



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Denise Louie Education Center

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Seattle, WA 98108

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<https://deniselouie.org>

Organization's General Goals:
Denise Louie Education Center's mission is to promote school and life readiness by providing multicultural preschool, early learning, and child care services to children and families, especially those who need our services the most. We promote personal and social responsibility with integrity and love in an environment defined by social justice and peace.

Date of Award:	Level:
2024 Q1	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Denise Louie Education Center.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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Hi Marilyn,

I hope this gives you a sense of how far we have come! I hope this snapshot gives you an idea of just how much we have moved the needle in the past year with the support of Tulalip tribes. We served over 1221 children and families and over 28 different languages were spoken throughout our programs.

The ongoing struggle to maintain a sufficient childcare workforce remains a significant issue for our agency. Despite the lack of growth in contracts to align with market demands and rising living costs, we are actively enhancing partnerships to address these shortfalls. One of our primary challenges is recruitment. Although there is a high demand for childcare services, as evidenced by our waitlists, we face difficulties in recruiting enough teachers, largely due to salary limitations. This scarcity of educators is a widespread problem across the nation. Nevertheless, we maintain a positive outlook and are committed to making progress.

Families in our programs represent the vibrant cultural and ethnic diversity of King County. For example, in our most recent program year, 29% of the families in our home visiting and education center programs were Asian, 28% Black or African American, 20% Hispanic/Latino, 8% White, 1% American Indian or Alaska Native, 13% Bi/multi-racial families and 1% other. More than 65% of our families spoke a language other than English at home, and many caregivers spoke multiple languages. Families across our programs spoke over 28 different languages. Additionally, 38% of our families were single-parent households, 32 families were experiencing homelessness, and 3 children were in foster care. At least 36% of the families fell below the federal poverty level, with many at or below 30%

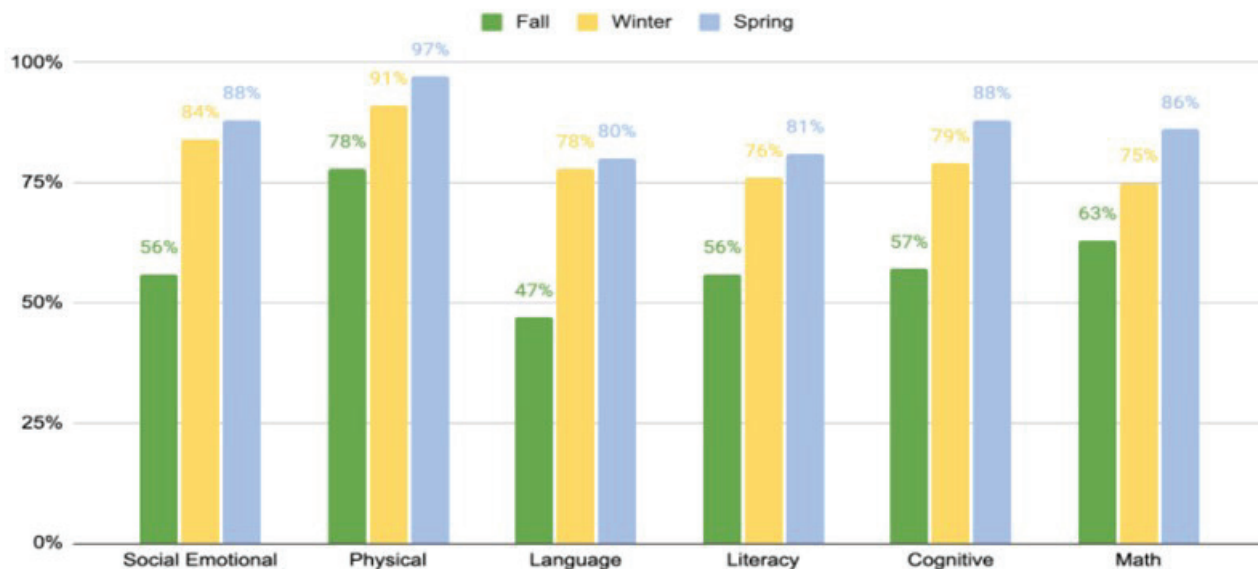
Area Median Income (AMI) level. Additionally, 38% of our families were single-parent households, 32 families were experiencing homelessness, and 3 children were in foster care. At least 36% of the families fell below the federal poverty level, with many at or below 30% Area Median Income (AMI) level.

