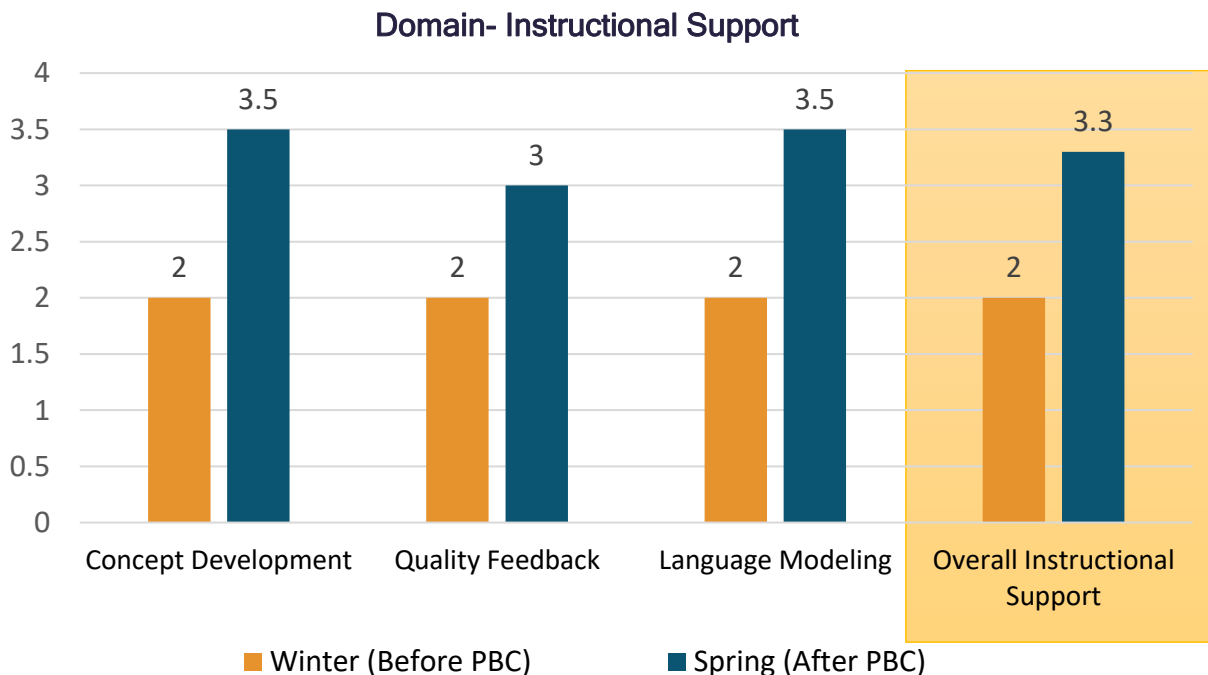
SCFO conducted Practice Based Coaching (PBC) during the 2020-2021 program year. A majority of the coaching meetings and observations were completed virtually due to COVID-10 restrictions. Participants for coaching were selected based on SCFO's Coaching Plan.



CLASS FOCUSED PBC

67% of the coaching participants focused on the CLASS domain Instruction Support. The CLASS Scores below demonstrate the improvement in that domain from before and after the staff received PBC.

