

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 2021



Austin
AVANCE[®]
Unlocking America's Potential

www.avanceaustin.com
avance-austin@avance.org

Letter from the Executive Director Cristina Garza



While many describe the 2020-2021 year of unprecedented challenges, here at AVANCE-Austin we think of it as the year of unparalleled innovation. We transformed our classes into a high-quality virtual experience, while simultaneously providing our clients with access to digital literacy, internet, mental health support, food, and cash assistance. We believe that our mission is to “prepare not repair,” but we also know we must meet our families where they are and help break down the barriers they face in order for them to fully focus on education.

However, instead of retelling all of the stories of hardships our families faced, I want to celebrate our collective achievements of the past school year. Through our programs, we mobilized hundreds of parents to embrace their role as educators. A record number of individuals participated in our signature nine-month Parent-Child Education Program (PCEP). We increased our presence in Central Texas by expanding our reach to northern Austin. Our summer literacy H-E-B Read 3 program also saw record attendance numbers.

The accomplishments of our programs can be attributed to the perseverance and dedication of our clients and our teachers. Our clients collaborated with us to make the safety decisions and teaching adjustments that allowed the program to thrive. This year, instead of entrusting their children to our Early Childhood (EC) educators in AVANCE classrooms, our EC educators worked directly with our parents to ensure that children would receive, at home, the high-quality early childhood education that leads to healthy brain development. We owe the success of this year, listed throughout this annual report, to our AVANCE-Austin *familia*.

Board of Directors

Board Chair

Lisa Tomaka

Vice Chair

Maria Cantú Hexsel

Treasurer

Jorge Padilla

Secretary

Vanessa Santamaria Dainton

Belinda Arambula

Susana Castillo-Littlejohn

Cristina Cornejo

Julio de la Llata

Yajaira Muñoz McKiver

Alma Ruiz

Mission, Vision, & The AVANCE Way

Mission

AVANCE creates pathways to economic mobility for predominantly Latino families through high-quality, culturally responsive, two-generation programming that ensures school readiness for young children and opportunities for parents to build social and economic capital.



AVANCE provides educational content for families with young children in three program categories: Child-Focused, Parenting, and Parent-Focused.

Child-Focused Programming

- Encourages Developmental Milestones
 - Social/Emotional/Cognitive
 - Fine/Gross Motor
 - Literacy/Language
- Prepares Families for Pre-K and Beyond

Vision

We envision a world where all children and families have equitable access to resources and opportunities to reach their fullest potential, transforming the communities in which we live.



Parenting Programming

- Spotlights Parents as Child's First Teacher
- Nurtures Communication & Relationships
- Prevents Toxic Stress, Trauma, & Child Abuse/Neglect
- Encourages Community & School Involvement



Parent-Focused Programming

- Supports Financial Stability
- Prepares for Workforce Assimilation
- Increases Business Ownership
- Encourages Overall Economic Success



Building Foundations

AVANCE provides stimulating and nurturing, age-appropriate educational classrooms for children up to three years old while their parents attend informative parenting sessions.

Children learn school ready concepts such as letters, numbers, figures, colors, and more. Activities are designed and held to stimulate their five senses as well as their fine and gross motor skills to prepare them for pre-school. AVANCE's curriculum is centered around learning through play. Children are screened for developmental delays with Educators providing a detailed work plan and resources for extra support for parents.

The goal is for our children to start school a step ahead. Pre-school teachers and principals often remark how AVANCE children stand apart!



Child-Focused Programming

436 children were served through AVANCE-Austin's early childhood education/2-generation programming. (PCEP, Summer, Triple P, AIMS, and ESL)

1,937 books were given to families throughout the year through distributions.

35,825 diapers were given to families throughout the year through distributions.

Creating Pathways

The best way to ensure children succeed in life is to involve parents in their child's education, especially before age three. AVANCE-Austin leverages our impact on children. We educate parents about their role as their child's first and most important teachers.

Our signature 9-month Parent-Child Education Program (PCEP) includes parenting activities. These activities include parent education, toy making classes, community resource speakers, home visitation, parent-child interactive literacy activities, and leadership training. When parents master the typical parenting behaviors, their children excel in school and life.

Literacy and nutrition education is at the forefront of our summer program and preventing social problems is at the forefront of our Positive Parenting Practices program. Resources are continuously shared to alumni.



Parenting Programming

356 parents were served through AVANCE-Austin's parenting/2-generation programming. (PCEP, Summer, and Triple P)

79% of PCEP parents reported increased positive parent/child interactions.

77% of PCEP parents showed improved knowledge to support their child's school readiness.

77% of PCEP parents reported reading to their children at least three times a week.

