



Annual Report FY25

Connecting all of our youngest learners and their families to equitable, high-quality early childhood experiences that reflect diverse cultures and abilities while fostering a sense of belonging.



Childcare Network of Evanston
1335 Dodge Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201





We Believe....

- We believe high-quality early education and meaningful supports can change a child's life.
- We believe all families are unique and their cultures and identities will be embraced and valued.
- We believe every family deserves equal access to opportunities and optimal support to thrive in their daily lives.
- We believe parents and caregivers are their child's most important teachers and advocates.
- We believe in creating a culture where all of our families and partners, including our staff and board members, feel like they belong.
- We believe in the importance of collaborative partnerships to develop a culturally responsive, trauma-informed early childhood community.

Leadership Reflections and Gratitude

This past year brought unsettling challenges, but it also emphasized what matters most. By staying grounded in our mission and centering the needs of children and families, we found our way forward—together. In moments of uncertainty, we learned that our greatest strength lies in collaboration, in listening closely, and in showing up for one another with purpose and care.

We were reminded, too, that no single organization can do this work alone. Our progress is made possible by a deeply committed network of community partners who share our belief in what children and families deserve. Together, we have navigated obstacles, identified resources, and continued building the kind of support system that allows families not just to get by, but to thrive. In the pages that follow, we are proud to share both our successes and the challenges that are shaping our path forward, as we double down on the values that guide everything we do - you can read them at the top of this page.

We are profoundly grateful for you—our donors, partners, and community—whose belief in this work makes it possible. Your support sustains us, strengthens us, and ensures that we can keep moving forward with urgency and hope. Thank you for standing with us.



Sheila Merry
CNE Board Chair

Carol Teske
Executive Director

■ CNE Programs and Services

Every year, CNE brings over \$4.1 million into our community to expand access to high-quality early childhood education and care to eligible families

CNE Supports

- Mental Health Services
- Teacher Coaching
- Occupational Therapy
- Inclusion Aides
- Developmental Screening and Support

Head Start/ Early Head Start

- 89 funded slots
- Program serves pregnant parents and children 0-5
- Home Visiting - 40 slots
- Center-based - 49 slots in 2 local centers

Preschool for All

- 118 funded slots
- Free half-day preschool services provided through 5 local early childhood centers

Community Wide Supports

- Child Care Subsidy (CCAP) Administrator
- Mental Health Services
- Developmental Therapy
- Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators
- Support Navigating Disabilities Services
- Fiscal Sponsor of Evanston Early Childhood Council

■ Our Impact

32,250

diapers provided to enrolled families through our partnership with Bundled Blessings



1,046

hours of therapeutic supports, including mental health counseling, provided to children and families at no cost



509

Children served in all CNE programming during the year - including more than 77 Head Start/Early Head Start families



100%

of enrolled children received developmental screenings during the program year



88

Average monthly enrollment in the Head Start program

CNE served 15.4% of eligible children in the service area

75% of enrolled children received a medical exam, and 59% of enrolled children received a dental exam

CNE Families

85%

of families in CNE's Home Visiting program have a home language other than English



79%

of enrolled parents are either working or in school



85%

of enrolled families are either living below the poverty line or qualify for public assistance



70%

of enrolled families identify as other than White



24%

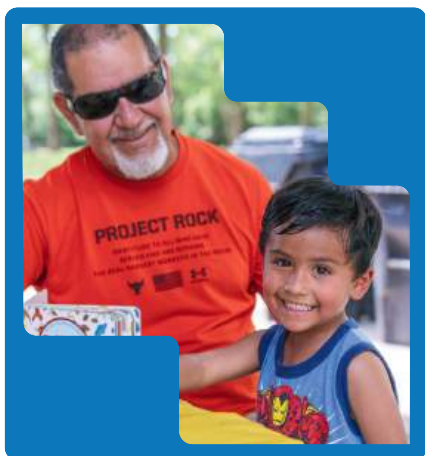
of enrolled parents have less than a HS education

51%

are HS graduate or less

The most recent federal review (Focus Area 2) was conducted during the week of March 4, 2024 and identified one deficiency and one area of noncompliance. Both areas have been addressed by CNE management and were determined to have been corrected.

■ Supporting Parents and Families



Head Start parent involvement activities include regular Family Nights, monthly Policy Council meetings, regular parent meetings/workshops at CNE and at center-based sites, a summer Family Celebration and a Holiday Family Gift Celebration, where families in our community purchase gift cards for enrolled families to brighten their holiday season.