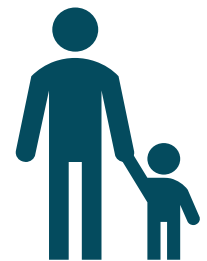
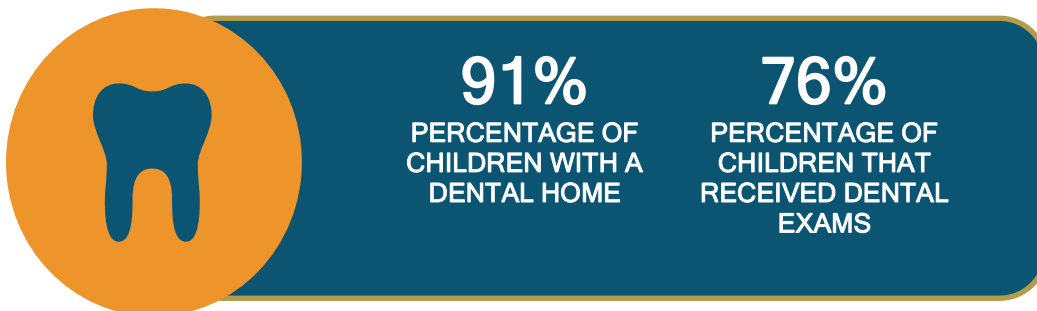
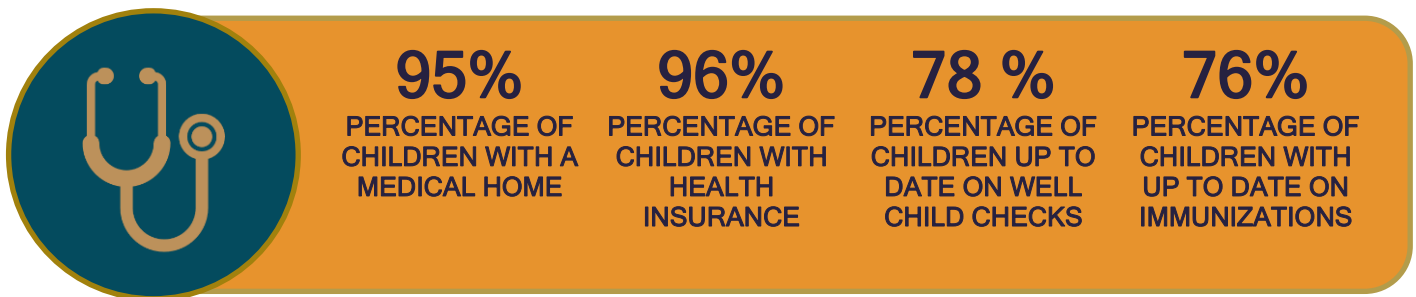
CLASS SCORES FROM PBC PARTICIPANT CLASSROOM



HEALTH OUTCOMES

SCFO Health Services

SCFO has a high emphasis on health since children must be healthy and well-nourished to learn and develop. All enrolled children receive physical and dental exams along with health screenings that include hearing, vision, and nutrition. Staff work with families to ensure follow up services are received for any needs that are identified. SCFO provides a variety of nutrition services to families including nutrition screenings and referrals, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and a high-quality food program. For infants and toddlers, health screenings and evaluations are done frequently to ensure ideal development for each child. Pregnant mothers are given support, guidance, and resources for a healthy pregnancy and to be well informed about their coming baby. SCFO encourages breastfeeding and has Certified Lactation Educator Counselors on staff to support families in any area of breastfeeding.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Parent Involvement

SCFO offers many opportunities for parent involvement. In 2020-2021 program year, SCFO parents contributed volunteer hours by being involved in program leadership and extending curriculum at home and much more. COVID-19 restrictions eliminated the ability for parents to volunteer in classrooms and participate in person .

Family Goal Setting

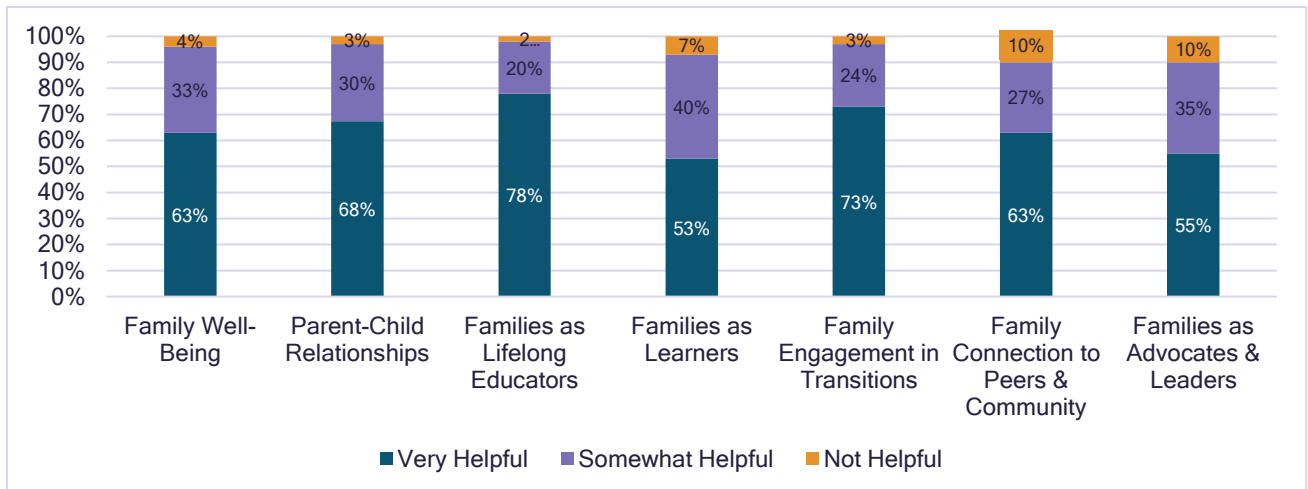
SCFO’s Family Partnership Process includes supporting families to set and achieve goals that promote positive family outcomes. Staff work with families to utilize their strengths and skills to accomplish their goals.



