

A photograph of a smiling woman with dark hair, wearing a black and white floral dress, holding a young child. The child is wearing a blue graduation cap with a white tassel and a light pink dress. The background is a warm, yellowish-orange wall. In the top right corner, there is a logo that says "AVANCE" followed by a large "50" with a circular emblem containing a stylized figure. In the bottom center, there is text that reads "2022-2023 AVANCE Annual Report" with decorative flourishes.

AVANCE® 50

2022-2023

AVANCE

Annual Report



A Letter from the CEO



his year marks the 50th Anniversary of AVANCE. As we embark on a yearlong campaign to celebrate this important milestone, we reflect on the significance of our history and the progress we have made over the past 50 years.

AVANCE began in 1973 when Dr. Gloria G. Rodriguez, a bilingual teacher, saw a need for change. She founded AVANCE on the West Side of San Antonio against the backdrop of the ongoing civil rights movement and the fight for educational equity and justice that has fueled our mission for 50 years.

This year is particularly significant as it marks our golden anniversary and the culmination of a three-year strategic plan that has guided us to some remarkable accomplishments. **In fact, we have made considerable strides in just the past year:**

- In the Rio Grande Valley, we expanded our foundational Parent-Child Education Program (PCEP) into Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD. And we successfully completed a pilot of our new Families Building Communities (FBC) program.
- We launched a statewide Shared Services Alliance to provide tools, resources, and support tailored specifically for Family Child Care Providers in Texas.
- We launched our AVANCE to College program in Austin, TX in collaboration with AVANCE-Austin, Austin Community College, and Workforce Solutions Capital Area.
- AVANCE was selected to lead a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)/ALAANA (African, Latine, Asian, Arab, Native American) Coalition exploring issues of proximity and equity within the Prenatal to 5-year-old (PN-5) space in Texas.
- In partnership with the Texas Policy Lab at Rice University, we successfully concluded the first year of a two-year randomized control trial to evaluate the effectiveness of PCEP.
- And we are working with partners in California to expand PCEP, in New Mexico to expand our Quality Child Care Matters (QCCM) program, and across Texas to expand AVANCE to College.

As we reflect on our accomplishments, we also prepare for the next exciting chapter. We are finalizing a new **theory of change** and **strategic plan that will steer AVANCE in a bold new direction that is not just essential for the organization but for the success of the families we serve and the communities we call home.**

As you read through this annual report, I hope you take special note of the testimonials of those who have participated in our programs. Their stories embody the heart of AVANCE and illustrate our true legacy—one of resilience, innovation, and growth.

I am grateful to have such a passionate, dedicated team carrying out our mission daily and the support of our funders, collaborative partners, and our AVANCE community, without whom none of this would be possible. Thank you for believing in our work and joining us on this remarkable journey. Together, we will continue to build a brighter, more equitable future. ***¡Adelante!***

M. Teresa Granillo, Ph.D., MSW
Chief Executive Officer | AVANCE National





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Who We Are

A photograph of a woman with brown hair, smiling, holding a young child. The child is wearing a blue graduation cap with a white 'C' logo and a blue sweater. The woman is wearing a purple and green patterned top. The background is blurred, showing other people. On the right side of the image, there is a decorative white floral pattern.

Our 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.

Our 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.



Who We Serve


6,340
Parents

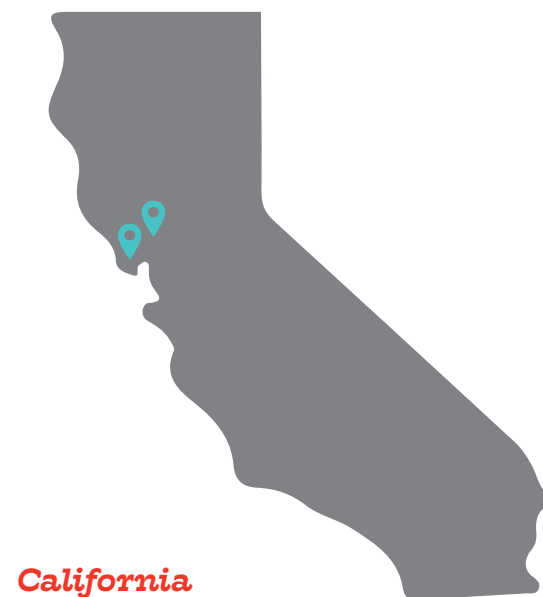

7,573
Children


489
Family Care Providers


86%
*Latino/Hispanic

* National Data

Where We Serve



Knowledge Gained

72%

Parents in PCEP increased knowledge in early childhood development

Networkwide Data

93%

Children in HS/EHS programs meet or exceed standards in school readiness domains

49%

Providers in QCCM increased their knowledge of licensing standards

National Data

Economic Mobility

64%

Parents in AVANCE to College enrolled in continuing education

Networkwide Data

80%

Children in our HS programs are kindergarten ready

71.59%

Child care providers in Business Coaching received Child Care Relief Funding

National Data

Social Capital

58%

Parents in PCEP demonstrated an increase in parent connectedness

Networkwide Data

95%

Children in HS/EHS met or exceeded social emotional development expectations

43%

Child care providers in QCCM demonstrated an increase in provider connectedness

National Data



AVANCE's History



1973

AVANCE is Born

Dr. Gloria G. Rodriguez founds AVANCE and starts the Parent-Child Education Program at Mirasol on San Antonio's West Side.



1986

An Audience with the King

During his trip to Texas, King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom, stops by San Antonio's West Side to visit AVANCE.



1988

AVANCE in the Spotlight

The New York Times and ABC World News feature PCEP, and First Lady Barbara Bush visits AVANCE for the first time.

1988

Another Door Opens

AVANCE expands in Texas with the opening of a new chapter office, AVANCE-Houston



1991

AVANCE Goes National

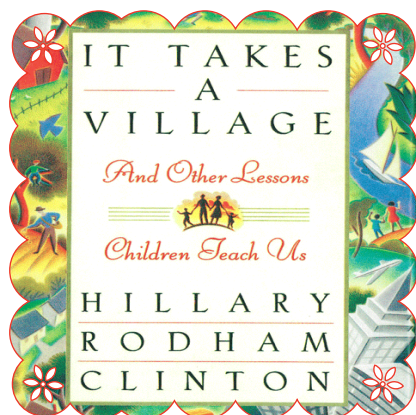
AVANCE opens the National Headquarters in San Antonio, TX and establishes the first National Board of Directors.



1991

An Oprah-tunity

Oprah Winfrey invites AVANCE to be part of "Scared Silent," a documentary about child abuse.



1996

A New Chapter

AVANCE-Dallas (now AVANCE-North Texas) opens its doors. AVANCE is featured in former First Lady Hillary Clinton's book "It Takes a Village."



1997

The Heart of Texas

AVANCE opens a new chapter in the state capitol, AVANCE-Austin.