Children in our programs have exceptionally high needs, including English learners and special needs (e.g., hearing impairment, speech delay, autism spectrum, early signs of traumatic behavior, and physical disability). These additional stressors make 100% school readiness an extremely ambitious goal and one we strive for nonetheless through our 3 core programs:

- A home visiting and socialization program for pregnant women, newborns, and infants: Weekly, DLEC Home Visitors go into families' homes to provide prenatal health support for pregnant women and expectant families, child development guidance, and parenting education for 90 minutes for caregivers and children 2 1/2 years old and under.
- Three education sites for children: All 3 sites offer the same high-quality multicultural curriculum that includes literacy, math, and social-emotional skills. For our infant and toddler care, we provide individualized, developmentally appropriate early education for infants/toddlers at the Sand Point and Yesler Terrace locations.
- Play & Learn: In partnership with Childcare Resources and Seattle Public Library, DLEC facilitators guide young children and caregivers through fun, accessible activities that focus on school readiness, free to the community. Play & Learn is offered in person at 3 Seattle Public Libraries. After providing remote and outdoor groups for nearly 2.5 years due to the pandemic, we safely transitioned back to onsite services in the Seattle Public Libraries in the fall of 2022. Since that time, we have had 192 caregivers and 215 children join us for Play & Learn.

What has been inspiring to witness is the growth that took place, from when children started our program in the Fall of 2022 and where they ended up in Spring of 2023. When you look at math readiness numbers in the Fall, children were at the 63% mark, and within 8 months, they soared to 86%, a true testament to the high-quality programs we operate. meet or exceed the school readiness goals by Spring time. During the most recent program year 4 out of 6 domains met that goal while Language and Literacy came close by 4-5%. Our team is looking at building partnerships and curriculum development that can help us increase language and literacy development.

% Students Meeting/Exceeding in TSG Domains



Highlights:

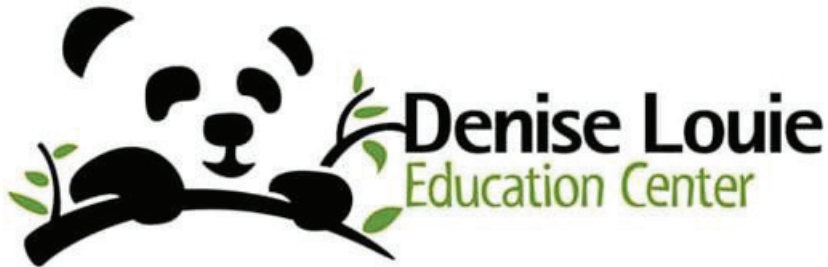
- Awarded Kevin Chen and Cherylyn Ferguson, two DLEC alumni who were entering college, scholarships by launching our scholarship program for former DLEC preschool graduates. Learn more [here!](#)
- Raised over \$280,000 in our annual dinner and auction

What are we seeing?

- Due to the pandemic, children who are entering preschool classrooms are behind in speech as well as being potty trained. We found a huge need for diapers in the classroom, more support in the classroom in addition to learning how to regulate emotions. Many of our classrooms require more than 2 teachers especially when children are not potty trained, it requires one teacher to help the child while another teacher is helping the entire class, leading to an overworked education workforce. To continue to provide high quality care, we are considering decreasing the teacher and student ratios and increasing support in the classrooms.
- The Eviction Memorandum being lifted has impacted many families. In our home visiting we saw a 10% increase of families becoming homeless and many families needing to access our emergency fund.

Attached is our logo and a photo of some of our children at our Yesler Terrace and International District site. I am also more than happy to connect on the phone, over coffee or via Zoom. Have a wonderful rest of the week!

[Check out our 2022-23 Annual Report!](#)



All the best,

Nikki L. Huang

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Join us in making a difference. Donate, volunteer, and spread the word.

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