Family Gatherings and Parent Support

Twice-monthly in-person gatherings for families in CNE's Home Visiting program offer opportunities for children and adults to socialize with one another and build community while engaging in activities designed to help children meet developmental goals. Activities over the past year included music, movement, gross motor play and seasonal celebrations.

Parent support groups meet multiple times per year with trained facilitators around topical training issues, such as discipline, understanding temperament, advocating for your children, and parenting stress. Last year's topics included strategies for tantrums and meltdowns, parent challenges, and a 2 part parent-child interactive group.



Supporting K Readiness

Parents are given a "Strong Start to Kindergarten" activity guide for families to use as a resource throughout the preschool years. The guide is available in English and Spanish, and contains a host of developmentally-appropriate activities for children across the pre-K age group covering all domains of learning, to help them build the necessary skills for kindergarten. As children approach the start of kindergarten, their dedicated Home Visitor or Family Support Specialist spends extra time communicating with families about how to prepare for the transition.

Car Seat Safety

CNE employees continue to keep kids safe by checking and installing child safety seats. Car seat checks are conducted at our offices for enrolled families multiple times during the program year, and CNE maintains a small inventory of car seats for families if the check reveals a safety concern with a family's car seat.





CNE Financial Summary

FY25 audited

Income

Government Contracts

Head Start/Early Head Start	1,780,132
IL Department of Human Services	1,034,997
IL State Board of Education	603,061
City of Evanston Safety Net Services - Mental Health	42,000
City of Evanston Safety Net Services - Learning Together	66,570
Fiscal Sponsorship - Birth to Five Illinois	76,410
Government Contracts - TOTAL	3,603,170

Grants, Contributions and Other

Foundations and Private Grants	71,500
Donations - General	166,400
Special Events	35,292
Donated Goods and Services	41,309
Fiscal Sponsorship	34,559
Sustainability Fund	111,512
Grants, Contributions and Other - TOTAL	460,572

Expenses

Program Services - TOTAL	3,499,888
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Supporting Services

Management and General	322,699
Fundraising and Development	174,231
Cost of Direct Benefit to Donor	4,385
Supporting Services - TOTAL	501,315

The most recent financial audit (FY25) resulted in an unmodified opinion.



■ Program Governance

Board of Directors

The CNE Board of Directors is made up of community members and business leaders who are passionate about the impact of early childhood education and parent empowerment. The Board supports CNE by defining its mission and strategies, approving policies and procedures, and overseeing governance and financial management.

- Sheila Merry, Chair
- Barbara Davis, Secretary
- Tim Weltzer, Treasurer
- Ricardo Aceves
- Diana Cohen
- MaryAnn (Ty) Harvey
- Talaya Johnson
- Suni Kartha
- Asifa Munawar
- Taishiya Nix Allen
- Paloma Reyes
- Judy Schiffman
- Marisha Speights
- Carol Teske



Shared decision making is a cornerstone of Head Start and Early Head Start. The Parent Policy Council is a formal structure of parents and community members who participate in policy-making and other decisions about Head Start/Early Head Start programs.

Policy Council



- Bettye Cohns
- Amal Dariwsh
- Alicia Gonzalez
- Liliana Gonzalez
- Lisbeth Guardado
- MaryAnn (Ty) Harvey
- Marcus Peterson
- Casandra Quiram
- Mariel Sanchez
- Yesenia Rubio, Chair



■ Key Funders



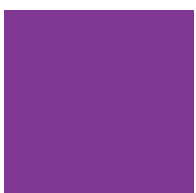
CNE's FY 2025 operating budget is supported by a variety of government funders, as well as foundations and corporate contributors, all of whom play a critical role in helping CNE pursue its mission.

Government Funders

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- Office of Head Start
- Illinois Department of Human Services Child Care Assistance Program
- Illinois State Board of Education - Preschool for All Program
- City of Evanston - Social Services Committee

Foundation and other Funding Partners

- Cless Family Foundation
- Evanston Community Foundation
- Evanston Cradle to Career
- Finnegan Family Foundation
- Francis Beidler Foundation
- Franklin Square Foundation
- Kiwanis Foundation of Evanston
- Northwestern University
- Schorr-Lieberman Family Foundation
- Stryker Corporation (employee match)
- Women for Evanston Youth
- Woodward Charitable Trust
- Bundled Blessings (diaper donations)
- Cradles to Crayons (in-kind donations)



■ Our Supporters

Individual and Corporate Donors

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

\$10,000+

Anonymous
Jeff Boarini
Paul and Sue Brenner
Paul and Mary Finnegan
Sheila Merry and Tom Pitt
Tonise Paul
Therese and Mark Vande Hey