2010

Unprecedented Award

AVANCE makes history, receiving a \$12.6 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to expand PCEP across the nation.



2012

Excellence in Education

AVANCE receives the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award and the Simmons Luminary Award for Education Excellence.



2014

A Higher Level

AVANCE joins the Aspen Institute Ascend Network for collaborators elevating two-generation approaches to educational success and economic mobility.



2014

Focus on Rural Families

AVANCE opens the first Parent-Family Community Engagement Center in Alamo, TX, serving the broader Rio Grande Valley Region.

2018

45-Year-Old Startup

AVANCE Inc. refocuses and begins updating PCEP with assistance from The Harvard Center on the Developing Child, Frontiers of Innovation, Child Trends, and True Point consulting.



2019

Expanding our Model

AVANCE pilots the new Quality Child Care Matters program. The Texas Workforce Commission funds AVANCE to expand QCCM into Austin, TX.



2020

Impressive Resilience

In response to COVID-19, AVANCE adapts PCEP for virtual delivery. AVANCE becomes an UnidosUS affiliate. AVANCE expands Head Start/Early Head Start in the Rio Grande Valley.



2021

Growth & Innovation

With TWC funding, AVANCE launches a statewide business coaching program for family child care providers. AVANCE pilots AVANCE to College in El Paso.



2022

All Together Now

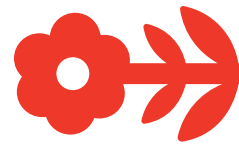
AVANCE hosts the first annual Two-Generation Learning Conference for PCEP educators across the AVANCE network. AVANCE pilots the Families Building Communities program.



2023

Golden Anniversary

AVANCE announces a year-long celebration commemorating 50 years of service, support, and success for Latino families and communities.



Strategic Planning: EDAS

This year marks the closing of the three-year strategic plan that we set forth in June 2020 that focused on learning, testing, iterating, growing, and developing the necessary systems to support the large-level scale of the organization, specifically the Parent-Child Education Program (PCEP). The foundational plan, called EDAS, comprised four pillars:

- Expanding our Reach
- Deepening our two-generation impact
- Increasing Awareness and Advocacy
- Establishing robust Systems for innovation and continuous quality improvement (CQI)

The main goal of EDAS was to create the foundation for true scale of AVANCE in the years 2024-2030, with the ultimate goal of serving 200,000 families across the Nation a year by 2030.

Strategy for 2020-23:

Expanding, Deepening, Advocating, and Systematizing

Expanding Our Reach

Expanding Goal: Reach 11,000 children and families by 2023

After confirming that our mission is still relevant given the number of Latino families in the U.S. that still lack access to economic mobility, we conducted research to identify what works and what doesn't so that we can effectively scale our programming in years to come. We ultimately determined that the most stable, efficient way of growing our impact and reach is through partnerships.



Strategy 1

Partner with community-based organizations to license and implement the AVANCE Parent-Child Education Program (PCEP).

Current Status: When we implemented EDAS, we had one licensee in Sonoma, CA. We now have a total of six PCEP licensees:

- Petaluma Adult School (Sonoma, CA)
- Sonoma (Sonoma, CA)
- EduCare (San Antonio, TX)
- El Paso Community College (El Paso, TX)
- PSJA ISD (Hidalgo County, TX)
- Austin Community College (Austin, TX)

We have also been working with Windsor ISD to solidify a partnership that would extend PCEP further into California.

Strategy 2

Partner with existing ECE organizations and workforce boards to expand the implementation of our Quality Child Care Matters (QCCM) program.

Current Status: We received funding from the City of Austin to continue working with family child care providers through our QCCM program in Travis County, adding a new cohort of providers each year through 2024. We also initiated QCCM implementation in three additional locations in partnership with workforce boards, the Texas Workforce Commission and other ECE organizations:

- QCCM in El Paso in partnership with Workforce Solutions Borderplex through 2024
- QCCM in San Antonio in partnership with PreK 4 SA through 2023
- QCCM in Corpus Christi and the surrounding Coastal Bend area in partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission and local workforce organizations through 2023.

We are also in communication with Partnership for Community Action, establishing a partnership that would expand our QCCM program throughout New Mexico.



Deepening our Two-Generation Approach

Deepening Goal: Develop an Economic Mobility Framework

In developing the strategic plan, we determined that while we have a highly impactful two-gen model with PCEP, we needed to deepen the two-gen approach throughout our organization. Through PCEP, parents develop self-confidence through increasing their parenting skills and through increased support from peers. They feel empowered and want to further their education and/or pursue a career. We set out to create a model where education and workforce opportunities are readily available to our parents when they graduate PCEP.

Strategy 1

Utilizing the concept of exposure to the possible, work with local workforce boards and institutions of higher education to determine barriers for parents and create a model that removes those barriers to create a clear pathway to economic mobility.

Current Status: We created AVANCE to College, a program that combines PCEP with exposure to the possible, bringing together early childhood education organizations, workforce boards, and institutions of higher education to ensure that both children and their parents have access to resources and support to increase economic mobility. Since completing a highly successful pilot in El Paso in 2022, we have continued to expand the reach of the AVANCE to College program.

- We just completed another year of the AVANCE to College program in El Paso in collaboration with El Paso Community College and Workforce Solutions Borderplex.
- AVANCE to College launched in Austin in partnership with AVANCE-Austin, Austin Community College and Workforce Solutions Capital Area.
- We are working to expand AVANCE to College into the Dallas/Fort Worth area through a partnership with Dallas College.

Increase Awareness and Advocacy

Advocating Goal: Increase brand clarity and awareness

Through our strategic planning process, we learned from stakeholders, including our own staff, that there was a lack of knowledge about the structure of our organization and our network. One thing was consistent: name recognition. Everyone knew the name AVANCE. We had some work to do to increase brand clarity and cohesion across the network and then share our mission and impact as far and wide as possible.

Strategy 1

Collaborate with chapters to refine mission/vision statements and brand identity.

Current Status: After nine months of collaboration and voting by the entire AVANCE network, we finalized new mission and vision statements.

The mission of AVANCE is to create 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.

At AVANCE 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.

Strategy 2

Increase capacity to effectively lead brand consolidation and community engagement efforts.

Current Status: We have expanded our communications team to effectively lead branding efforts across the network, engage with our community across social media platforms, and increase awareness of our work and impact through high-quality, engaging content and communications.

- Expanded social media presence to previously untapped platforms, Instagram (447 followers) and LinkedIn (515 followers)
- 112% increase in followers across social media platforms
- 66,200 unique impressions on social media (100% increase from 2020-2023)

We redesigned our website to streamline the process for visitors to find the information and support they are looking for and to celebrate the families and communities we walk alongside. The new website features content translated by native Spanish speakers rather than machine translation and elevates the voices of our families and family child care providers by sharing their stories in their own words.

