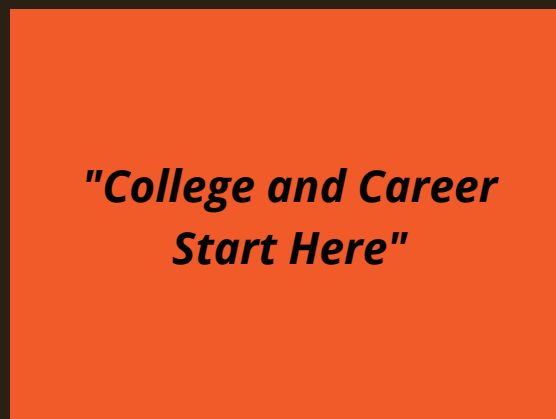




Early Childhood Education

Board Administrative Report

December 2022



WWW.PALMDALESD.ORG
(667) 273.4710 | (661) 273.5139 FAX

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM GOALS

GOAL #1

Providing Direction - Provide strategic direction to all ECE stakeholders focused on enriching quality interactions to support classroom instruction and learning for all.

GOAL #2

Safe and Affirming School Environments - Promote and create an inclusive, competitive, safe, nurturing environment to support cultural awareness in which families, children and staff thrive.

GOAL #3

Family and Community Environments - Engage and empower diverse families and communities in authentic learning and collaboration through comprehensive services to support the well-being and education of the child.



The Palmdale Promise

Vision: Palmdale will become a district where...Every Student Leaves Ready for Success in High School and Beyond: College, Career, the Global World.

Mission: The mission of the Palmdale School District is to implement our vision with actions and services targeted to students, parents and staff so our students can live their lives to their full potential.

ENROLLMENT, MEAL COUNTS, & ATTENDANCE DATA

ENROLLMENT

Number of Slots

Head Start Center-based:

Slots: 1,035 Enrolled: **966** (93.3%)
(Report 2001)

Head Start Home-based:

Slots: 72 Enrolled: **66** (91.67%)
Total Head Start Slots: 1,107
Head Start total Enrolled: **1,032** (93.22%)
(Report 2001)

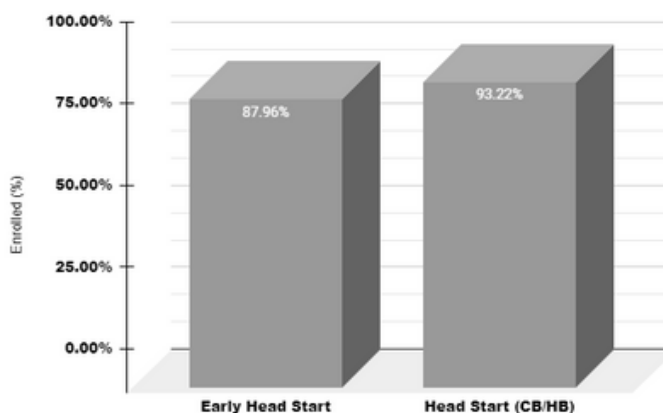
Early Head Start:

Slots: 108 Enrolled: **95** (87.96%)
(Report 2001)

Total HS and EHS Slots: 1,215
Total HS and EHS Enrolled:
1,127 (92.7%)

December Enrollment Percentages

December Enrollment



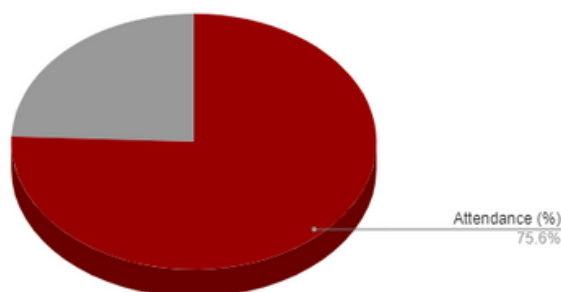
MEAL COUNTS

Program	Breakfast	AM Snack	Lunch	PM Snack
Head Start	6,325	813	6,382	6,101
Early Head Start	0	0	0	0

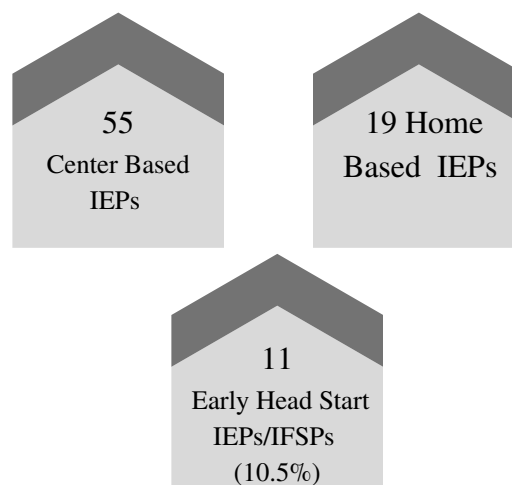
December Attendance - Head Start

December Attendance

Head Start



IEP & IFSP DATA



Office of Head Start attendance requirement: 10%
Total for December: 85 (7.3%)

Office of Head Start attendance requirement: 85%
PSD attendance: 75.6%
(Report 2301)

Referrals sent in December: 7
Concerns: HS-113 EHS-10

ERSEA REPORT

JOE VEGA-SMITH

Average Monthly Attendance for Program Year 2022-2023

August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
83.64%	80.40%	76.47%	72.82%	75.35%					

(Report 2301)

Program attendance for the month of December was at 75.35%. The Office of Head Start attendance threshold requires all programs to be at 85% and above. This is an increase of 2.53% from the previous month. As a program, we have been providing information to families about the importance of good attendance and providing support to families.

For the month of December, Child Plus report 2301 was used to monitor monthly attendance at PSD-ECE sites. The goal is that the overall average at each PSD-ECE meets the 85% and above Head Start attendance threshold.

