Mission Statement

“AVANCE increases economic mobility and well-being by delivering education and support services to under-served families with young children using a multi-generation, family engagement approach.”

2017

RGV-Chapter-Annual Report

The Head Start Act as amended on December 2007 requires that Head Start grantees report description of the activities it carried out with funds received, including a description of how such funds improved services for children and families.

“AVANCE have been a blessing for my daughter and I, our Home Educator always have an appropriate answer for our concerns on regards my daughter development.” –Maria Romero, Home Based Parent
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AVANCE has not only given my children the opportunity to learn and grow in highly qualified center but has helped me reach a life goal I thought might never come true. With their help and encouragement, I am glad to say we will own our own home this December.”

--Joanna Camarillo, CCP Parent
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM OPTIONS

AVANCE, Inc operates two Early Head Start (EHS) Program options- Home Based and Family Child Care Partnership (CCP). The Home Based program serves 100 participants in 2 counties (84 in Hidalgo and 16 in Val Verde). Participants in this program includes expectant mothers, infants, and toddlers. The CCP program serves 72 children who are currently enrolled in 10 Family Child Care Homes in Hidalgo County.

Home Based

AVANCE’s EHS Home Based program focuses on providing parenting skills with direct correlation with positive family and child outcomes through weekly home visiting. It also strives to provide socialization settings where children and parents get opportunities to share what they learned. AVANCE has 4 classrooms where children and families get opportunity to socialize twice a month. A focus area II Federal Review was conducted on December 2017. The reviewers conducted an intense program exploration to include ERSEA, Program Governance, Education, Health, Mental Health and Safety. Both programs were evaluated and had no deficiencies. In 2017 we did major improvement in the playground to include storage space, new playground supplies and shading structures.

Family Child Care Partnership

AVANCE’s EHS Family Child Care Partnership started in 2016 with 11 Family Child Care Partners. The program has been fully enrolled with a waitlist of 50 participants. Through memorandums of understanding AVANCE and Family Child Care partners enhanced the child care sites to provide health and safety environments to children in care. An Education Specialist conducts bi-weekly to assist Family Child Care partners in providing high quality child care experiences through the use of the research based Creative Curriculum. The mentor coach assists the FCC partners in executing and improving effective teaching practices.
SELF-ASSESSMENT:

In January 2018 AVANCE Management and Eligibility staff as well as the PPC Chair attended the 2018 Cat Scan Self Evaluation Training in Florida. This instrument was utilized to conduct the self-assessment in August 2018. Self-assessment is conducted on annual basis and usually takes place in the summer months.

A self-assessment is conducted annually findings and a corrective action plan are shared and approved by Parent Policy Council and staff. The self-assessment conducted this year resulted in 10 areas of growth opportunity. These areas are identified below. AVANCE strives to continue improving, thus a corrective action plan was created to address all areas.

Self-Assessment 2017 Areas of Development Opportunity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Action by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Governance</td>
<td>Representation</td>
<td>Regional Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Governance</td>
<td>Staff Awareness</td>
<td>EHS Home Base Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Governance</td>
<td>Parent Participation</td>
<td>CCP Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERSEA</td>
<td>Intentional recruitment of Homeless, Foster, Pregnant Women</td>
<td>EHS Home Base Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Structure</td>
<td>Reduction of Slots</td>
<td>CCP Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Dual Language</td>
<td>Regional Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFCE</td>
<td>Parent Education</td>
<td>Regional Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disabilities</td>
<td>IDEA Part C</td>
<td>EHS Home Base Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Management</td>
<td>Data management system</td>
<td>CCP Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>EHS Home Base Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Attendance
ERSEA
AGES of Children served
Annual Report Year 2017

EHS-Home Based: Year 2017
Funded Enrollment: 100
Cumulative Enrollment: 148
Pregnant Mother served: 12

EHS-Family Child Care Partnership: 2017
Funded Enrollment: 72
Cumulative Enrollment: 112
Children on Subsidy: 33%

Participants Served

Recruitment and Service Areas
AVANCE EHS views recruitment as a direct correlate to enrollment. Recruitment at AVANCE is an activity that takes place on-going throughout the year. However, during designated recruitment times and community events, AVANCE takes affirmative steps to assure that all persons within the area know that it has a quality program available for those who have the greatest need of services, and that “enrollment” happens throughout the program year.