Strategy 3

Participate in statewide and national conferences, legislative briefings, and coalitions that focus on ECE, parent engagement, racial equity, and two-gen approaches.

Current Status: AVANCE CEO Dr. Teresa Granillo was accepted into the Newsweek Expert Forum, and Newsweek.com has already published Dr. Granillo's first article as a member of the Forum, "Uplift Bilingual Children by Dispelling Myths and Improving Dual-language Learning."

AVANCE, in partnership with Empower House and Shades of Blue, is leading a coalition to uplift the voices of BIPOC/ALAANA leaders in the PN-5 space across Texas.



AVANCE has also been invited to join the following coalitions:

- Early Matters El Paso
- Texas PN-3
- Rapid Response Virtual Home Visiting collaborative
- Ideal Learning Roundtable (Trust for Learning)
- Head Start/Early Head Start State Coalition
- Latino Infant Initiative
- Aspen Ascend Student Parent Network

We have also been invited to speak/present at the following events:

- SXSW EDU
- 2Gen Symposium hosted by the Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud (IDJ) in Puerto Rico
- Two Legislative Briefings on Early Childhood and Child care Related Topics
- Equip2Achieve Virtual Conference
- Parents As Teachers Annual Conference
- Strive Together Annual Conference
- National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families Panel Discussion
- Promise Ventures Studio, Equity and Justice in Early Care and Education
- National Shared Services Technical Annual Conference

Establish robust systems for innovation & CQI

Systematizing Goal: Create systems and processes to ensure fidelity of implementation and organizational health to support high-quality and sustainable scale.

Our ability to accomplish our goals is dependent on a foundation being established in the way we have planned with EDAS. Through the strategic planning process, we identified a need for improvement in our backend systems to support fidelity of implementation, organization health, and continuous quality improvement. The identified systems are essential to truly supporting licensees and our chapters and ensuring the quality of our programming.

Strategy 1

Collaborate with consultants and chapters to create a content management system, a learning management system, a data dashboard, and better operating systems to ensure healthy communication, collaboration, and culture.

Current Status: The Content Management System was completed June 2021. Currently, staff across the network are trained on how to utilize it to enhance instruction and increase communication of best practices across the network. The Learning Management System has also been completed and reviewed, and is now ready to be used with staff for training. We continue to explore the possibility of developing a customized data system that can be tailored to integrate our multiple sources of data.

After conducting an internal audit of operational systems, including an evaluation of our work environment and culture, processes and procedures were updated and implemented.

Strategy 2

Engage in a 3rd party evaluation of PCEP to establish evidence of impact and support fidelity of the implementation model.

Current Status: We are continuing to work with the Texas Policy Lab (TPL) at Rice University and PSJA ISD to conduct the randomized control trial evaluation of PCEP. We have completed the first year of the study and are conducting recruitment for the second cohort of the study.



Our *Programs*





Parent-Child Education Program

Shortly after founding AVANCE in 1973, Dr. Gloria G. Rodriguez and her team held the first Parent-Child Education Program (PCEP) class at the Mirasol housing project on San Antonio's West Side. The program looked very different back then. It included two years of weekly two-hour parenting sessions and twice-monthly home visits, followed by a third-year Tutoring Program for young children.

After the first AVANCE graduation in 1975, a shift in funding made changes to the program necessary, but it also offered an opportunity for improvement. Having grown up in the neighborhood where AVANCE began, Dr. Rodriguez was deeply familiar with the needs of local families and used that knowledge to modify the curriculum to better serve the community.

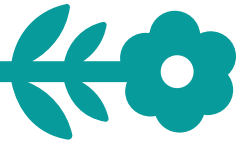
One of the first significant changes was the elimination of the tutoring component, which led to improvements in the quality of care children received during PCEP, moving from supervised play to early childhood development. The program was also shortened from two years to one, increasing sessions to three hours and adding a new component to familiarize parents with local resources and services. Since that initial round of changes, PCEP has continued to evolve as the AVANCE team, many of whom are PCEP graduates, have drawn on the latest research and science as well as their lived experience and parent feedback to improve the curriculum, adding and revising topics, lessons, and activities to meet families' needs.

PCEP is now a nine-month program that consists of weekly three-hour sessions paired with monthly home visits. Each weekly session includes an hour of parenting instruction, an hour of toymaking lessons, and an hour of community engagement. While parents attend sessions, their young children, from newborn to four years old, are cared for in an enriched age- and developmentally-appropriate environment that nurtures learning.

In 2021, a new implementation model for PCEP was developed to impact families' economic mobility directly. From this model came AVANCE to College, which combines PCEP with exposure to the possibilities and opportunities offered by postsecondary education and workforce development. In collaboration with local workforce boards and community colleges, PCEP is delivered onsite at community college campuses. The program helps parents learn about the college and the opportunities and resources available to support them in pursuing their education while streamlining their transition to continued education as first-time or returning students.

Even after a half-century of changes, revisions, and updates to PCEP, what has always remained constant is the foundational belief that parents are their child's first teachers and that the home is the first classroom. And this same belief continues to guide AVANCE into the next 50 years of supporting families on their educational journeys.





Parent-Child Education Program

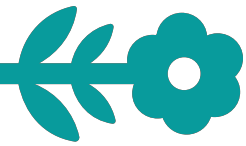
How It's Going

The past year was incredibly successful for our core Parent-Child Education Program (PCEP). In early September, we welcomed staff and educators from across the network to San Antonio for the first annual AVANCE Two-Generation Learning Conference. The conference, held at San Antonio College, included two days of professional development sessions, workshops, panel discussions, and opportunities for our AVANCE PCEP team to learn from their peers, grow with them, and walk together equipped with new ideas to better serve the families and children in their communities.

Over the past year, we updated our PCEP Home Visitor Manual, toy making possibility sheets, and CMS content. We hired two new PCEP Coaches at the National Office who, throughout the year, provided training, coaching, and ongoing support to program staff across the network.