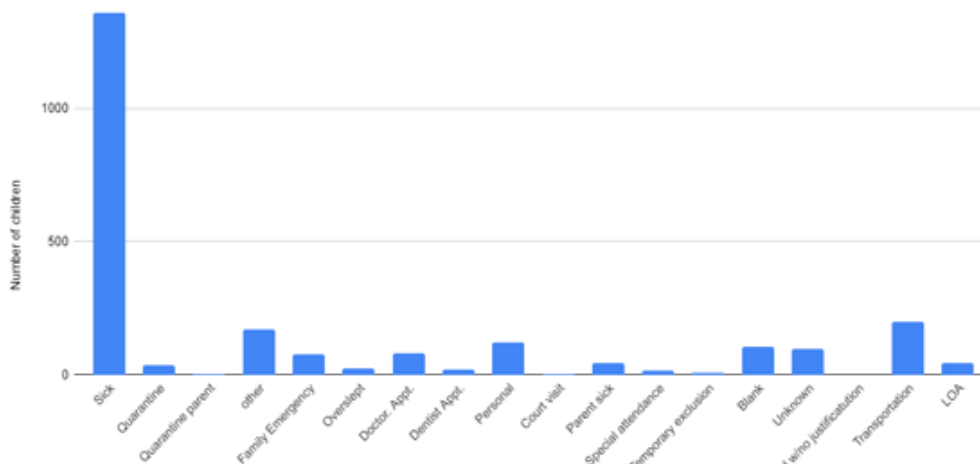
Average Attendance for the Month of December PSD-ECE Sites:

Chaparral Site	District Office Site	Avenue J Site	Highland Site	Manzanita Site	Mesquite Site	Ocotillo Site	Palm Tree Site	Site 18 Site	Tamarisk Site
76.34%	68.83%	78.06%	80.91%	76.67%	74.94%	78.35%	76.82%	72.52%	72.58%

Tierra Bonita Site	Tumbleweed Site	Wilsona Site	Yucca Site
70.18%	78.65%	75.00%	75.35%

Absence Reasons for the Month of December

The chart below details the absence reasons provided by parents during the month. Sick and transportation were the most common reasons for absences. Other reasons for absences were colds, flu, cough, fever and stomach flu. There has been a drop in quarantine being the reason for absences. We will continue to monitor attendance and provide families resources such as the "Washing Hands" and "Attendance" pamphlets. Teachers will continue to conduct visual health checks during morning arrival and practice routine handwashing with children several times throughout the day, which is embedded in the classroom daily routine.



ERSEA REPORT

JOE VEGA-SMITH

Enrollment-Early Head Start

Option	Caseload	Funded Enrollment	Enrolled	Accepted
EHS HB	1	12	12	0
EHS HB	2	12	12	0
EHS HB	3	12	10	1
EHS HB	4	12	12	0
EHS HB	5	12	10	0
EHS HB	6	12	10	0
EHS HB	7	12	10	0
EHS HB	8	12	12	0
EHS HB	9	12	11	1
EHS HB	NA	0	0	0
TOTALS		108	99	2

Enrollment-Head Start

Option	Site	Funded Enrollment	Enrolled	Accepted
HS	Avenue J (First Cr	40	40	0
HS	Chaparral	100	96	1
HS	District Office	15	14	0
HS	Highland	20	20	0
HS	HB Lancaster	24	21	0
HS	HB Littlerock	12	12	0
HS	HB Palmdale	36	32	0
HS	Manzanita	40	40	0
HS	Mesquite	40	39	0
HS	Ocotillo	60	56	1
HS	Palm Tree	80	79	0
HS	Site 18	220	188	2
HS	Tamarisk	60	54	0
HS	Tierra Bonita	20	19	0
HS	Tumbleweed	200	193	3
HS	Wilsona	40	39	0
HS	Yucca	100	95	0
TOTAL		1107	1037	17

CLASS Observations

In December 2022, CLASS observations were completed in 49 out of 53 classrooms. CLASS data aggregation was completed in January 2023. CLASS data will be shared with PSD-ECE parents in the month of January during the Policy Committee Meeting. In addition, the School Readiness and Education Coordinators worked on the CLASS program plan with Region IX Training and Technical Assistance Specialist and CCRC.

CLASS observations were conducted by CLASS certified and reliable staff. CLASS data is then analyzed and aggregated for program overall as well as each site and classroom. As part of continuous quality program improvement, the CLASS outcome information is used for current and future professional development trainings for the PSD-ECE teaching staff.



Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) helps us "focus, measure and improve classroom interactions- a key factor proven to drive children's academic and life-long success."

ERSEA REPORT

JOE VEGA-SMITH

Help Your Child Succeed in Preschool and Kindergarten Build the Habit of Good Attendance

DID YOU KNOW...

Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success and learning from preschool forward.

Missing 10% of school (1 or 2 days every few weeks) can make it harder to:

- Gain early reading and math skills.
- Build relationships.
- Develop good attendance habits.

High quality preschool and kindergarten has many benefits!

- The routines your child develops will continue throughout school.
- Make the most of early grades by encouraging your child to attend every day.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Work with your child and his/her teacher to develop your child's strong attendance.

Talk about it – sing about it – make it an adventure!

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Share ideas with other parents for getting to school on time.

Before the school year starts

- Find out what day school starts and begin a countdown!
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Attend orientation with your child to meet teachers and classmates and find out about health and safety procedures.

Ready, Set, GO!

- If you are concerned your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice. Ask for resources to continue learning at home if needed.
- Ask family members or neighbors for assistance if you need help.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
- If your child seems anxious about preschool or kindergarten, talk to the program director, teacher, your doctor or other parents for advice.



Revised October 2021

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

ERSEA REPORT

JOE VEGA-SMITH

Ayude a su niño a tener éxito en la preescuela y en kindergarten
Desarrolle la costumbre de una buena asistencia escolar

USTED SABÍA QUE...

Llegar en hora todos los días es importante para el éxito y el aprendizaje de su niño desde la preescuela.

Perder el 10% de las clases (uno o dos días un par de veces por mes) puede dificultar:

- La obtención de habilidades tempranas de lectura y matemática
- La formación de relaciones
- El desarrollo de buenas costumbres de asistencia escolar

¡Una preescuela y un kindergarten de alta calidad tienen muchos beneficios!

- Las rutinas que su niño desarrolle seguirán a lo largo de su vida escolar.
- Aproveche al máximo los primeros años de la escuela, incentivando a que su niño vaya todos los días.