\$2,500 - \$9,999

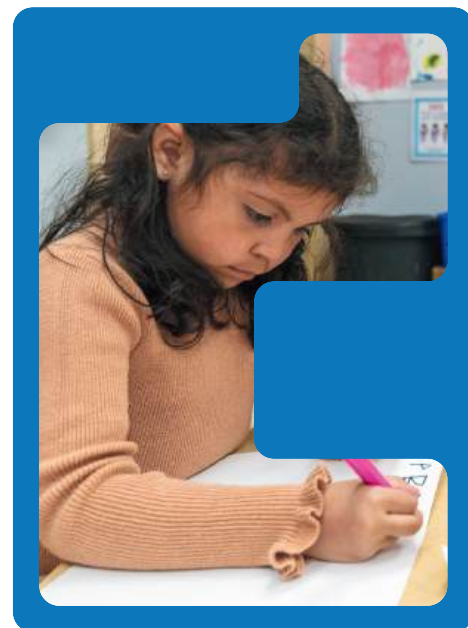
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Dave and Liane Hodgman
Miller Cooper & Co. Charitable Foundation
Maggie Mulqueen and Alan Steele
William and Eleanor Revelle
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Jenny and Ethan York

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Lynne Simon
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Mark and Margie Zivin

\$500 - \$999

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Kathy Smith and Caesar Tabet
St. John Newman Parish Men's Club
Lauren Teske and Troy Gaub
The Brown Team at Baird Warner
Cindy Wilson and Chip Peters



Our Supporters

Individual and Corporate Donors

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

\$250 - \$499

Amgen Foundation
 Frank and Kim Barbaro
 Tony and Julie Bordo
 Noah and Anne Brown
 Tom and Ellen Cushing
 Karen Demorest
 Dan and Linda Feeney
 Google
 Emilie Hogan
 Susie Merry Maddelein
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 Mark and Kathy McCarville
 Mike and Vicky Mertz
 Carolyn and Ben Myszkowski
 Eunie and Jim Nondorf
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 Paloma Reyes
 Elliott and Ronni Robinson
 Catherine Rocca
 Matt Rooney
 Nancy Sharp
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 Ken and Mary Sullivan
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\$100 - \$249

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\$100 - \$249

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 Mike and Betsy Waller
 Mark Miller and Anita Weinberg
 Caryl Weinberg
 Adriana Weisleder
 Cindy Wolfson
 Travis Wood
 YWCA Evanston-North Shore

up to \$100

Taishiya Nix Allen
 Anonymous
 Marsha Barnett
 Michael and Nancy Basofin
 Mary Bell
 Kelly Best
 Tammy and Michael Breitman

up to \$100

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 Krista and Phil Canton
 Sonia Collins
 Chrissy Dale
 Nicole Davies
 Camille de Frank and Ed Chez
 Barbara Dolinger
 Tina Erickson
 Amy Fatah
 David and Sheila Fenn
 Terry and Merle Fippinger
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 Diane Goldring
 Stephen Goranson
 Laura and Matthew Gray
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 Katherine Harvey
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 Rhea Keenan
 Katie Kelly
 Joanne Kelly
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 Laura Kraybill
 Jeff and Corrine Linderth
 Gwen Macsai and Paul Goren
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 Shelby Montague
 Kelly Morgan
 Carole and Tim Nimrod
 Meagan Novara
 Beth and Ted Perez
 Kim Powers
 Robert and Patty Reece
 Ward and Karen Reeves
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 Tom and Lisa Seeger
 Kyle Seeger
 Brenden Seeger
 Veena Shah
 Mark and Judy Sloane
 Adam Spitulnik
 Kathryn Swarczewski
 Catherine Todd

Kathleen Tribble-Strong
 Nila Vora
 Lea Weems
 Rachel Wolfson

■ Our Team



Executive Director

Director of Programs

Fiscal Officer

Assistant Director of Programs

Home Visiting/Family

Engagement Manager

Carol Teske

Deepa Mehta

Vicky Guzman

Carolyn Myszkowski

Lisa Shines



Abby Alpert

Chava Alpert

Martha Arntson

Jenny Blickenstaff

Marilyn Calik

Sonia Collins

Cara Craig

Melody Delfosse

Lisette Espindola

Amy Fatall

Anna Fedyshyn

Diane Lequar

Liliana Martinez

Nayely Martinez

Tonia Pearson

Alicia Salinas

Justine Sirhan

Vachel White

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