Family Engagement Outcomes

All of SCFO’s family partnership services promote positive family engagement outcomes. Results of the 2020-2021 Family Outcomes Survey demonstrated that the program was helpful to parents in all outcome areas. However, overall helpfulness decreased significantly when compared to previous years. COVID-19 regulations restricted families from spending time at the centers and from accessing in-person home visits at times. This made it challenging for families and staff to build relationships and provide support. Despite these challenges, SCFO staff found creative ways to engage and support families remotely.

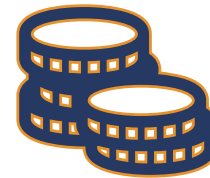
Program Helpfulness by Outcome Area, 2020-2021



FINANCIALS

SCFO Public Funds Received FY 2020-2021	
Head Start	\$2,055,348.00
Early Head Start	\$1,358,002.00
Head Start COVID	\$91,235.74
Early Head Start COVID	\$40,341.77
State Preschool	\$883,756.00
Child Care Food Program	\$145,000.00
In-Kind	\$823,550.00
Other Grants	\$24,500.00
Donations and Revenue	\$3,683.00
Total	\$5,425,416.51

The SCFO Fiscal Department provides monthly financial reporting to the Policy Council and Board of Directors. In planning and performing the most recent audit in June 2020 of Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities, the CPS firm of Singleton-Auman did not identify any deficiencies, weaknesses or non-compliances and determined the financial statements were free of material misstatement.

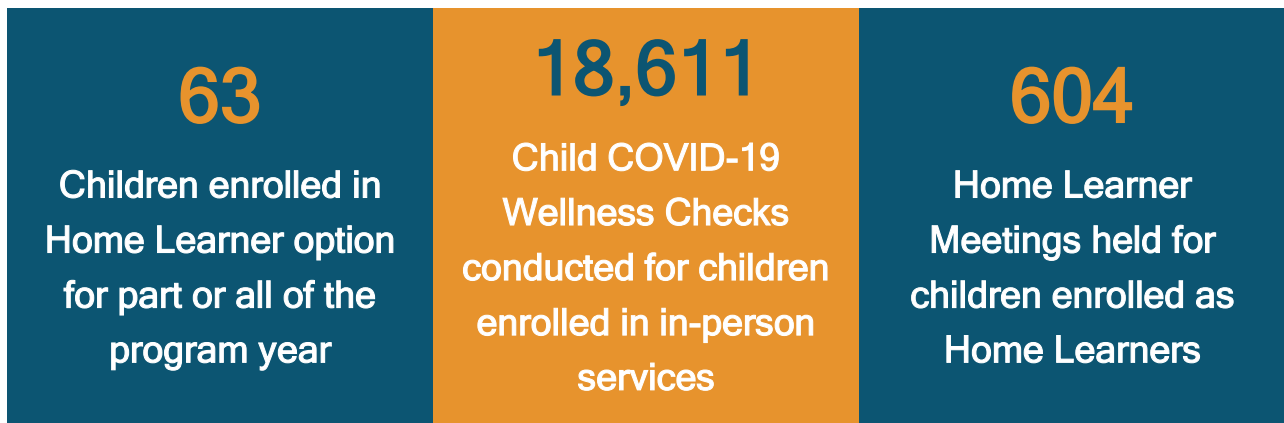


SCFO Budget & Expenditures FY 2020-2021		
	Proposed Expenditures	Final Expenditures
Personnel	\$2,733,963.00	\$2,710,971.00
Fringe Benefits	\$691,274.00	\$624,786.00
Classroom Supplies	\$25,836.00	\$25,697.00
Facilities/ Construction	\$217,451.00	\$200,287.00
Other Operating	\$823,550.00	\$823,550.00
In-Kind	\$823,550.00	\$823,550.00
Total	\$5,368,007.00	\$5,236,429.00

SCFO SERVICES DURING COVID-19

Service Delivery Method

SCFO provided mostly in-person services in the 2020-2021 program year. Many health and safety precautions were followed based on local, state and federal guidelines. Due to reduced class size regulations as well as the preference of families, some children were provided Home Learning services at certain times during the program year or for the full program year.