QUÉ PUEDE HACER USTED

Trabaje con su niño y su maestro para desarrollar una buena asistencia escolar para su niño.

Hable de ello – cante sobre ello – ¡tránsfórmelo en una aventura!

- Establezca una rutina regular para la hora de dormir y para la mañana.
- Separe la ropa y prepare la mochila la noche anterior.
- Comparta ideas con otros padres para salir de casa en hora.

Antes que empiece el año escolar

- ¡Descubra qué día empiezan las clases y empiece una cuenta regresiva!
- Mantenga a su niño saludable y asegúrese de que haya recibido las vacunas necesarias.
- Vaya a la orientación con su niño para conocer a los maestros y compañeros de clase y para saber los procedimientos de salud y seguridad.

En sus marcas, listos, ¡YA!

- Si le preocupa que su niño pueda tener Covid-19, llame a su escuela para que le aconsejen. Pregunte acerca de recursos para que siga aprendiendo desde el hogar si es necesario.
- Pídale asistencia a sus parientes o vecinos si necesita ayuda.
- Trate de programar las citas médicas no relacionadas con el Covid-19 y los viajes largos para cuando no haya clases en la preescuela.
- Si su niño parece sentir ansiedad con ir a la preescuela, hable con el director del programa, los maestros, su médico u otros padres para que le aconsejen.

Revisado en octubre de 2021



Visite "Attendance Works" (La Asistencia Escolar Funciona) en www.attendanceworks.org para hacer la descarga de recursos y herramientas gratis.

EDUCATION REPORT

ELIZABETH MORA

CLASS Observations

In December, the CLASS team completed CLASS observations in center-based classrooms. Teachers were given feedback and the data will be analyzed to be used for program planning, which includes professional development, classroom environment and a Coaching Plan.

In the Classroom

In December, teachers were trained on the DRDP, Learning Language Development through Intentional Play and Promoting Learning and Persistence Through Intentional Play.

The month of December was short, but nevertheless, a busy month. Children and teachers wrapped up the year in a fun and creative way. The classrooms engaged in a variety of fun activities such as Red and White Day and Pajama Day. Teachers and children got into the spirit of week-long celebrations. Some of the classes from Tumbleweed and Highland shared their silly antics in these adorable pictures. In Head Start we work hard and play just as hard!



The center based preschool classrooms use the Creative Curriculum as their core curriculum. The curriculum is a play-based curriculum that follows children's interest and is organized in studies where children take the lead on investigating topics of interest they can relate to and are familiar with as part of their everyday lives. Some studies include: The Ball Study, The Building Study, the Box Study, The Tree Study, the Pet Study. The list of studies is long and children and teachers choose a study they are interested in and dive into the investigation of that study in a variety of ways.

In accordance with the Creative Curriculum, the classrooms are organized in interest areas. The curriculum is centered around the following 11 interest areas: blocks, dramatic play, toys and games, art, library, discovery, sand and water, music and movement, cooking, computers, and outdoors. The curriculum describes the learning that occurs through play in each area, the ways children might engage with the materials in each area, and teacher interactions to promote and scaffold children's learning.

EDUCATION REPORT

ELIZABETH MORA

The curriculum includes the use of project-based investigations, known as the “studies,” that are focused on meaningful science and social studies topics and aim to provide children with an opportunity to apply skills in literacy, math, the arts, and technology. While visiting the classrooms, I had the opportunity to engage with and photograph some children engaged in these interest areas.



Children collage with “snow” as a Small Group activity



In the Dramatic Play Area, children pretend play using their creativity, imagination and language.



Children build with blocks, which helps them develop math skills with measurement, counting, balance, geometry, language development, planning etc.



Children use sand to develop fine motor skills, eye and hand coordination, measuring, sensory experiences.



In the games and toys area, children develop math skills like patterning, counting, and fine motor skills,

MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES REPORT

AMY WILLEY

Development Concerns Support and IEPs

During the month of December, Disabilities supported 123 children and families that have developmental concerns in both the EHS and HS program. There were also seven referrals submitted for assessments to the appropriate LEA (Local Education Agency). Disabilities Specialist attended nine IEP meetings during the month. (Goal 1, Goal 2 and Goal 3)

Mindful Moments

Mindful Moments for December centered around the power of peppermint and included practical uses, recipes and some information on how iconic peppermint items are made. There was also a mindful calendar to provide everyday activities to support personal wellness.

Mindful activities included calming the storm, which uses a snow globe to help promote self-regulation and mindful thoughts (Goal 1, Goal 2 and Goal 3)



Supporting Wellness

On December 9, 2022, the Disabilities and Mental Health Department put on a painting activity to support wellness for office staff. The theme was "Happy Little Accidents" which is a reference to painter Bob Ross. He had a show called "The Joy of Painting" from 1983-1994 where he taught people to paint through a positive lens and view point. Staff had the opportunity to utilize the mindful activity of art to reconnect with other staff and themselves. Future wellness opportunities will be planned to support staff wellness. (Goal 3)



HEALTH REPORT

VICTORIA ERMILIO, MSN, RN, CSN

Health Team

The health team is fully staffed with one registered nurse, four LVN's, and one administrative clerk. Each LVN has had their case load reduced from approximately 400 students to 300 students each. The increase in staff has allowed for more timely follow up and additional classroom support with medically fragile students. Due to the increased follow-up, the number of physical exams has greatly increased within the first month from 60% on December 1, 2022 to 69% as of January 17, 2023.

Currently, 324 out of 1050 Head Start students have not submitted their physical exam for the 2022-2023 school year. The health team is currently working with these families by identifying their needs and offering our support. We have made appointments, offered community resources, participated in health events, transportation and submitted fax to support in obtaining documents.



ChildPlus Monitoring

The health team has been meeting every Thursday and have been focused on Child Plus. All staff members bring their laptops. Staff follow along while instruction is given on the Promethean board by the Health & Safety Specialist. To date, each team member has created their own To-Do-List for immunizations, physicals and dental exams, missing documents, and hearing and vision for HS and EHS. They have also become proficient using Child Plus report 3035 and 3016 (EHS). They have customized their reports by using the advanced set up option. Every week we plan to review additional reports such as 3330, 9740, 9706.