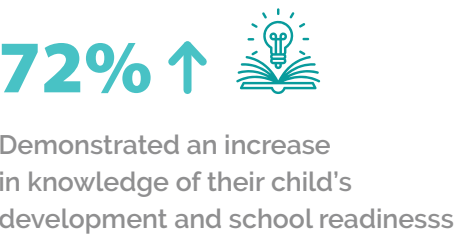
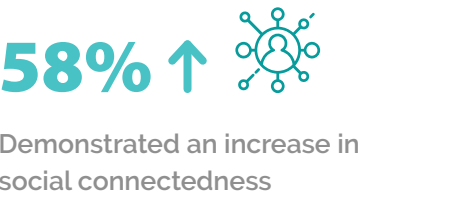
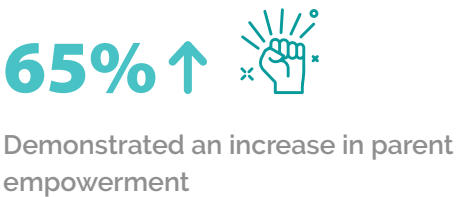
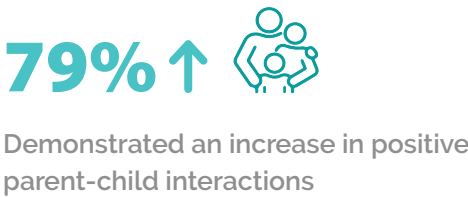
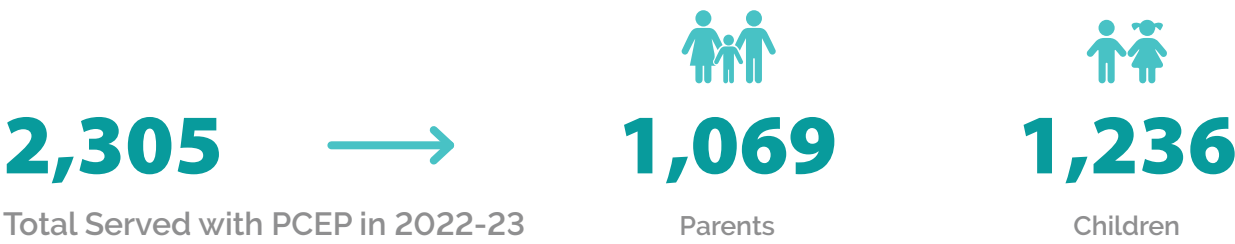
PCEP enrollment increased to near pre-pandemic levels across our network of licensees, chapters, and regional offices. Our AVANCE to College program in El Paso held its second graduation, celebrating the accomplishments of a group of outstanding parents, most of whom had never stepped onto a college campus. We completed preparations for the launch of AVANCE to College in Austin in partnership with AVANCE-Austin, Austin Community College, and Workforce Solutions Capital Area, and we are continuing our discussions with Dallas College to expand the program into North Texas. In the Rio Grande Valley, we solidified our partnership with PSJA ISD and completed the first year of our two-year evaluation of the effectiveness of PCEP.





Parent-Child Education Program

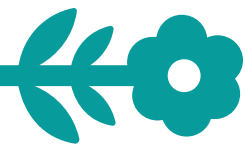
Who we Serve & Impact Across the AVANCE Network



Who We Serve & Impact by Location

	Austin	Dallas	Houston	San Antonio	RGV	La Luz	Petaluma
Parents	232	444	72	148	79	39	37
Children	268	524	85	162	94	43	42
Increased Positive Parent Interaction	88%	80%	65%	74%	56%	88%	100%
Increased Parent Empowerment	67%	61%	63%	60%	75%	75%	88%
Increased Social Connectedness	61%	59%	61%	56%	43%	66%	63%
Increased knowledge in their child's development and school readiness	80%	71%	71%	71%	44%	81%	84%

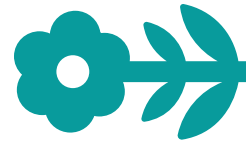




Marta Casanova

"AVANCE is a great place to be. The education, the way they teach you about different things, different situations. I know how important it is to raise your child. I think I learned a lot about that, the education, and always be involved with our children. They gave us the fundamentals. It was up to us to continue. I prioritized education for my kids, my husband and I. Their education was the only thing. I might not be able to give them a big inheritance, but I could make sure they got a good education.

And all of them are all educated. My oldest, Jose has his PhD in neuroscience. My daughter Elizabeth has her bachelor's and my youngest son Andres is still in school. I think they did pretty well."



Caro Family

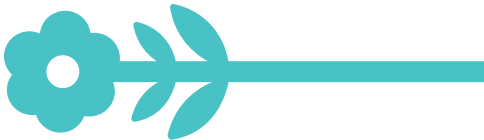
"Gracias a AVANCE tenemos más responsabilidad con nosotros mismos y eso nos hace más fuertes como padres al saber que nuestros hijos serán exitosos académicamente. Muchísimas gracias AVANCE por abrirnos las puertas a un mejor futuro. Para nosotros como padres que somos los primeros maestros en casa. Su programa nos sigue ayudando y realmente vale la pena a asistir a las clases de AVANCE. Gracias a nuestras maestras Ana Lorena Carrasco, Natalia Huerta, María Lourdes, Bertha, y Flor. "





Quality Child Care Matters

Quality Child Care Matters



How It's Going

In 2000, AVANCE received a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to develop a training program to promote family child care as a family support service, an economic development opportunity, and a child development and education resource. This program has gone through many iterations over the past 23 years, evolving into the AVANCE Quality Child Care Matters (QCCM) program.

Through the QCCM program¹, family child care providers receive support and guidance as they learn new strategies to increase the quality of their care for children and support for families in their communities. AVANCE conducts monthly training and professional development sessions, provides ongoing mentoring and coaching, and facilitates peer support and provider collaboration.

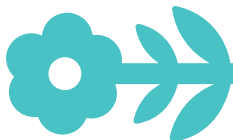
In the past year, we strengthened the program by elaborating on the QCCM framework and incorporating the program into our robust Learning Management System. As the program expanded, we also grew our QCCM team, bringing on a program Director and an additional facilitator and coordinator. We also launched a new, innovative Train-the-Trainer model in partnership with Pre-K 4 SA, which has proven successful for the first cohort of providers in San Antonio.

Throughout the year, the QCCM program served 116 child care providers in Austin, El Paso, San Antonio, and the Coastal Bend. In that time, we observed an increase in providers connecting with program facilitators on specific coaching and mentoring opportunities. Alums of the program provided invaluable support with recruitment efforts and peer-to-peer coaching and mentoring. We also opened enrollment into our Shared Services Alliance to graduates of the QCCM program, creating synergy across our programs and increasing provider access to resources and support to help them build successful, high-quality child care businesses.

