



Pacific Clinics®
Head Start



20
25

Year in Review

Children Thrive When Community Comes Together

As an early education provider, we have the unique opportunity to see just how much hope, resilience and possibility can grow in the lives of young children when a community comes together. The beginning of last year reminded us of that truth in powerful ways.

In January 2025, Pacific Clinics' Head Start faced significant challenges that could have shaken our foundation and is a reminder of how fragile access to early childhood education can be with the fear of loss of services to our community. The devastating Eaton Fires resulted in the loss of our Nesbit Center, as well as three family providers who lost not only their homes but also their livelihoods. Several staff members were also displaced. These losses left us deeply shaken, and we continue to struggle to recover while managing the ongoing trauma experienced by both staff and families.

Pacific Clinics' Head Start has always been more than a program. It's a promise that every child, no matter their circumstances, can begin their educational journey with confidence, joy and opportunity. That promise drives us to meet challenges head-on, whether they come in the form of budget uncertainty or natural disaster. Evidence has shown that Head Start impact that by nurturing children in their early years, along with building and supporting their families, we build a foundation to carry them through life.

The impact of work is meaningful. Each classroom, each home visit, each small moment of encouragement ripples outward, strengthening families and our entire community. That's why, even in difficult times, our mission & our partnership with the community and team work are more critical than ever.

In this report you will find program and parent successes and a special Eaton fire insert highlighting family, employees, partners and donor impact.

We thank our incredible employees, devoted families and steadfast partners for believing in what we do and standing with us, especially when the road is hard. Together, we will continue giving our children a head start on the bright future they deserve.



Greg Bowman

Greg Bowman, EdD
Board Chair, Pacific Clinics



Wassy Tesfa

Wassy Tesfa
Executive Director,
Pacific Clinics' Head Start



Left: The aftermath of our burned down Nesbit Center. Right: Head Start teacher, Lucy A Riquelme, reunites with one of her Head Start children at a distribution center for Eaton Fires victims.

Financials

Funding Sources		Budget	
Federal Funds		\$14,492,622	
CA State Preschool Program		\$1,110,616	
Child and Adult Care Food Program		\$236,729	
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES		\$15,839,967	
Expenditures		Budget	Actual
Operations		\$15,367,866	\$15,168,682
Training and Technical Assistance		\$235,372	\$235,372
Food Services		\$236,729	\$239,750
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		\$15,839,967	\$15,643,804

Audit Statement

An independent third-party external audit for Pacific Clinics' fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, found no deficiencies in our expenditures or program operations compliance requirements as described in the Uniform Guidance.

Impact By The Numbers



645

Children Served



602

Families Served



91%

Average Daily Attendance



86,531

Meals Consumed



1,242

Children Linked to Medical and Dental Services



485

Children Up-to-Date with Recommended Immunizations



65

Children Received Early Intervention Services (IFSP & IEP)



180

Newly Enrolled Children Received Developmental and Sensory Screenings



41

Have Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)



24

Have Individual Education Plan (IEP)

From Isolation to Inspiration: A Parent's Journey with Head Start

When one Glendale mother first saw the Pacific Clinics' Head Start banner years ago, she never imagined the role the program would one day play in her life. As a single mom raising four young children during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, 35-year-old Thalia Baez Arreola faced overwhelming challenges such as financial strain, postpartum depression and the deep loneliness that can come with motherhood.

That changed when she enrolled her youngest child in the Pacific Clinics' Early Head Start Home-Based program. What began as weekly home visits quickly grew into a lifeline of support.

Thalia participated in parenting classes, safety training, and field trips, and most importantly, she had a built-in community. At a conference in Phoenix, surrounded by stories of perseverance and growth, Thalia realized she wasn't alone, and she wasn't finished. That experience was the spark that motivated her to go back to school.



Thalia with her youngest son, Isaiah.

Raising A Reader: Building Bonds Through Books

Raising A Reader (RAR) is a national nonprofit program committed to creating brighter futures for children by strengthening family bonds through shared reading. This year, we proudly piloted the program at our Peoria site, putting books — and bonding — into the hands of families.

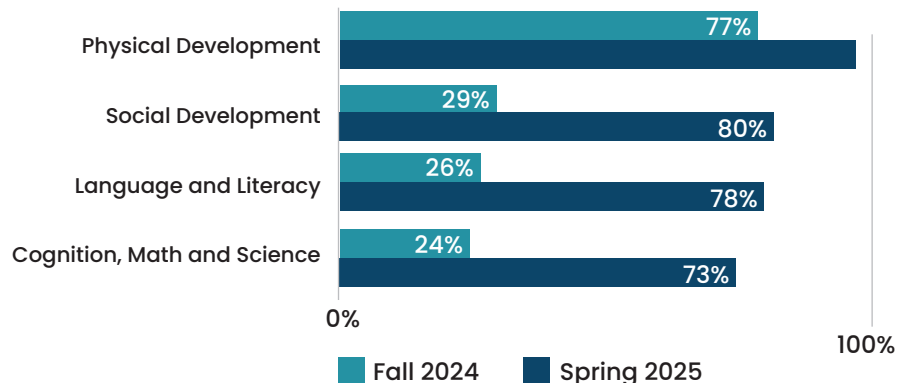
Each week, children took home a red book bag with four books to enjoy with their families. While many of the books were in English or just illustrations, some of the books were available in other languages. Teachers emphasized the joy of book cuddling time, encouraging parents to spend 10 minutes a day connecting with their children through talking, reading and laughing.