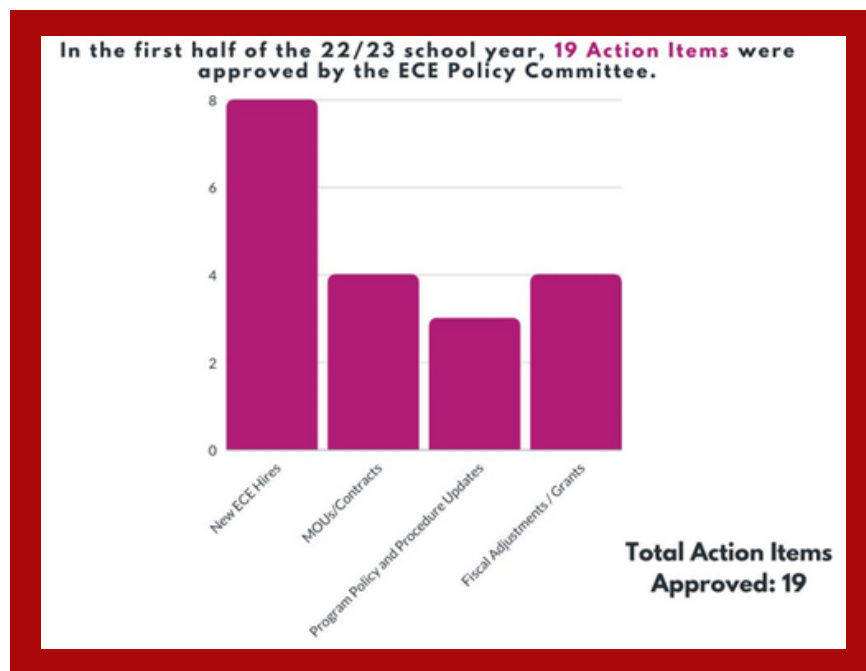
January 2022		January 2023	
Physical Exams	53%	Physical Exams	69%
Dental Exams	50%	Dental Exams	60%
Hearing/Vision	89%	Hearing Vision	94%
Immunizations	96%	Immunizations	99%
TB Screening	93%	TB Screening	97%

FAMILY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & PROGRAM GOVERNANCE REPORT

PAULINA PANDURO

Program Governance Recap August-December 2022

The Policy Committee (PC) has been meeting the last Wednesday of the month from August to December to discuss and approve action items for the program. PC meetings consist of 30 elected parents (representatives and alternates), invited parents, and staff. So far in the 2022/2023 school year, 19 items have been approved in the categories of New ECE Hires (8), MOUs/Contracts (4), Program Policy and Procedures updates (3), and Fiscal Adjustments/ Grants (4). Any parent is invited to attend a Policy Committee Meeting. Contact your Family Service Advocate for more information. All minutes from the previous Policy Committee meetings can be found on the Palmdale school District Website: <https://www.palmdalesd.org/Page/5972>



Family Engagement- Holiday Gifts

The ECE office staff collaborated in the month of December to sort, wrap, and deliver over 1,000 holiday gifts to every child in the program. The ECE office also collaborated with our community partner Baby to Baby to provide extra support and gifts to 29 families/75 children in our program. These gifts were personalized for every child in the family and included winter coats, snacks, toys, shoes, and many other items. (Goal 3)



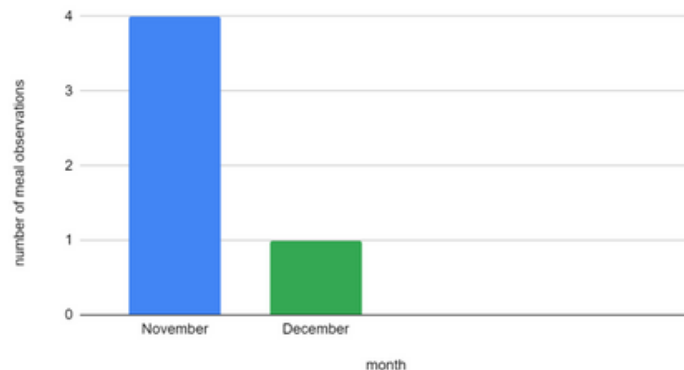
NUTRITION

LILLIE BIGLER, MS, RDN

Safe and Nutritious Meals

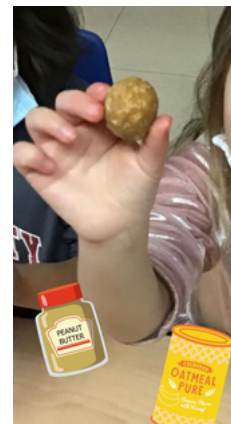
The Nutrition Department works continuously to assure that children receive safe and nutritious meals. In the month of December, the Nutrition Department continues monitoring of our classrooms during meal service to check for food safety and ensure safe mealtime practices. (Goal 2)

Meal Observations for 22-23



Ball Study Culminating Activity

The Nutrition Department provided individualized, nutrition-related support to 12 classrooms. This included support for classrooms completing their Ball Study Culminating Activity, where students learned how to make no-bake peanut butter oatmeal balls. This activity promoted discussion of nutrition in the various ingredients and areas of development such as math, measuring, and fine motor skills. (Goals 1, 2, 3)



Resources for Free Food in the Antelope Valley

The Nutrition Department would like to share this link as a resource for free food in the area:

PALMDALE, CA FREE FOOD RESOURCES

<https://www.freefood.org/c/ca-palmdale>

Palmdale School District Menus

The weekly Palmdale School District menu is available online at <https://family.titank12.com/menu/E7M7SF>. (Goals 1, 2, 3) Scan the QR Code and select your child's school site. Then click on the ECE menus.

*District Office, Avenue J, and Tierra Bonita meals are prepared by the "Tamarisk" kitchen staff.

*Highland meals are prepared by the "Ocotillo" kitchen staff.

