



Office of
Children and Families
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA



Year in Review

Office of Children and Families

2021



Jessica Shapiro

Acting Deputy Mayor,
City of Philadelphia Office of Children and Families



OCF's work from the last year included relaunching Adult Education services; expanding the number of food sites on phila.gov/food; adding gaming opportunities at recreation centers; and providing materials pick-up and virtual programming at libraries citywide. Plus, through our child welfare and juvenile justice diversion and support services, we continued to decrease the number of systems-involved children and families.

Across all OCF departments, programs, and services, we approach our work with dedication to meeting community needs, and with flexibility to adapt as those needs change. We look forward to continuing and expanding our service to children, families, and adults in Philadelphia.

In Service,

Jessica S Shapiro
Acting Deputy Mayor

Message from the Acting Deputy Mayor

When the pandemic redefined normal, the Office of Children and Families (OCF) responded.

We started new programs and partnerships. We modified services. We used a fair approach to focus on neighborhoods with the highest need.

Our efforts meant Philadelphians had access to quality safe learning spaces, library materials, parks, and playgrounds.



Our 2021 Year in Review includes data from July 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021



Departments & Programs

THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (OCF) IS:

- Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)
- Free Library of Philadelphia (Free Library)
- Early Childhood Education, including PHLpreK
- Prevention Sevices, including: Community Schools, Truancy Intervention, Out-of-School Time, WorkReady, and Education Stability Services for DHS involved youth
- Adult Education
- Food Security

Our Goals

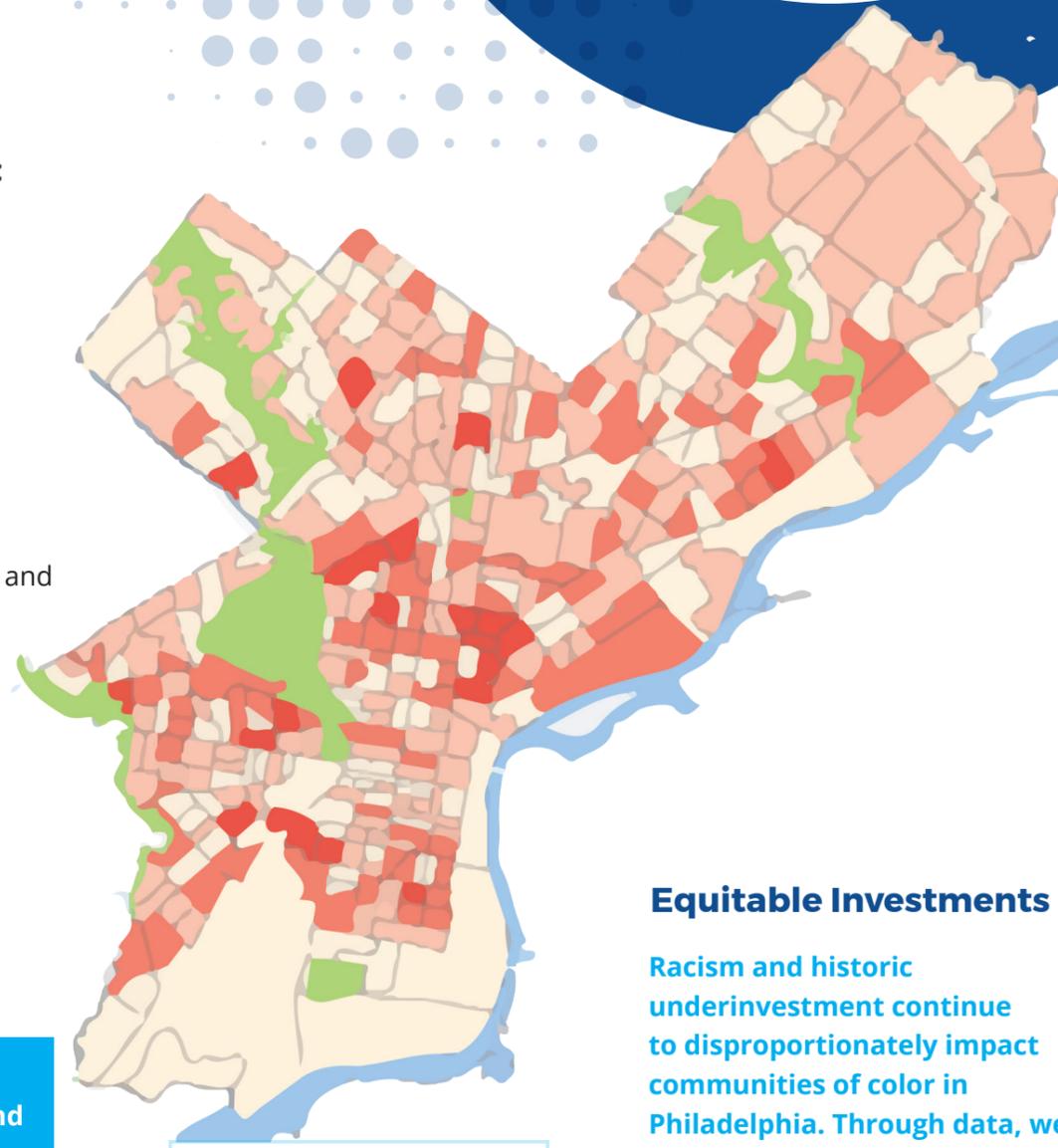
OCF WORKS ACROSS DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS TOWARD THESE SHARED GOALS:

Safety & Success: Families have the resources and the services they need to support their children's safety and success.

School Ready: Children enter school with the skills and supports to be successful in school.

Connected Communities: Communities are connected to strong schools, libraries, recreation, and public parks.

Youth Workforce Training & Adult Programs: Youth and adults have opportunities that include skills-building, training, workforce, and education.



Equitable Investments

Racism and historic underinvestment continue to disproportionately impact communities of color in Philadelphia. Through data, we work to ensure equal access and equitable distribution of OCF resources. The result is that OCF's education, prevention, and intervention programs are primarily located in under-resourced communities.

Turning Challenges to Opportunities

While COVID-19 presented many challenges, it also created new opportunities to serve children, families, and communities. Especially critical was OCF student and family support during digital learning time in the 2020-2021 school year. Here are a few ways that OCF responded:

- Safe, supervised learning spaces called Access Centers were created at 77 locations citywide during digital learning time.
- Hundreds of students received early intervention truancy services to support regular school attendance during digital learning time.
- Philly Reading Coaches read to children virtually.
- More enhanced PlayStreets brought the summer camp experience to dozens of blocks.
- The Free Library launched a new call center to assist patrons during the COVID-19 pandemic while library buildings were closed to the public. Staff received more than 21,000 calls and supported patrons with material renewals, virtual library cards, digital resources and programs, Interlibrary Loans, Homebound Services, and more.

Thank You, Partners!

OCF departments, programs, and services are supported by hundreds of partnerships and teams of dedicated staff. Our partnerships include large organizations and companies, grassroots community efforts, and individual volunteers. We are grateful for their dedication to help all children, families, adults, and neighborhoods thrive.

Safety & Success

Our Goal

Families have the resources and services they need to support their children's safety and success.

By the Numbers

2,342 families served through DHS diversion services such as Family Empowerment Services and Rapid Service Response. This type of service is voluntary. It provides case management, helps with basic needs, and links to ongoing mental and physical health care.

DHS diversion services means **fewer children** are in the system and **more families** are supported to safely care for their children.



1,700

YOUTH WHO HAD OR HAVE CHILD WELFARE PLACEMENTS RECEIVED \$800 IN PANDEMIC CASH PAYMENTS.

DHS diversion programs

Intensive Prevention Services (IPS) helps older youth learn and grow as individuals. It can also help to divert them from system involvement. **"I learn a lot from peers and get support away from home,"** says Aurealis. **"I can talk to someone here [that] I trust to give me advice,"** - Aurealis, age 15, IPS



Scan QR code to learn more!