**HIDALGO COUNTY**

**VAL VERDE COUNTY**

**Recruitment Efforts**
- Local Community Service Agencies
- Children with Disabilities
- Intentional recruitment of children who are homeless
- Participation in Community Events
- Community Partners
- Door to Door
- Contact Local Churches

**Parental Involvement**

**Partner with School Districts**

**Policy Council Involvement**

### Qualifiers & Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>2017 Poverty Guidelines*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$ 12,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$ 16,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$ 20,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$ 24,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$ 28,780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Enrollment Qualifications* Meets Federal Income Poverty Guidelines*Homeless*SSI/TANF*Foster Care*Disability
Home Based Program School Readiness Goals

**Domain:** Language and Communication **Subdomain:** Communicating and Speaking

**HSELOF Goal IT-LC 4:** Child uses non-verbal communication and language to engage others in interaction.

**Domain:** Cognitive **Subdomain:** Reasoning and Problem Solving

**HELOF Goal IT-C 3:** Child recognizes differences between familiar and unfamiliar people, objects, actions, or events.

**Domain:** Approaches to Learning **Subdomain:** Initiative and Curiosity

**HELOF Goal IT-ATL 6:** Child demonstrates emerging initiative in interactions, experiences, and explorations.

**Domain:** Perceptual, Motor, and Physical **Subdomain:** Fine Motor

**HELOF Goal IT-PMP 6:** Child coordinates hand and eye movements to perform actions.

**Domain:** Social and Emotional **Subdomain:** Relationships with adults

**HELOF Goal IT-SE 2:** Child uses expectations learned through repeated experiences in primary relationships to develop relationships with other adults.

**Child Progress 2017**
CCP School Readiness Goals Infants and Toddlers & Pre-School

**Domain:** Language and Communication

**Goal IT-LC7:** Children understand an increasing number of words used in communication with others:

**Goal Pre-School P-LC6:** Children understand and use a wide variety of words for a variety of purposes.

**Domain:** Cognitive

**Goal IT-M8:** Child develops sense of number and quantity.

**Goal P Math 1:** Children know number names and the count sequence.

**Domain:** Approaches to Learning

**Goal IT-ATL3:** Child maintains focus and sustains attention with support.

**Goal P-ATL 4:** Child manages actions, words and behavior with increasing independence.

**Domain:** Perceptual, Motor, and Physical

**Goal IT PMP 5:** Children use sensory information and body awareness to understand how their body relates to the environment.

**Goal P- PMP 4:** Children will demonstrate personal hygiene and self-care skills.

**Domain:** Social and Emotional

**Goal IT-SE4:** Children will show interest in interactions and develop personal relationships with other children.

**Pre-School:** **Goal P-SE5:** Children will use basic problem-solving skills to resolve conflict with other children.

**Child Progress**

**Fall 2017- Widely Held Expectations**

**Winter 2017/18- Widely Held Expectations**
TRANSITION-
The transition process begins 6 months prior to the child turning 3 in Home Base and at 36 months for a child in the Family Child Care Home. Transition is tracked from the beginning until the child either successfully exits or enters another child care program. Transitions are tracked on a regular basis. Children normally transition to other Center Based Local Head Start grantees or the public school to one of the following Head Start centers. In 2017 30 children were transitioned in the Home Based program and 25 children successfully transitioned from the CCP program.

HEALTH – NUTRITION-MENTAL HEALTH

The relationship between nutrition, health and learning is undeniably strong: nutrition is one of the three major factors that impact a child’s development. Research studies show that nutrition in a child’s early years is linked to their health and academic performance in later years. Good Nutrition also contributes to maintaining a healthy lifestyle that reduces the risk of chronic diseases thus promoting good overall health. Healthy eating habits are important to established in early childhood in order to be continued during adulthood. AVANCE EHS programs encourage parents to feed children nutritional and healthy foods and model such practices during socialization activities. All meals served during socialization are approved by a Registered Dietitian (RD). The family child care homes in the child care partnership all operate under the USDA nutrition guidelines, thus following nutrient recommendations and portions. AVANCE strives to promote overall family well-being by providing health related topics on the monthly committee meetings and during other events such as health fairs and recruitment events. Since 2016 AVANCE has participated in the UCLA Health Care Institute (HCI), through the support of several community partners such as PSJA ISD. Through this initiative AVANCE strives to increase families’ health literacy and childhood illnesses awareness.