Providing Access

AVANCE-Austin provides access to resources through PCEP and through our alumni programming.

We partner with Austin Community College to offer English as a Second Language (ESL), Economic Growth Business Incubator to offer Entrepreneurial training through AVANCE Innovative Moms (AIMS), and Community Action to offer GED testing and certification.

All alumni programming includes access to child-care during classes. This past year, AVANCE-Austin partnered with Austin Public Library to provide virtual early literacy activities for children weekly.



Parent-Focused Programming

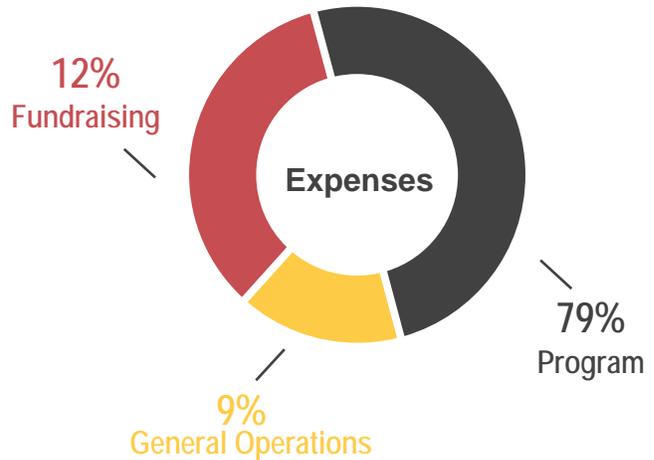
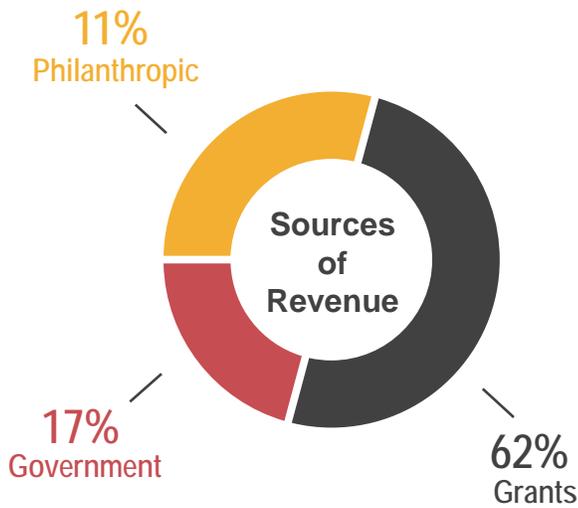
124 parents were served through AVANCE-Austin's workforce development/2-generation programming. (AIMS, ESL, GED, and Alumni)

\$167,000 in financial assistance was connected to families throughout the year.

239 tablets with internet connectivity and digital literacy provided to families participating in PCEP.

Finances

Overview



Operating Budget
\$2,241,415

Total Revenue
\$2,426,416

Total Expenses
\$1,913,814

FY22 Goals

Operating Budget — \$2,184,528

This year, we are providing our programming through a combination of in-person and virtual classes as our community continues to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Costs include:

- Increased number of program staff
 - case managers/home visitation educators to provide individualized support for parents and to assess safety of home environment.
 - early childhood educators to provide both in-person and virtual programming.
- Increased Personal Protective Equipment used during in-person classes and monthly distributions.

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



Basic Need Support

Last February, Texas families faced a week of harsh winter weather. Many of AVANCE-Austin families, who were already facing adversities from living in poverty and also trying to navigate living through the COVID-19 pandemic, reported an increase of basic needs due to Winter Storm Uri.

During that week, AVANCE-Austin provided families with bottled water, food, blankets, clothing, diapers, wipes, and toiletries. Home Visitors/Parent Educators also connected families with existing public resources such as free property damage repairs, new mattresses, rent relief, and up to \$1,200 in cash assistance to help them meet their immediate needs

AVANCE-Austin is not in the business of emergency services. However, in times like these, our role as an advocate for Hispanic families takes precedent. While we believe that our work is to “prepare not repair,” we recognize that in order to focus on education, parents must be able to provide for their families.





Special Thanks

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

Special thanks to our 2021 Valor y Sueños Top Sponsors:



H-E-B TOURNAMENT
OF CHAMPIONS

**Crutch Crutchfield | The Griffith Family | Kate Hahn
Janis and Joe Pinnelli | Benton, Haddican and Caro-Preston
Liz and David White**

Austin
AVANCE[®]
Unlocking America's Potential

512-414-6127
www.avanceaustin.com
avance-austin@avance.org
PO Box 19105, Austin, TX 78760