Children's School Success

Percentage of Four-Year-Old Children at the Building Later or Higher Developmental Levels

Ready for Kindergarten Based on the Desired Results Developmental Profile



Measuring Children's School Readiness

Pacific Clinics' Head Start uses the Desired Results Development Profile (DRDP) to measure progress for children ages birth to five years. The program assesses the children's developmental growth in all learning domains and is aligned with the California Department of Education Preschool and Infant Toddler Learning Foundations, research-based curricula (High Scope Preschool Curriculum, Creative Curriculum for Infants Toddlers and Twos, and Family Childcare Homes) and the Office of Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.



During the 2024-25 school year, outcome data were collected, aggregated and analyzed to record each child's progress. Teachers and parents use the initial data to set learning goals for each child. Planned learning activities and lesson plans for children are developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate. The program's school Readiness Reports reflect the average developmental progress children have made in each of the Head Start learning domains. The chart above shows the child outcome results for Kindergarten Readiness for our children entering kindergarten in Fall 2025.

Pacific Clinics' Head Start Leadership Team

Kathy McCarthy, Chief Executive Officer/President

Wassy Tesfa, Executive Director

Luiza Balyan, Assistant Director

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Pacific Clinics' Head Start is a subsidiary of Pacific Clinics. The data included in this report is required by the Head Start Act section 644(a)(2).

*Pacific Clinics is a 501(c)3 non-profit recognized by the IRS.
Tax ID Number: 94-2295953*



**QUALITY
START**
LOS ANGELES
QualityStartLA.org

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

The Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) initiative sets standards for early education programs. Our program was evaluated by QSLA and received an excellent rating of 4 of 5 at each of our five childcare sites.



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Head Start's brightest future begins with you.

The stories in this special insert reflect the resilience and generosity of our employees, neighbors, partners and community. Additionally, we had an outpouring of support from our parent agency, Pacific Clinics.

Thanks to their contributions, we were not only able to offer financial assistance to displaced families, but we opened a brand-new center impacted families could access.

We are extremely grateful for all who donated their time, dollars and resources.

Help us continue serving children and families in need by donating at

PacificClinics.org/Donate/



Nina Paddock's house in rubbish taken three days after the Eaton Fire.

Rebuilding Hope: A Family's Journey After the Eaton Fires

When the Eaton Canyon wildfires swept through early 2025, Nina Paddock, Pacific Clinics' Head Start comprehensive services manager, and her family evacuated their home of 21 years thinking they'd return in a few days. Instead, they lost everything. "You think you'll go back and find something," said Nina, "but there's nothing. Not one piece."

The loss went beyond possessions. It meant the disappearance of a home filled with memories like the wall where they recorded her children's growth year after year. "We can rebuild a house, but the spirit of what we had, that's something we carry now."

What sustained her was community. Nina's neighbors, friends, church and Pacific Clinics all showed up for her and her family in their time of need. "They didn't wait. They knew how to respond to trauma and responded with care," she recalls.

Rising from the Ashes: A Parent's Story of Resilience

When the Eaton Fires swept through Altadena and Pasadena, Karla, a full-time nursing student and mother of two, lost almost everything. Her family's five homes were destroyed, her daughter's Early Head Start location burned down, and her own home was too damaged to return to.

"I lost childcare, my support system and a safe place for my kids," she said. "It was overwhelming."

Pacific Clinics' Head Start quickly stepped in. The team arranged temporary housing in hotels and Airbnbs, provided daily meals and essentials and secured a new Early Head Start placement for Karla's youngest daughter so she could continue her nursing program.

"Pacific Clinics was like the family we lost," Karla reflected. "They kept us stable."

Karla with her daughters, Carmen Padilla and Solana Doria after graduating nursing school.



Standing Together: A Partner's Response in a Time of Crisis

When the Eaton fires tore through the foothill communities of Pasadena and Altadena, Families Forward Learning Center, an Early Head Start partner with a long-standing relationship with Pacific Clinics' Head Start, stepped in immediately to support families in crisis.

Though the center itself had to close for two weeks, its team transformed the facility into a distribution hub. "We opened our doors to any family connected to Pacific Clinics who needed support," said Elva Sandoval, executive director. "Groceries, clothing, toiletries—we gave what we could."

But their efforts didn't stop there.

Thanks to a timely private foundation grant, Families Forward expanded its support beyond its enrolled families to include six additional Pacific Clinics families impacted by the fires. These families received everything from rent assistance and car repairs to full furnishings and appliances. Other families received rental assistance, car repairs and grocery gift cards to help stabilize their lives amid loss.

"This isn't just a contract, it's a relationship. It's a community," said Elva. "When families were at their most vulnerable, we wanted them to feel supported and seen."



Pacific Clinics' Head Start sprung into action creating a distribution site at Pacific Clinics Training Center in Pasadena to assist families in need. Employees, volunteers and community members sorted through and organized hundreds of items including clothing, diapers and other essentials. The center served more than 70 Pacific Clinics' Head Start families and community families affected by the fires.

Thank you, donors!

The following donors assisted with **supplying clothing, food, furniture, car repairs, household and kitchen appliance replacements, covering utility bills and rent, and purchasing gift cards** during the Eaton fires crisis.

Baby2Baby

Bitty Bao

Bosco Tech High School

Common Space Brewery

El Sol Science and Arts
Academy of Santa Ana

Foothill Families

Heart2Heart

LA Play

Lakeshore

Mercy Chefs

Path Waters

South Pasadena San
Marino YMCA

Tutu Preschool

Thank you, donors!

The following donors assisted with **financial donations** for recovery efforts. **We thank every individual, including family, friends community partners and employees of Pacific Clinics' Head Start for making our work possible.**

Families Forward Learning Center
Head Start West

Pasadena Community Foundation

Pacific Clinics

UCLA Head Start Fellows (nationwide)