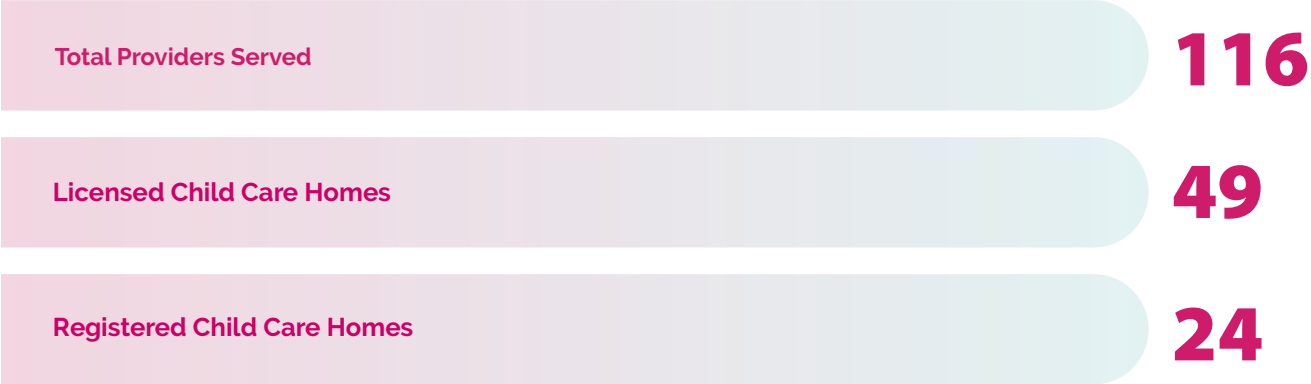


¹ Total funding for QCCM is \$758,912.73, of which 22.5% (\$171,372) is funded by the Texas Workforce Commission through federal subrecipient funding, with the remainder coming from various non-federal public and private sources.

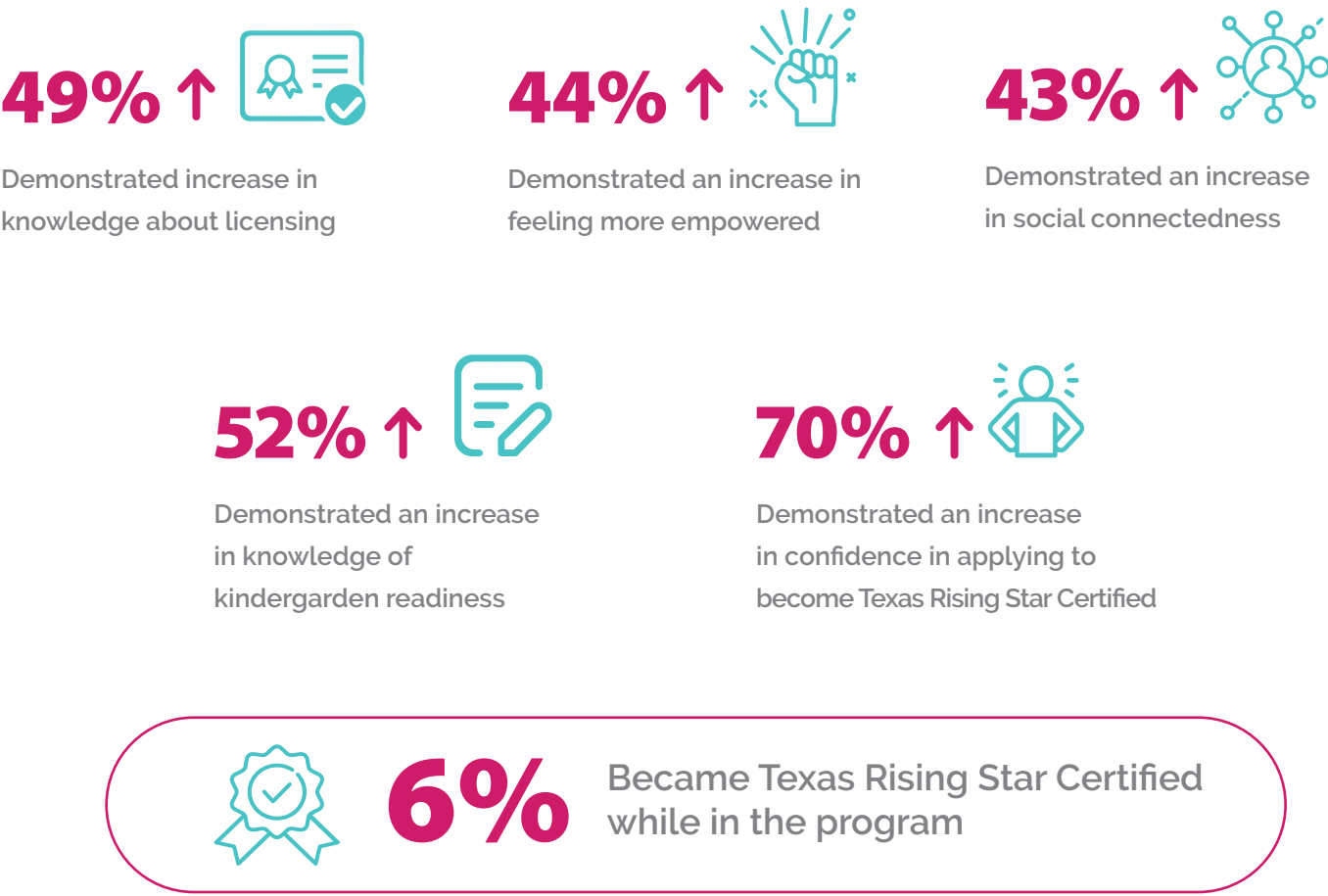
Quality Child Care Matters

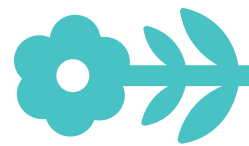
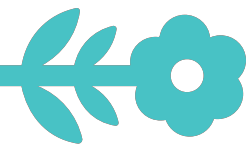


Who We Serve



Impact





Yamile Santos

Yamile initiated her home-based child care venture in 2009 in Sunnyvale, California, accommodating up to 14 children. Emphasizing exceptional service quality, she prioritized children's development and academic readiness by studying education. In 2021, she replicated her triumph in Austin, obtaining a license for 12 children. Remarkably, within 18 months, her Texas program surpassed the achievements in California, boasting full capacity and a waiting list, leading to expansion plans. Unique aspects of her program encompass diverse enrollment, a bilingual Montessori-based curriculum, conscious discipline for social-emotional learning, and a focus on healthy, nutritious meals. Challenges include gaining professional recognition, adequate compensation, comprehensive insurance, and subsidized rates for low-income families. Yamile's core objectives are achieving TRS program status and further expanding her successful child care enterprise. Thanks to last year's AVANCE mini-grants for quality improvement, Yamile says, "I was able to build a gazebo in my program outdoor space!" Yamile thanked AVANCE, stating, "The QCCM program has been a great support for my program."

Leticia Pérez

Leticia ha vivido en Houston durante 31 años y se trasladó a Austin con sus tres hijos, dos de ellos pequeños. Ante la necesidad de pagar la guardería, optó por cuidar a los niños de sus vecinos en casa. Su programa se distingue por promover la diversidad e inclusión, enseñando a los niños a aceptar distintas culturas y capacidades físicas, creando un ambiente de amor y unidad. En las visitas del estado, se enfocan mucho en el papeleo. Las formaciones a menudo están disponibles solo en inglés y el bajo pago de CCS afecta sus ingresos. Faltan recursos para atender a niños con necesidades especiales. Aunque sabe que esta profesión no la hará rica, Leticia dice, "¡El programa QCCM cambio mi vida!" Ahora los objetivos de Leticia son convertirse en un programa TRS y ha mejorado la calidad de sus servicios. Leticia le da las gracias a AVANCE, "¡Gracias! Por darme el empuje que me han dado. ¡Gracias por cambiar mi vida!"