5,034 students referred to OCF Prevention Division's Truancy Early Intervention program for help overcoming school attendance barriers such as: internet access and Chromebooks for virtual school; understanding school attendance policies; and strategies to assist caregivers to prioritize school attendance.

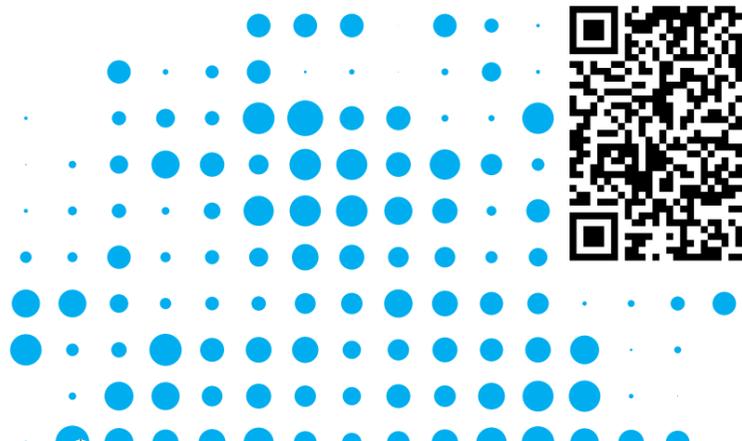
Scan QR code to learn more!



100+ free food and meal sites on www.phila.gov/food. The free food distribution map started in 2020 as part of the City's COVID-19 emergency response. It is now part of our ongoing commitment to serve communities.

Kinship care is a top DHS priority

51% of children in out-of-home placement are with kin, stabilizing family bonds and encouraging reunification. This far exceeds the national average of 32%.



School Ready

Our Goal

Children enter school with the skills and supports to be successful.

Highlights

PHLpreK is the City's free, quality pre-K program supported by the Philadelphia Beverage Tax. All Philadelphia children who are three or four years old as of September 1 are eligible. There are no income or employment requirements. PHLpreK funded seats are intentionally located in neighborhoods with fewer existing pre-k seats, higher poverty, and greater childcare burden.

3,300 PHLpreK slots

provided for 2020-2021 school year

136 providers

Had a STAR 3 or STAR 4 rating, a quality indicator

10,000 students since 2017

"I tell people about it all the time. PHLpreK is great for the kids, and great for families,"

Karen Libber Fishbein,
parent of PHLpreK alum Abby and Sara

Scan QR code to learn more!



Summer Success!
4,877 children enrolled
in OCF Out-of-School Time
summer 2021 programs



Abby and Sara are PHLpreK alumni.

Highlights

OST programs served thousands of children and youth. OST programs include academic year and summer programming at schools, recreation centers, community sites, and libraries.

OCF funds the OST program network throughout Philadelphia. Contracted community provider agencies deliver services that are organized by grade level.

- Elementary school focuses on literacy.
- Middle and high school focuses on career exposure.

OST providers delivered quality programming, even while most Philadelphia students were learning virtually.

- **1,000+** elementary and middle school students participated in school year OST programs.
- **726** high school students who participated in OST received a stipend for activity completion.

COVID-19 response

2,948 students participated in Access Centers during the 2020-2021 school year. OCF and its Out-of-School Time (OST) providers partners opened 77 Access Centers across the city where younger learners had access to free, supervised, connected spaces to participate in digital learning provided by their school. Programming and staffing of Access Centers was provided OCF providers and Parks and Recreation.

Connected Communities

Our Goal

Communities are connected to strong schools, libraries, recreation, and public parks.

17 Community Schools align public and private resources through strategic partnerships between the City and the School District of Philadelphia. A Community School Coordinator works with school leadership to support partnerships and services.



New for the 2021-2022 school year!

All 17 Community Schools have a dedicated attendance team to help students and families overcome barriers to school attendance.



20,000

Supplies and resources distributed to students and families, including food, hygiene supplies, and winter coats.