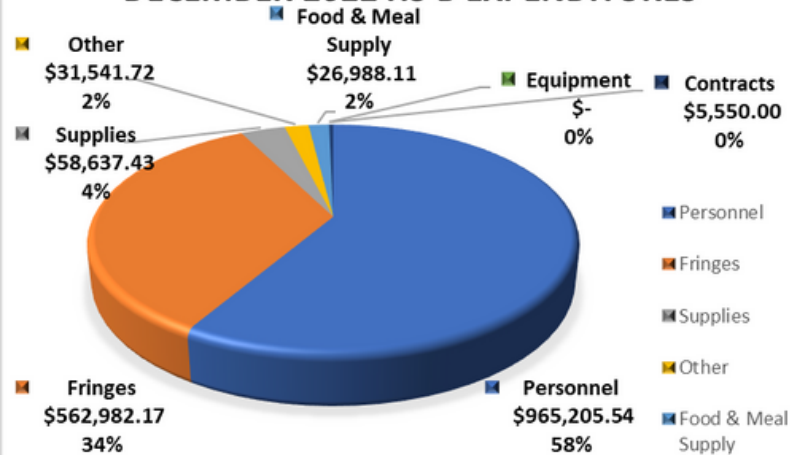


FISCAL REPORT

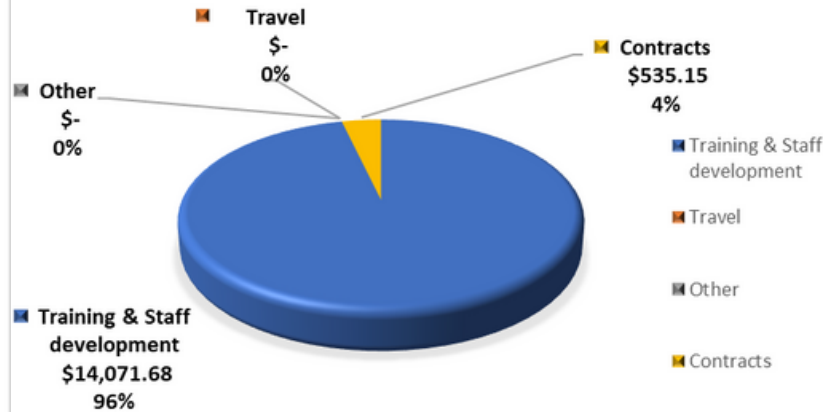
M. CARMEN SERRANO

Expenditures for Head Start, HS T&TA, Early Head Start, EHS T&TA & COVID Programs