Head Start/ Early Head Start

Head Start/Early Head Start



How It's Going

Head Start (HS) is a comprehensive program designed to support the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of children ages three to five to prepare them for Kindergarten and beyond. Early Head Start (EHS) is an early education and family support program for expectant mothers and children ages six weeks to three years.

AVANCE has always been a leader in two-generation programming, so when EHS was created in 1995, it was no surprise that AVANCE-San Antonio was among the first grantees. Shortly after, AVANCE-Houston also began providing EHS services, and in 2010, AVANCE began offering home-based EHS services in Hidalgo County colonias in the Rio Grande Valley. Since then, AVANCE has expanded our EHS services by partnering with local family child care providers and then into neighboring Starr and Zapata Counties with HS and EHS programs. AVANCE currently provides EHS services in three settings: Home-Based, including services to pregnant women; Family Child Care; and AVANCE-operated centers.

This past year, AVANCE Rio Grande Valley saw a significant increase in our EHS enrollment, from an average of 75% of slots filled in 2021-2022 to an average of 88% filled in 2022-2023, illustrating not just the need for services but the reputation and trust AVANCE has built in the community. Another sign of that trust is the support of our partners at VTX1, which allowed us to design the ideal playground for the youngest learners at our Rio Vista Center, a more natural setting with loose parts and areas to support the growth and development of infants and toddlers. Thanks to the hard work of our amazing maintenance team, the new playground was completed and opened in time for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Office of Head Start also conducted a Focus Area 2 review, which led to a new initiative that streamlines our team's access to professional development and continuing education and ensures they have the appropriate qualifications for their positions. In partnership with South Texas College, Starr County campus, a virtual cohort of 14 staff enrolled and completed 120 hours of required course work, earning 22 college credits and a Child Development Infant Toddler or Preschool Certificate of Completion.





Head Start/Early Head Start

Who We Serve

	Head Start	Early Head Start
Children	377	550
Pregnant Women	N/A	63
Families	352	479
Latino/Hispanic (%)	99%	99%
Children Receiving Disability Services	15%	9%
Community Services Provided	297	429

Impact

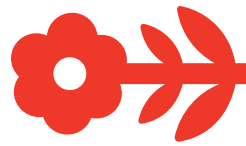
School Readiness Domains

	% of children meeting or exceeding age-level expectations			
	Head Start		Early Head Start	
	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
Approaches to Learning	91%	92%	93%	95%
Cognition	71%	78%	96%	93%
Language & Literacy Development	79%	79%	93%	95%
Perceptual, Motor, & Physical Development	92%	94%	98%	99%
Social-Emotional Development	89%	93%	96%	97%
English Language Development	84%	91%	60%	90%





Head Start/Early Head Start Testimonials



Laura Gunter

"When we found AVANCE, it was very comforting to have found a place that cared not only about my child's safety but also about her development and, most importantly, her social and emotional skills. The communication and involvement between the center (teachers and staff) and our family was remarkable and gave my husband and me peace of mind every day as we dropped our daughter off."

I have many memories of our days in AVANCE, but Graduation Day stands out as one of our most precious memories so far. Sitting there watching my daughter finish her first school experience was very rewarding. Thinking about all her teachers' efforts every day to ensure they were covering all her needs warms my heart to this day."

Cynthia Cavazos

"Mientras mi hijo estaba en el programa, yo iba a la Universidad. En el año 2020 me gradué de la Universidad UTRGV de Early Care and Early Childhood. El impacto que veo en su desarrollo es emocional, social, cognitivo, físico e intelectual. Ahora es un niño muy aplicado en su escuela. Cuando el entro a la escuela Prek3 la maestra me preguntaba que si él iba a una escuela antes, porque notaba que el niño ya sabía muchas cosas y que ponía atención en la lectura."





Business Coaching

How It's Going

The success of our Quality Child Care Matters program led to an expansion of our support for family child care providers. In 2021, AVANCE was awarded funding through the State's Child Care Development Block Grant to provide Business Coaching to family child care providers across Texas. Through the AVANCE Business Coaching program, designed to help providers recover from the pandemic and other challenges, providers work with Business Coaches to improve daily operations through strategies for increasing revenue, decreasing costs, and mitigating risks. Business Coaches also help providers navigate Texas Child Care Relief Funding, including monitoring and expansion initiative applications.

In its second year, our Business Coaching program served more than 400 family child care providers across Texas. Throughout the year, outreach efforts included conferences, virtual info sessions, presentations to partners, social media posts, Facebook Live events, and informational postcards. For enrolled providers, we hosted 12 Group Coaching virtual events and assessed their connectivity needs, allowing us to supply tablets and internet as needed for participation. We also worked alongside Civitas Strategies to produce Tax Education videos in English and Spanish.

Overall, we found providers were more open to having budgeting and financial conversations with their coaches and expressed greater interest in marketing strategies to improve their businesses. They also showed more confidence as they began to see their child care as a legitimate business and became proactively engaged in its direction and success.





Business Coaching



444

Family Child Care Providers (FCCP)
received business coaching



72%

Received Child Care
Relief Funding



100%

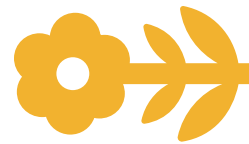
Providers received
coaching on budgeting



\$14.8M

Child Care Relief Funds
Accessed by providers





Luz Dary Blanco

"AVANCE han sido unos ángeles que hay llegado caídos del cielo en el momento que más lo necesitaba. Cuando me sentía estancada , y inconforme. No sabia como hacerlo ni mucho menos que hacer. Dieron un impulso y nuevas fuerzas a mi espíritu para retomar mi sueño que se había desvanecido en el camino.

Gladys Vallejo es una maestra muy especial, compartimos nuestro amor por los niños. Comparte tus conocimientos y experiencia con mucha humildad. Me ha ayudado de mil maneras, estar siempre disponible ante cualquier consulta. Tambien el señor Jesús Lujan fue muy eficaz, con gran experiencia.

En fin, no hay palabras suficientes para expresar lo agradecida que estoy de poder parcipar en este program. Mil gracias por su trabajo y soporte al desarrollo y crecimiento de la primera infancia. Y los emprendedores pequeños como yo. Estoy encantada y muy agradecida de poder participar en este programa tan maravilloso."

Oby Iheukwumere

"I have been tremendously blessed so far and my business is right now on its way to flourish extraordinarily due to all the assistance that I have received from Ms. Marga Silvestre. She has demonstrated such a competence and character in what she has done with me. She even referred me to the next level of your services, and my first question was if she was going to be the one to continue with me. I would have really loved to continue with her, but I am also believing God that your next team members will be wonderful too. Thank you so much for the opportunities. I really appreciate you all. God richly bless you all. Shalom!"