556

Community School students enrolled in school year OST programs.



100

Workforce opportunities for student in all four Community School High Schools.



Edward Gideon Elementary Community School Coordinator Gregory Wright in action.

A Coordinator's mission

Community School Coordinators bring lots of creativity to keep students engaged. This was especially critical during last year's digital learning. Community School Coordinator, Gregory Wright, shares his strategy, "My mindset is to make school so interesting that students no longer look towards it as a chore but more like a place of enjoyment...the price of admission is to show up. School is first and foremost a place of learning and preparation for the future, but a fun school climate directly impacts those outcomes," said Gregory.

Scan QR code to learn more!



Connected Communities

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) recreation centers and parks are community hubs where neighbors form lasting connections.

3,577

Children and youth participated at 113 PPR day camps.

103

Children and youth participated in Performing Arts & Visual Arts themed camps.

44

New or renovated PPR facilities or playgrounds opened for Philadelphians to enjoy.

276

PlayStreets and Playlots in Summer 2021, including 64 PlayStreets with enhanced and engaging program from community-based providers.

SUMMER 2021 SUCCESS!

Across all OCF departments and programs, we offered **25,000** opportunities to children and youth last summer.

301,382

Pool visits across 42 pools and 4,511 swim lessons provided.

122

Youth attended Camp Philly, an overnight camp experience organized by PPR in partnership with the YMCA .

1.5 million

Meals distributed through PlayStreets, summer camps, and afterschool programs.



Free Library of Philadelphia

(Free Library) In addition to phased reopening of in person services, the Free Library continued curbside materials pickup and hosted hundreds of virtual events. It also featured many outdoor story times.

Engagement included:

37,000 library cards distributed.

16,700+ children, teens, and adults participated in Summer Of Wonder 2021 at neighborhood libraries, Camp Challenge programs, and Playstreets.

400 virtual conversation groups in eight languages held for approximately 3,000 participants through the Languages and Learning Center.

Upping the Game

Playground renovations across the city included nature themes, musical instruments, and interactive electronics. One of the new playground is Nicetown Park which features inclusive equipment for children as well as new fitness equipment for adults to enjoy.



Youth Workforce Training & Adult Programs

Our Goal

Youth and adults have opportunities that include skills-building, training, workforce, and education.

Youth Employment Highlights

6,604 youth enrolled in Summer WorkReady opportunities from April through September.

Adult Education Highlights

3,253 slots available to adult learners across 25 provider agencies on the myPLACE network. Most offered virtually due to COVID-19.

\$430,515 awarded to providers through Adult Education grants.

10 myPlace campuses open for intake, assessment, and referrals to adult education classes across the city.

20 providers distributed over 800 hotspots to adult learners in partnership with PHLConnected.



The myPlace Campuses serve adult learners like Mariya Saunders, who attended classes at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. Mariya credits the staff of the program with helping her achieve her dream of a high school diploma. She says, "The teachers are very nice here, very sweet people. They're always checking in on you. If you miss a class, they're calling [and asking] why you missed class [and] what happened, so I really appreciated that." Adult education program participant Mariya Saunders attends classes.



Scan QR code to learn more!



OCF's Adult Education Division supports the city's network of Adult Education providers to take classes to earn a high school diploma, gain a GED/HiSET, or an equivalent, brush up on math and reading skills, take english language classes, and sharpen digital literacy skills.



Sneak Peak!

Our fiscal year 2022 programs are underway and full of amazing opportunities for children, youth, families, and adults.



More PHLpreK!

4,000 slots funded for the 2021-2022 school year.



More IPS!

Expanding Intensive Prevention Services by adding a seventh location.



More Locations!

Ribbon-cuttings and ground breakings at Parks and Recreation and Free Library locations through Rebuild.



Re-engaged Free Library's LEAP after school program.



Enhanced Adult Education partnership and a central, toll-free number for services.



New Community Evening Resource Centers programs at community-based sites. They provide family support through programming and job readiness training from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.



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