Virtual Meetings and Trainings

SCFO continued to provide many services and functions in virtual formats when we were unable to meet in group settings. This included activities such as staff professional development, coaching, parent-teacher conferences, Policy Council and Board of Director's Meetings as well as participation in community groups and initiatives. SCFO also hosted a community-wide, virtual Family Connections Conference for all parents.

Program Monitoring

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SCFO did not have any state or federal reviews during the 2020-2021 Program Year.

SCFO LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

Stephanie Riddle
Board President, Early
Childhood Education

Mike Butler
Vice President, Advocacy

Jennifer McQuarrie
Attorney

Doug Prouty
Judge

Richard Belstock
Financial Management

Tina Venable
Public Health Nurse

Policy Council

Nicholas McBride
Chairperson,
Susanville Center

Anna Townsend
Vice Chairperson,
Joaquin/Lassen Center

Codi Shuster
Board Representative,
Union Center

Brittany Godinez
Leavitt Lake Center

Kaila Shearer
Lassen Home Based

Genoveva Hernandez-Romero
Plumas Home Based

LeeAnn Cote
Portola Center

Nanci Dolezal
Quincy Center

Phoebe Freeman
Community

Management Team

Brenda Poteete
Executive Director

Cindy Hogg
Financial Administrative
Officer

Bethany Edholm
Data & QI Director

Katie Windle
ERSEA Manager

Jennifer McCulley
Education Services Manager

Maria Altamirano
Education Services Manager

Andrea Huggins
Health Services Manager

Jessica Stading
Family Engagement Manager

Gina Wood
Site Manager

SCFO SITE LOCATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES		
CENTRAL OFFICE 424 N. Mill Creek Rd Quincy, CA 95971 P: 530-283-1242 F: 530-283-1024	FISCAL OFFICE 65 N. Union St Susanville, CA 96130 P: 530-257-1206 F: 530-257-8227	JANESVILLE OFFICE P.O. Box 279/709-435 Pine St Janesville, CA 96114 P: 530-253-1040 F: 530-253-1043
HOME BASED PROGRAMS		
PLUMAS HOME BASED 424 N. Mill Creek Rd Quincy, CA 95971 P: 530-283-1242 F: 530-283-1024	LASSEN HOME BASED P.O. Box 603/195 Russell Ave Susanville, CA 96130 P: 530-257-23-43 F: 530-251-5901	
CENTER BASED PROGRAMS		
ALTURAS CENTER 802 N. East, Ste. C Alturas, CA 96101 P: 530-233-4134 F: 530-233-7707	LASSEN CENTER 478-200 Highway 139 Susanville, CA P: 530-251-4050 F: 530-251-4052	LEAVITT LAKE CENTER 710-400 Willow Susanville, CA 96130 P: 530-257-7530 F: 530-257-9035
PORTOLA CENTER P.O. Box 1701 895 West Street Building #25 Portola, CA 96122 P: 530-832-1029 F: 530-832-4030	QUINCY CENTER 171 N. Mill Creek Rd Quincy, CA 95971 P: 530-283-0592 F: 530-283-3053	SUSANVILLE CENTER P.O. Box 603/195 Russell Ave Susanville, CA 96130 P: 530-257-2343 F: 530-251-5901
UNION CENTER 65 N Union St Susanville, CA 96130 P: 530-257-8220 F: 530-257-8227	CHESTER CENTER 158 Aspen Chester, CA 96020 P: 530-258-3194 Ext: 1251 F: 530-258-3195	GREENVILLE CENTER 225 Grand St. Room 1 Greenville, CA 95947 P: 530-284-7195 Ext: 2711 F: 530-284-6720
Website: www.headstart4u.org Facebook: Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities Phone: 1-800-404-1242		



SCFO

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