Partners

AVANCE would like to thank our funders, public and private, and our collaborative partners for their support, without which our work would not be possible.

Funders

- Arrow Impact
- ICONIQ
- James Avery Craftsman
- MacKenzie Scott
- Meadows Foundation
- New Profit
- Office of Head Start
- Powell Foundation
- Pritzker Children's Initiative
- Shield Ayers
- Stranahan Foundation
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Mutual
- Texas Women's Foundation
- Texas Workforce Commission
- Truist Foundation
- Trust for Learning
- United Way for Greater Austin
- Valhalla Foundation

Collaborators

- Austin Community College
- Center on the Developing Child - Harvard University
- Children at Risk
- Cognitive ToyBox
- Early Matters El Paso
- Early Matters San Antonio
- Educare
- El Paso Community College (EPCC)
- H-E-B Read 3
- Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD
- Pre-K 4 SA
- Promise Venture Studio
- Shine Early Learning
- Texas Policy Lab – Rice University
- TexProtects
- The PN-3 Collaborative
- UnidosUS
- Workforce Solutions Borderplex
- Workforce Solutions Capital Area
- Zapata County ISD



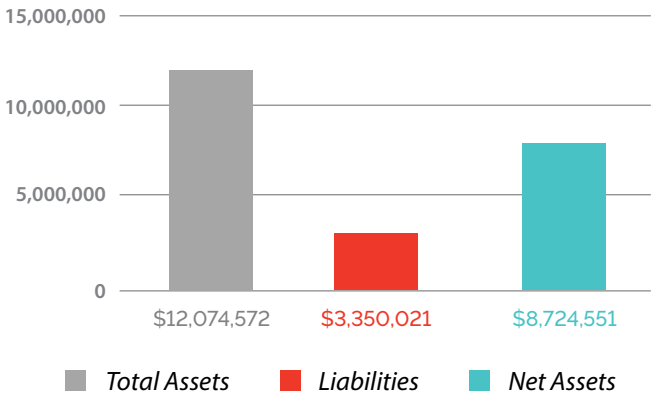


Assets	FYE 2023	FYE 2022
Total Current Assets	\$11,241,199	\$2,991,664
Long-Term Assets	\$228,901	\$350,146
Net Intangible Assets	\$604,742	- 0 -
Total Assets	\$12,074,572	\$3,341,790

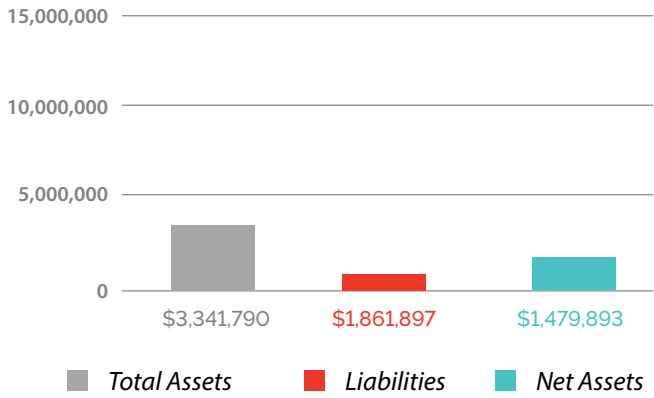
Liabilities & Net Assets

Total Short-Term Liabilities	\$3,008,278	\$1,851,897
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$341,743	\$10,000
Net Assets	\$8,724,551	\$1,479,893
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$12,074,572	\$3,341,790

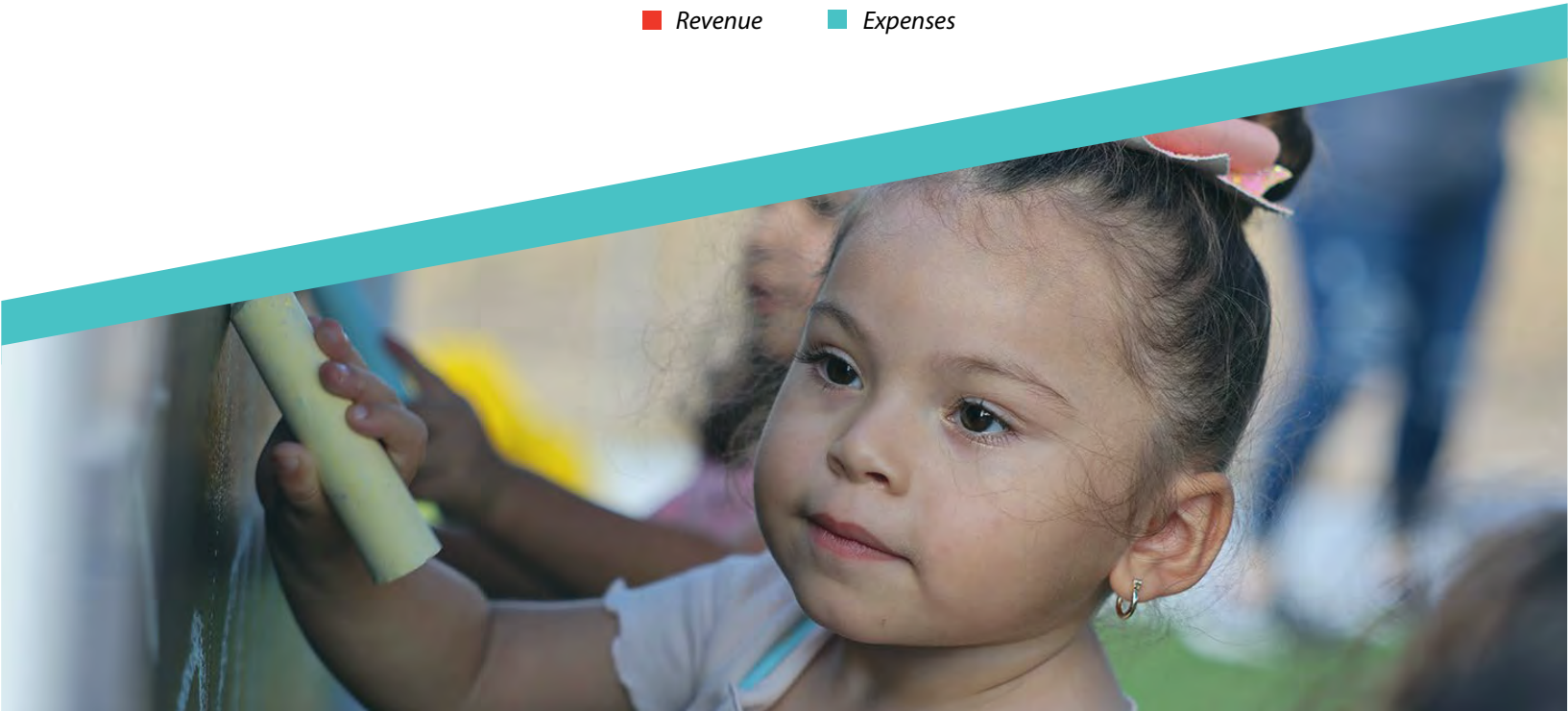
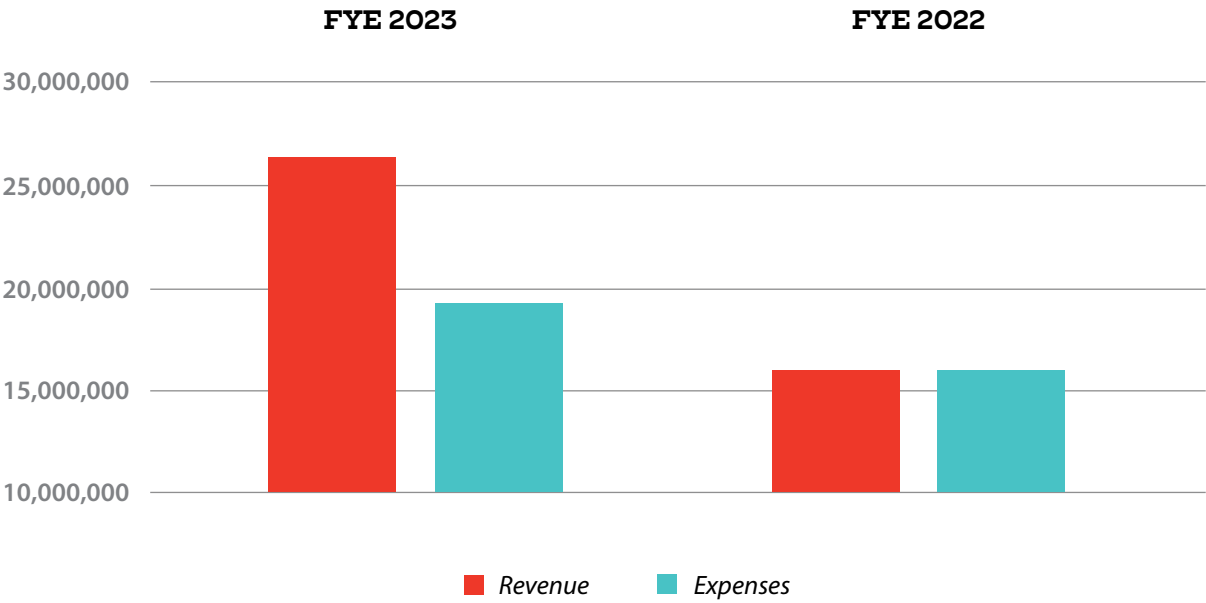
Financial Position FY 2023



