



2019-2020
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

PREPARED BY

Austin
AVANCE[®]
Unlocking America's Potential

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Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Cristina Garza

AVANCE-Austin families are no strangers to overcoming adversity. COVID-19 tested the resilience of our clients and the tenacity and creativity of our staff. Our response to COVID-19 proved that AVANCE-Austin's services extend beyond two-gen education. To many of our clients, AVANCE-Austin became their anchor in this storm.

The wraparound services that previously complemented our programs became essential to the survival of our community during this crisis. In addition to meeting our clients' basic needs, our virtual program, AVANCE Sobre Ruedas, empowered parents to become their children's best at-home educator while allowing our community of parents to stay connected with each other. Parenting programs like Triple P provided parents with the tools to manage the unimaginable levels of stress this pandemic introduced. Our 2020 Census campaign ensured our clients completed this year's census. And lastly, our digital equity efforts led to an upskilling of staff and the equipping of parents with the technology needed to succeed in a virtual classroom.

This was, undoubtedly, a year of challenges. But, I am a firm believer that every challenge presents an opportunity for innovation. In our case, our Programs team sailed into the uncharted territory of remote learning and created an engaging online program worthy of the highest praise. Six months into my role as Executive Director of AVANCE-Austin, I can confidently say that I joined an impressive team. I could not be prouder to be part of this unequivocally strong organization, led by a dedicated board of directors, and sustained by supporters like you. COVID-19 proved there's nothing that with your support, our community cannot do. *Invest in us. Invest in Latinx families. Invest in the future of Austin.*



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MISSION, VISION, and IMPACT

683

Parents and
Children were
served during
2019-2020



Mission

AVANCE breaks the cycle of inter-generational poverty through innovative, two generation education and support for families with young children.

Vision

We envision a world where children and parents advance to their full potential, transforming the community in which we live.

Impact

As an institution working with the community most affected by the COVID-19 virus, along with 90% of staff identifying as Latino/Hispanic, AVANCE-Austin quickly reimagined programming through innovative ways to provide education and support services to families, and even increased the number of families served during the Literacy and Nutrition summer program. Our important mission to alleviate certain poverty factors such as isolation, language barriers, access to resources and education became more apparent than ever in 2019 as we served:

- 300 Parent-Child Education Program (PCEP) participants
- 150 Literacy and Nutrition program participants
- 76 *Mamas Avanzando* (alumni) participants
- 61 English as a Second Language in partnership with Austin Community College participants
- 60 Positive Parenting Practices program participants
- 36 AVANCE Innovative Moms program participants

“AVANCE was one of the best decisions I could make. My son and I developed many skills in no time ... AVANCE supports you at all times and informs you about what's going on in our community, inviting you to develop your talents and above all to be prepared to solve difficult situations.”

KARINA TORRES

AVANCE-Austin 2019 Alumna





COVID-19 Response

95%
of PCEP parents
reported feeling
supported during COVID
and the transition to a
virtual learning
environment

In late March, AVANCE-Austin responded to COVID-19 by quickly launching *AVANCE Sobre Ruedas* (AVANCE On Wheels), its new online-based curriculum, which allowed staff to work remotely while keeping parents engaged in programming.

Even with the format shift, AVANCE-Austin was able to provide more support to families by doubling the number of home visitations for PCEP families and conducting in-depth needs assessments on a bi-weekly basis. The assessments showed over 50% of families lost jobs and or/income due to COVID-19.

“ Many families like mine do not receive encouragement but thankfully me and my family have the opportunity to belong to AVANCE which makes me very, very happy with help received. ”

MARISSA VALDEZ

AVANCE-Austin Alumna

AVANCE-Austin provided emergency relief to its clients by:

- Connecting families to \$222,000 in cash assistance and H-E-B gift cards
- Distributing 14,633 diapers, feminine hygiene products, program supplies, school supplies, backpacks, and books to all families attending both PCEP and the Literacy and Nutrition summer program
- Delivering a box of groceries to the homes of 126 families on a weekly basis thanks to a newly formed partnership with Cap Metro and El Buen Samaritano (over 20,000 meals)

Additional support services also included:

- Distribution of relevant, culturally-sensitive information in Spanish regarding COVID-19 safety and community resources to 1200+ families on a daily basis through a private Facebook group
- Workforce development through an on-staff job coach

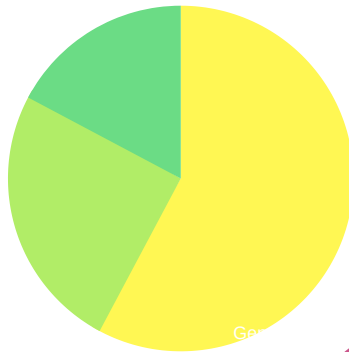
FINANCES

Overview

Operating Budget
\$1,565,437

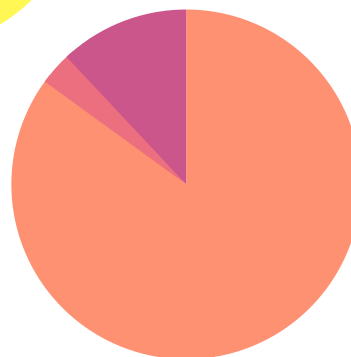
Total Revenue
\$1,978,361

Total Expenses
\$1,348,316



Revenue Sources

- 58% Grants
- 25% Philanthropic
- 17% Government Funding



Expense Areas

- 85% Program
- 3% General Operating
- 12% Fundraising

FY21 Goals: Operating Budget - \$2,241,415

Expansion of Programming with Digital Equity Initiatives Included

- Expanding services to Northern Austin, in partnership with Pflugerville ISD
- Providing digital literacy programming
- Securing 200 tablets + connectivity for families participating in PCEP
- Upskill staff to work in a digital environment
- Increase number of case managers/home visitation educators to provide individualized support for parents and to assess safety of home environment



Support our goals by making a donation this month at www.avanceaustin.org



Counting on the **CENSUS!**

While census occurs only once in 10 years, its easy to forget the importance of weaving census education as a part of the fabric of the community especially with the hard to reach Spanish-speaking population.

Civic engagement through rudimentary census education is a good way of keeping the message alive and relevant. We must, as a community, continue to advocate for more funding and resources leading up to the 2030

census, which will be the leading provider of quality data when it comes to allocating federal funding for health, education, transportation, and other needed services.

AVANCE-Austin is proud to report a very high census completion rate with nearly **95% of our PCEP and 82% of our summer program families reported completing the census.**

AVANCE-Austin's successful strategies to promote the census included:

- a train the trainer model with census 101 information sessions facilitated by NAELO and UWATX
- staff-led census 101 sessions with simultaneous early childhood activities and songs related to counting family members which were assigned as homework to remind parents



- 2 contracted AVANCE alumni who served as census ambassadors and community mobilizers
- a targeted social media strategy that incentivized participation
- 150 yard signs were created and distributed to staff, families, and partners to display as reminders
- One-on-one home visits (both in person and virtual) with reminders to parents

OUTCOMES and THANKS

Outcomes

With your support, AVANCE-Austin provided service to the community through parenting education, early childhood development, and parent education. Our end-of-year program assessments indicated:



Parenting Education

- **93%** of parents showed **improved parenting practices**
- **83%** of parents increased their **knowledge of child development** and parenting skills
- **93%** of parents reported **reading to their children** at least three times a week

Early Childhood Development

- **90%** of children were **screened for developmental delays** and referrals made, if necessary
- **952 books awarded** to families in collaboration with HEB READ 3
- **86%** of parents showed **improved knowledge of healthy living and early literacy strategies** to support their child's school readiness.

Parent Education

- **88%** of graduates reported **taking steps to grow their business**
- **89%** of parents reported **planning to advance with continued education**
- **16 weeks** of intensive **ESL instruction** provided in partnership with ACC

Thank you!



Mil gracias to our partners from over 40 different organizations, many thoughtful investors, and amazing volunteers who provided **1,361 hours of service** to continually support AVANCE-Austin programming and make bigger, brighter, and better futures in Austin.

Special thanks to our 2019 Valor y Sueños Valientes Sponsors:



**Danna and Crutch
Crutchfield
The Griffith Family
Liz and David White**