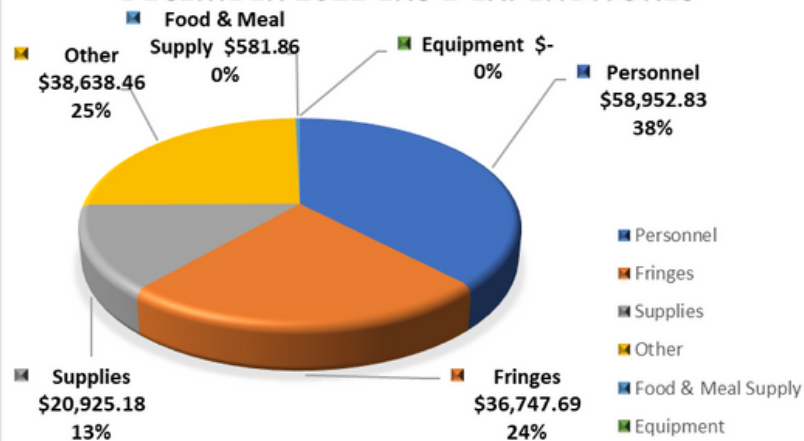
DECEMBER 2022 HS B EXPENDITURES



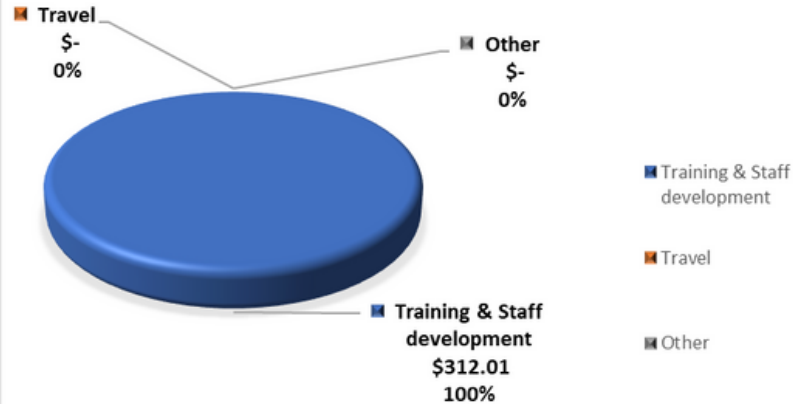
DECEMBER 2022 HS T&TA EXPENDITURES



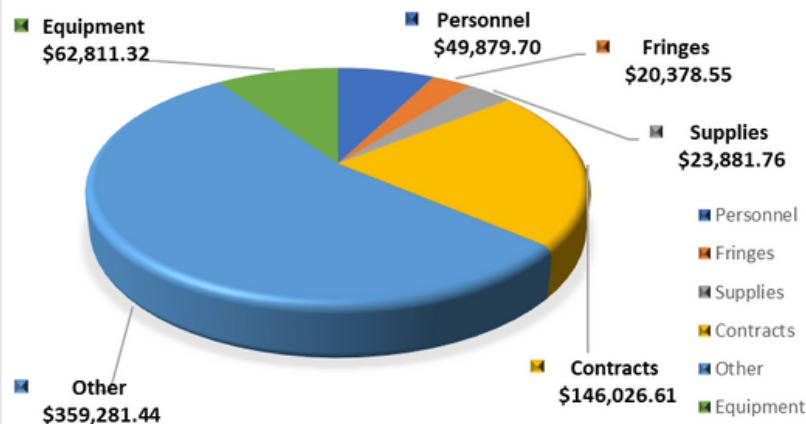
DECEMBER 2022 EHS B EXPENDITURES



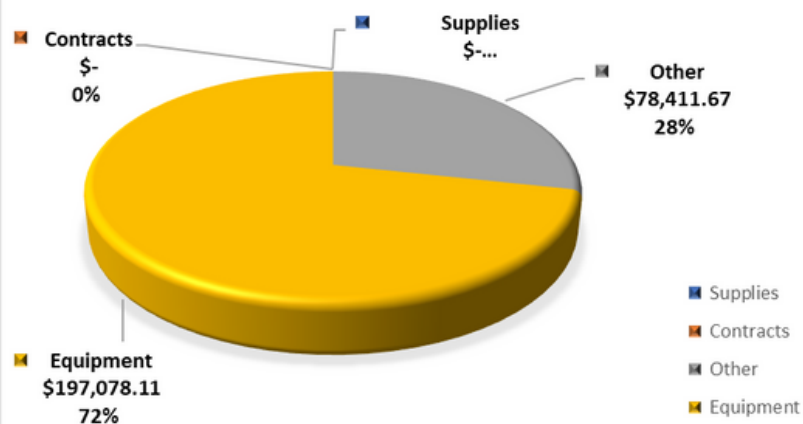
DECEMBER 2022 EHS T&TA EXPENDITURES



DECEMBER 2022 COVID EXPENDITURES



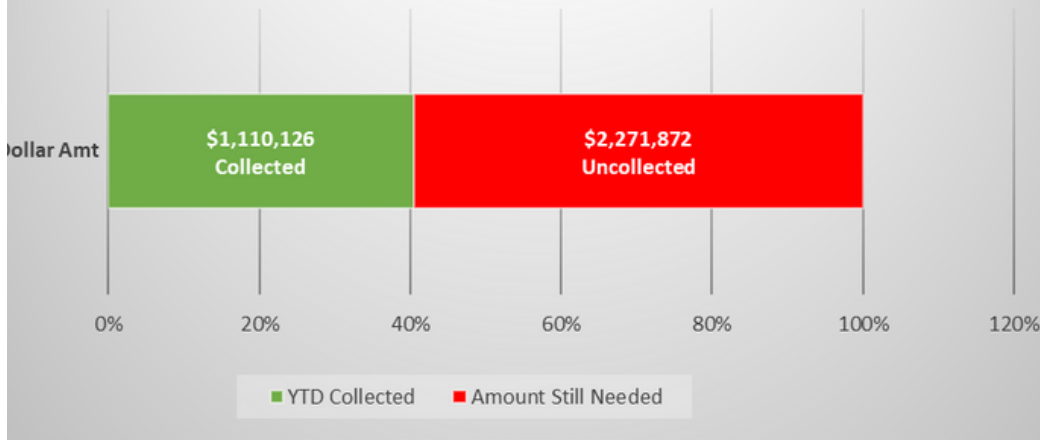
DECEMBER 2022 PI EXPENDITURES



- Palmdale School District continues to offer breakfast and lunch through the Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The cost of adult meals, student snacks and paper supplies are reflected in the food meal supplies. Snacks are claimed under the CACFP program.

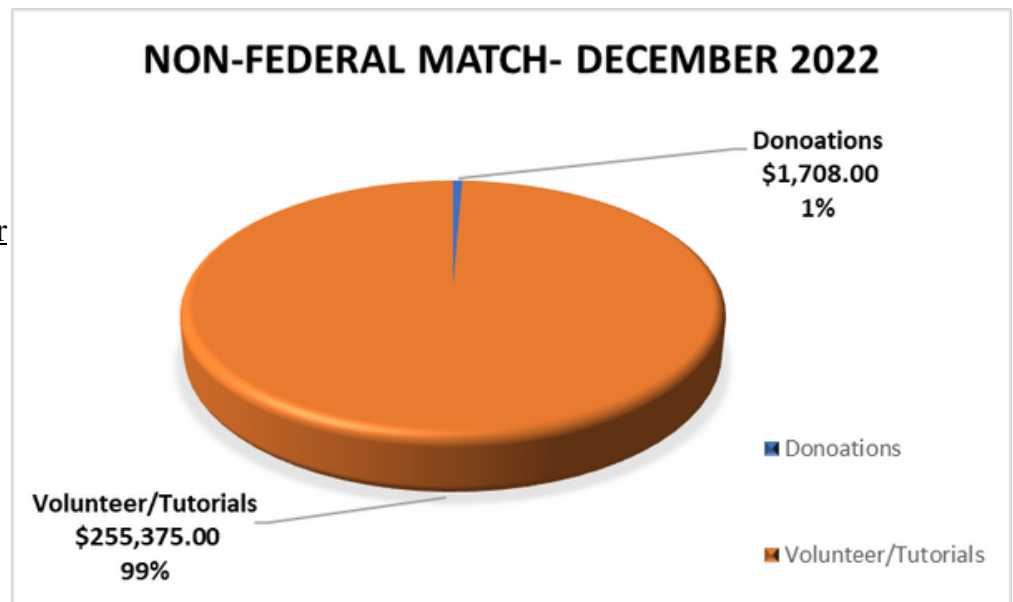
Palmdale School District Early Childhood Education NFM Goal

2022 NFM Goal \$3,381,998
40% of Goal Reached
December 2022

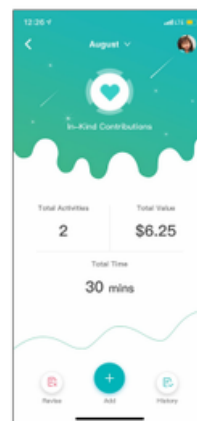
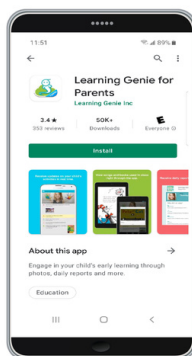
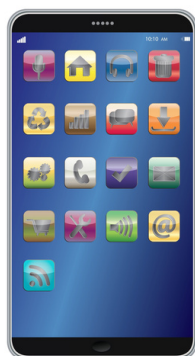


- Our goal for 2022 is to collect \$3.4 million in Non Federal Match (NFM)
- We need to average \$285,600 per month.
- **We are currently at 40% of our goal.
- Parents have until 1/31/2022 to submit December 2022 NFS.

Non-Federal Match Parent Volunteer & Activity Submissions



Parents and Families Can Submit Tutorials for In-Kind right from their phone or iPad with the Learning Genie App. **This includes Parent Meetings!**



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

CHRIS BURTON & LISA FOWLER

Safety

Health and Safety and Care and Supervision (C & S) are the priority. According to 1302.47(2) - Safety Practices - Equipment and materials - Indoor and outdoor play equipment and materials are to be cleaned and safe for children's use and are appropriately disinfected. We have an ongoing system of preventative maintenance and the staff is required to follow all of our safety procedures at all times.