Financial Position FY 2022



	FYE 2023	FYE 2022
Revenue	\$26,981,937	\$16,106,893
Expenses	\$19,737,289	\$16,019,567
General Admin	15%	14%
Program	85%	86%



What's *New*?





PCEP Evaluation

When we finalized our strategic plan in 2020, we knew an essential component would be a third-party evaluation of our core Parent-Child Education Program (PCEP). That year, we partnered with the Texas Policy Lab at Rice University and began planning for that rigorous study. Today, we are proud to announce that we have completed the first year of a two-year randomized control trial to evaluate the effectiveness of PCEP.

Last year, we launched recruitment efforts in the Rio Grande Valley to enroll families in the study. Once we had a large enough pool, a lottery was conducted to randomly assign families into treatment and control groups. The treatment group included families who would participate in PCEP, while the control group comprised families who would not participate in PCEP. Over the next nine months, the treatment group participated in PCEP. During that time, both groups participated in evaluation study visits that included parent surveys and child assessments using the Cognitive ToyBox assessment tool.

Now that the first year of the study is complete, our partners at the Texas Policy Lab are analyzing the preliminary data and preparing for the second year. Our team in the Valley is also hard at work conducting recruitment for the second cohort, which will start in the fall of 2023. We anticipate the study will be completed next summer, with findings available in late 2024.

Families Building Communities

Two years ago, we set out to revitalize and redesign our Families Building Communities (FBC) program. The FBC program was created as a follow-up to PCEP to build on lessons learned and help parents learn how to find and use their voices as advocates and leaders. This newest iteration is designed to empower adults to be community leaders, advocate for their rights, and strengthen communication with their children by focusing on individual capacity for success and evaluating leadership as a process within a community. True to our two-generation roots, the new FBC program includes an early childhood component that uses a PEEP and the Big Wide World curriculum to foster growth and a love for science and learning through developmentally appropriate activities.

By mid-2022, we had a new curriculum. But would it work? Last fall, we recruited parents who had graduated from PCEP in the Rio Grande Valley to participate in a pilot of the newly redesigned FBC program. From October to May, our initial cohort of seven parents participated in weekly personal and professional development sessions and monthly meetups. And on June 7, 2023, we welcomed the first five graduates of the new Families Building Communities program.



Maria Del Rosario Garza

"El curso de Familias Construyendo Comunidades nos ayudo a crecer en maneras que no pudimos haber imaginado. En realidad, ha sido un curso que cambio nuestras vidas. Muchas gracias a AVANCE y nuestra instructora, Gloria Sepulveda, por habernos dado la oportunidad de ser parte de este curso."



What's New?

Shared Services Alliance

In 2022, AVANCE was awarded grants from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and Texas Mutual Insurance Company to establish a Shared Services Alliance to provide additional support to family child care providers across Texas¹. In preparation for the launch of the Shared Services Alliance in early 2023, we onboarded and trained a Digital Literacy Coach and two Quality Coaches who began recruitment efforts in-person and virtually via warm calls, QCCM sessions, and local events. We formed a seven-member Advisory Board and built data systems to capture program data and provide a feedback loop to assist in tailoring services to meet the needs of Alliance members.

Once we had the first cohort of 41 family child care providers, our coaches used the results of a needs assessment to provide services and coaching to Shared Service Alliance members, including Business Services, Local Coaching, and Pedagogical Services.

Coaching sessions began in February 2023. Since then, we have provided 228 pedagogical support sessions and 122 digital literacy support sessions. We have provided marketing support to 88% of members, including coaching on the importance of marketing and marketing materials to increase the visibility of their business and enrollment. Additionally, 59% of members have received tax education support/CPA consulting through a partnership with CPA firm FORVIS. Alliance members also received customized digital literacy coaching on a variety of technology-related topics and access to instructional videos for self-paced learning.



Sandra Ramirez

"Estoy muy contenta porque me han ayudado mucho con la publicidad y con entrenamientos. También siempre están todos los del programa de AVANCE ayudando y preocupados por nuestras necesidades Muchas gracias."





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