Home Based Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>At enrollment</th>
<th>At end of enrollment year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children up to date with EPSDT schedule</td>
<td>HB:120</td>
<td>HB: 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCP: 112</td>
<td>CCP: 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children up to date with immunizations</td>
<td>HB: 119</td>
<td>HB: 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCP: 112</td>
<td>CCP: 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children received preventative dental care</td>
<td>HB: 109</td>
<td>HB: 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCP: 99</td>
<td>CCP: 81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MENTAL HEALTH
Early developmental intervention and social emotional screenings are conducted to identify existing delays or if a child is at-risk of developing a delay or special need that may affect their development. The programs ensure responsive and sensitive environments that identify, reduce, and prevent the impact of disabilities and mental health problems among infants, toddlers, and their families. The programs collaborate with local early childhood intervention programs and Disability/Mental Health Specialist to assist the family with the child’s developmental process. By monitoring the progress of children with disabilities, staff are able to accommodate and individualize lesson planning to better serve the child’s needs.

2017 Home Based Program- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

![Graph showing EHS Hidalgo and Val Verde Screening Conducted for Program Year 2017]

2017 CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

![Graph showing Screening Conducted for Program year 2017-2018]
**PFCE Home Base Goals**

**PFCE: Families as learners** -- Parents will learn about the value of primary language for children’s development and long term academic success.

**PFCE: Families as Long Life Educators** -- Parents will learn about options for acquiring services and supports for their child’s learning, developmental, or behavioral challenges.

**PFCE: Family Well Being** -- Parents will gain knowledge about Developing relationships with staff that are helpful in supporting the goals they have established for themselves and the children’s developmental behaviors.

**PFCE: Family Connections to Peers and Community** -- Parents will learn new ways to ensure the health and safety of their developing child through peers and community services in our area.

**PFCE: Positive Parent-Child Relationship** -- Parents will use positive parenting practices such as attachment and nurturing relationships that complement the stages of their child’s development. Parent will gain knowledge about their children’s social, emotional and cognitive development in the context of community and culture.

**PFCE CCP Goals**

**PFCE: Families as Long Life Educators** -- Parents will learn about the value of primary language for children’s development and long term academic success.

**PFCE: Families as Long Life Educators** -- Parents will learn about options for acquiring services and supports for their child’s learning, developmental, or behavioral challenges.

**PFCE: Family Well Being** -- Parents will gain knowledge about Developing relationships with staff that are helpful in supporting the goals they have established for themselves and their children’s developmental behaviors.

**PFCE: Positive Parent-Child Relationship** -- Parents will learn new ways to ensure the health and safety of their developing child.

**PFCE: Positive Parent-Child Relationship** -- Parents will use positive parenting practices such as attachment and nurturing relationships that complement the stages of their child’s development. Parent will gain knowledge about their children’s social, emotional and cognitive development in the context of community and culture.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

AVANCE thanks the following organizations and members of the community for their donations, partnerships, and collaborations during the 2017 Program Year.

- AARP
- Dr. Yolanda Hill
- BCFS
- Ashley’s Pediatrics
- Buckner
- Carmelita’s Restaurant
- Chamber of Commerce
- Coaster Company of America
- Cynthia Artega
- Hidalgo County
- ECI (Region One)
- Del Rio Explorers
- Dr. Alexandro Tey
- Milagro Clinic
- Clinica Familiar
- Agua Dental
- Superior
- First United Methodist Church
- HEB
- US Border Patrol (Val Verde)
- Diddis (Val Verde)
- University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

- Food Bank (Hidalgo)
- Val Verde County Library
- White Head Museum
- WIC
- Hidalgo County Head Start
- Hidalgo County Precinct 2
- Jessica Riojas, LVN
- Mary C. Hernandez,
- McDonalds (Val Verde)
- Office of Senator Uresti
- Patricia Lopez, RD
- PSJA ISD
- Queens for a Cause
- RGV Council
- Rio Grande Mobile X-Rays (George Garcia)
- Sara Montemayor, CCC SLP
- Sonic
- ZEPOL
- Val Verde Community Center
- Starr

Family Services Participation

“AVANCE ha sido una bendición en mi vida, gracias al programa tengo un lugar seguro donde puedo confiar a mis hijos mientras sigo logrando mis metas.”

--Michelle Villagrán, CCP Parent

Father Involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Based</th>
<th>CCP</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AVANCE thanks all families and community partners who volunteered their time and effort to helped in accomplishing program goals.