Our Health and Safety policies include, but are not limited to, emergencies, arrival and dismissal procedures, reporting any accidents or unusual incidents, and Care and Supervision.

Our program works with the custodian and teaching staff to ensure that cleaning and sanitizing is happening on a regular basis. During the Winter Break, our Custodial staff conducts their deep cleaning which includes cleaning the window sills, remove any spiderwebs, shampoo carpets and rugs, and clean the outside environment.

Lead Sampling

Lead Testing was conducted this month at all of the kitchens that prepare food for our ECE students. Water outlets were checked to ensure we are in compliance with the standards of lead contamination.

Incident Reports

For any accidents or injuries, the teaching staff completes Incident Reports and submits them to the our Health Service Area. The nurses enter the incident report into ChildPlus. Currently, for the month of November and December, there were 13 incident reports submitted which is taken from ChildPlus Report #3035.

Partnerships-Delivery of CCRC and Baby 2 Baby Holiday Gifts

CCRC and Baby to Baby provided holiday gifts for our students. Below are a couple of pictures to show how our ECE Staff are preparing holiday presents to be delivered to students.



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

CHRIS BURTON & LISA FOWLER

CPR/First Aid

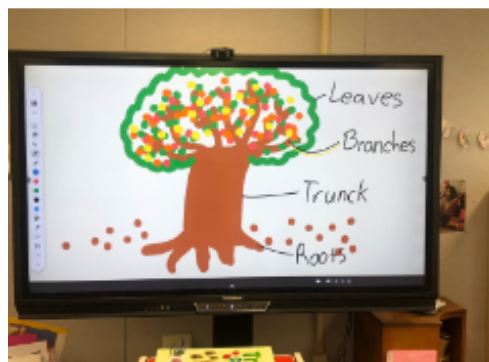
The PSD ECE program partnered with the University of Antelope Valley (UAV) to provide CPR and First Aid training to our ECE staff to update their certification.

Technology and Incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) Activities

As we go out into the field to ensure a quality educational program, infusing STEAM activities throughout the day, and to support children's interests, we captured these examples of student engagement and hands-on experiences, and students' creative work in action. The STEAM strategies also align with our Creative Curriculum Fidelity requirements as well as CLASS.

Student Engagement

Student engagement is the catalyst to children participating and can increase a child's ability to enjoy what they are learning. One way to engage students is to stimulate their curiosity and express their creativity by fostering positive relationships.



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

CHRIS BURTON & LISA FOWLER

Spirit Week

The week of December 12th, the PSD ECE program-wide participated in several activities from Crazy Hair or Hat Day, Wear Red and White, Pajama Day, Crazy Sock or Sweater Day, and Reading your favorite Winter book.



Licensing Update Event for Childcare Centers

To ensure that ECE stays in compliance and is up-to-date on the latest licensing changes, ECE Director and Assistant Administrators attended a 2-hour event, on December 6, 2022, focusing specifically on childcare centers. Some of the important topics covered at the training consisted of:

- Partnership and collaboration
- Guardian
- Compliance CARE tools
- Posting requirements
- Lead testing
- Navigating the website and locating helpful resources



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

Potential Program Changes for the 2023-2024 School Year

With the expansion of Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK), we continue to explore ways to continue providing quality services to the community through the Early Childhood Education program. In the 2022-2023 school year, we began servicing more three-year-olds in our program as more four-year-olds were eligible for UTK. We also decreased the number of center-based enrollment slots in order to increase the number of full day classes offered, so parents had more opportunities to participate in that program option if it better met their family needs. This also allowed us to maintain the quality of the services provided to families.

For the 2023-2024 school year, we will be conducting community needs assessments to determine and plan for any additional program changes needed.

Non-Federal Match Reminder

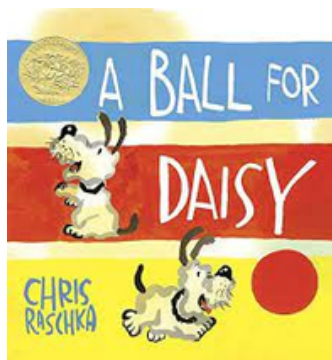
On January 1, 2023, our Non-Federal Match count re-starts. Please be sure to log all activities in Learning Genie that you do from January 1-January 8 during Winter Break.



Help us meet our Non-Federal Match Goal each month by logging your volunteer hours and at-home tutorials.

Literacy Corner

Books of the Month: December



Our December Book of the Month for Early Head Start and Head Start (Home-based and Center-based) children is [ABall for Daisy](#) by Chris Raschka. This wordless book will help children make inferences and educated guesses based only on the pictures as they try to figure out what the main character, a dog named Daisy, will do next.

Don't forget to add your reading time to your Non-Federal Match Activities!

Scan the QR Code for the YouTube Read Aloud of the story.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

Office of Head Start Mask Mandate Lifted

On January 6, 2023, the Office of Head Start officially rescinded the mask mandate in classrooms. However, they continue to require that we have a COVID-19 mitigation policy in place. This policy includes using the Learning Genie "Daily Health Card", temperature checks at the door, children staying home when sick, and adhering to all Los Angeles County Health.

The weekly testing requirement for unvaccinated staff will continue until The Office of Head Start provides a final rule on that specifically. Staff and families may also request test kits when needed.

We will continue weekly testing for unvaccinated staff, practice good handwashing practices for staff and students to mitigate the spread of illnesses, and follow any changes to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health guidance in the event of increased COVID-19 transmission rates.

Staying Healthy

Routines are key to keeping healthy. Brushing teeth, washing hands, eating well, and exercising every day help everyone grow and thrive. "Every so often" routines, such as doctor and dentist checkups, ensure that families have the support, information, and care they need to help kids stay well!



