

## **Pacific Clinics Receives Nearly \$14 Million Grant to Expand Early Childhood Education Program in Underserved Areas**

*Aiming to bridge the achievement gap, Pacific Clinics to provide additional Early Head Start services*

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Pacific Clinics, a community-based behavioral health agency that provides outpatient services to individuals of all ages at over 60 locations and 280 schools, received a five-year \$13.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to expand Early Head Start services in Pasadena, Whittier, Glendale, Highland Park, Rosemead and Eagle Rock, California. Within this proposed service area, Pacific Clinics will serve an additional 120 infants, toddlers and their families in full-day, year-round early education services through a child care center operated by Pacific Clinics and through partnerships with family child care providers and expectant parents.

Already a Head Start provider serving over 750 infants and children annually in the San Gabriel Valley, Pacific Clinics will utilize its experience in providing research-based early education and trauma-informed care, as well as its strong referral partner network, to bring comprehensive services to communities lacking sufficient high-quality child care and early learning services. Pacific Clinics and its partners will serve the community's most at-risk families including low-income, homeless families, dual-language learners, and foster children, among others.

“Head Start programs are essential in providing children and their families with important early learning tools to promote future academic success,” said Pacific Clinics’ President and CEO Jim Balla. “This grant will positively impact our communities by offering vital early childhood education services and supports to local families with young children.”

The expanded services aim to bridge the achievement gap for income-eligible children by focusing on STEM curriculum and enhancing access to quality early education and support services – including health, dental, nutrition, and access to

mental health services. Pacific Clinics will also make physical enhancements to outdoor and indoor play and learning areas.

“We’re excited that this grant will help us offer a comprehensive set of services to improve quality early education programming and ensure that the needs of children and families are met,” said Wassy Tesfa, divisional director of Head Start services at Pacific Clinics. “We look forward to collaborating with parents and community groups to make a life-long impact and ensure that children are kindergarten-ready.”

### **About Pacific Clinics**

Founded in 1926, Pacific Clinics is a community-based behavioral health agency that provides outpatient services to individuals of all ages at over 60 locations and 280 schools across Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. Each year, over 22,000 individuals benefit from comprehensive and supportive services, including case management, health navigation, early education, school-based services, housing support, and employment assistance. Through its Pacific Clinics Training Institute, the organization provides continuing education to mental health practitioners, early educators, and clients. <https://www.pacificclinics.org/>