Scan the QR
Code to go to
the YouTube
Video



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Involving Parents in Children's Oral Health



Parent involvement in oral health is key to their child's overall health and well-being. Parents who introduce, reinforce, and model good oral health behaviors and attitudes pass them on to their children. Parents can do this by brushing their child's teeth with fluoride toothpaste every morning and before bedtime and by giving their child healthy foods that are good for the teeth. Also, when parents take their child for dental visits regularly, the child is more likely to seek oral health care as an adult. This all helps the child build good oral hygiene and eating habits that will last a lifetime.

Head Start staff can help families engage in their child's oral health by:

- Asking parents about their experience taking the child for a dental visit
 - Asking parents to show how they brush their child's teeth
 - Suggesting that parents make simple, healthy snacks for their child using [Cook's Corner: Recipes for Healthy Snacks](#)
 - Encouraging parents to model good oral health habits at home, like brushing their own teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day and eating healthy foods
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**Cook's Corner: Recipes
for Healthy Snacks**



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Sippy Cup Recall

On Nov. 23, 2022, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) [issued a recall](#) of Green Sprouts Stainless Steel Straw Bottles, Sippy Cups, and Sip & Straw Cups. The bottom base of the recalled stainless steel bottles and cups can break off, exposing a solder dot that contains lead and posing a lead poisoning hazard to the child.

As part of its mission to save lives and keep families safe by reducing the unreasonable risk of injuries and deaths associated with consumer products, CPSC obtains the recall of products and arranges for a repair, replacement, or refund for recalled products. [Subscribe](#) to stay up to date on CPSC recalls.



Scan the QR Code to subscribe to the
Consumer Product Safety Commission
to receive recall updates.



Reading is Key!

ECE is committed to ensuring our students complete our program ready for success in elementary school and beyond! Research shows that "simple access to books is one of the biggest obstacles—and perhaps the biggest opportunity—in equalizing children's literacy. The number of books in a child's home has been shown to be the best predictor of his or her scores on reading exams," (Bridges; Children's Literacy Foundation). In an effort to assist families in increasing the number of books children can access in the home, our program is providing books for children and families. There are many educational benefits to reading with your child at a young age. Here are a few of the key reasons:

Books create warm emotional bonds between adults and kids when they read books together.

Books help kids develop basic language skills and profoundly expand their vocabularies—much more than any other media.

Books are interactive; they demand that kids think. Fiction and nonfiction books widen our consciousness. They give us new ways to think and new ideas. They expand our universe beyond time and place and inspire our own original thoughts.

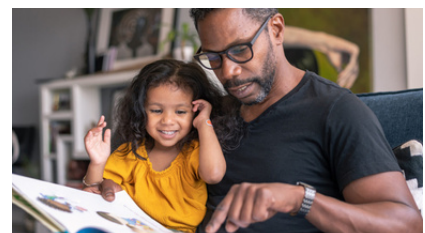
Books develop critical thinking skills. A book is read by an individual. It has no laugh track or musical score that emotionally primes a reader's reaction. You alone decide what you think about a book and its contents with no one leaning over your shoulder telling you how to think.

Books develop and nourish kids' imaginations, expanding their worlds. Picture books introduce young children to the world of art and literature. Novels and nonfiction books stimulate kids' sensory awareness, helping kids to see, hear, taste, feel, and smell on an imagined level. Books inform our imaginations, inspiring creativity.

Books provide the opportunity to share cultural experiences. When kids read the same book, enjoying a common reading experience, peer bonds are built within a generation. When children, parents, and grandparents share classic books, extended familial and community bonds are formed creating a shared frame of reference.

BOOKS INSPIRE US TO DREAM.

BOOKS GIVE US THE TOOLS TO ACHIEVE OUR DREAMS.



Link to full article, ["Why Do Kids Need Books?"](#)

References

Why Do Kids Need Books? - The National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance (2022)

Bridges, Lois. "Access to Books." *Make Every Student Count: How Collaboration Among Families, Schools, and Communities Ensures Student Success*. Scholastic.com. Scholastic, 2013, pp. 49-67.

Children's Literacy Foundation. "Research." Clifonline.org. Children's Literacy Foundation, 2016.

Palmdale School District Information

TUNE IN to the Palmdale Promise Radio Show

Listen to KUTY 1470 AM or 96.9 FM, Monday through Friday from 6:30-7:30 a.m. to hear helpful information about the Palmdale School District's many departments, programs, and schools.



We Are Hiring!

Join our team and make a difference!

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- Bilingual Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant (Spanish)
185 Days - \$15.33 - \$18.64 hourly
- Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant
185 Days - \$15.33 - \$18.64 hourly
- Substitute Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant
\$15.00 hourly
- Noon Duty/Campus Assistant
182 Days - \$15.50 hourly

Job information and application can be found at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/palmdalesd>

Helpful Resources for Families

Food and Nutrition

DYK? There are #WIC updates in the American Rescue Plan. Families who are already enrolled will see automatic adjustments. Newly eligible families can enroll through their local WIC office:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts?f%5B1%5D=program%3A32> **#InvestingWithFamilies**

Rental Assistance

The American Rescue Plan makes more funding available for people with overdue rent. Additional transitional and permanent housing will also be available for eligible families. Explore the facts:

https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/FACT_SHEET-Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Program_May2021.pdf[PDF, 169KB] **#InvestingWithFamilies**

Tax Credits

For many people, making ends meet throughout the year is tough, and saving regularly may seem unrealistic. Find tips for using some of your tax credit refunds to prepare for unforeseen expenses throughout the year: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/start-small-save-up/start-saving/how-to-use-your-tax-refund-to-build-your-emergency-funds/> **#InvestingWithFamilies**

Discover tips for using ARP tax credits to open a savings account to help you reach your long-term goals, such as owning a home. https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_your-money-your-goals_place-for-savings_tool.pdf **#InvestingWithFamilies**

Energy and Water Assistance

The ARP makes additional funds available for energy and water assistance. Find out whether these emergency assistance funds are available for your family: <https://communityactionpartnership.com/find-a-cap/?cid=fd585d5730f813ab478b1153034908e1&cid=79294566037037bc15f030fd7eaa5a9e>

#InvestingWithFamilies

Emergency Housing Vouchers

Do you need assistance with housing? Learn if your family is eligible to access housing vouchers:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts?cid=fd585d5730f813ab478b1153034908e1 **#InvestingWithFamilies**