

Learning Brief:

Piloting Social-Distance Friendly Programming at the East Oakland Youth Development Center

Overview

The East Oakland community has been hit particularly hard by the Coronavirus Pandemic. While many families have opted to keep their children at home, EOYDC recognized that a significant number of parents and caregivers need a safe place for their children to receive supervision and support while they are at work or caring for high need relatives. To meet these needs, EOYDC conducted a 5-week pilot for in-person programming designed to incorporate extensive COVID-19 safety protocols based on guidelines published by the Alameda County Public Health Department, OSHA, and the CDC.

The following learning brief summarizes our pilot programming approach, outcomes, and lessons learned.



"We're very sensitive to the fact that East Oakland has been one of the most impacted communities by COVID. Many of our parents have expressed concern about having their students return to spaces where they will be overly exposed to the virus, but still needing a safe space for their kids to go while they are at work. We pride ourselves on being a space that our parents trust within the community to still send their kids, despite how hard the surrounding areas have been hit by COVID."

- Dr. Landon Hill, Director of Program Effectiveness at EOYDC

Summer Program Offerings

EOYDC's free summer program offerings included the following this summer:

Work-based Learning for High School & College Students

Virtual and in-person job training and paid internship placement as Youth Leaders supporting summer programming for younger children

128 students

served between May-July

Education & Enrichment for Elementary and Middle Schoolers

EOYDC provided a range of education and enrichment activities for students grades 1-8th through its Summer Remix, ASLA, and Bridge programs

88 students

participated in the 5-week program

Approach

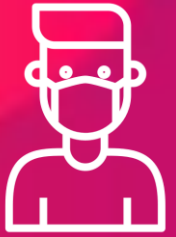
EOYDC redesigned its annual summer programming drastically in order to ensure it was COVID-responsive. Class sizes were reduced by over 50% to ensure there were no more than ten people in a classroom at once, including students, interns, and staff. In order to serve a larger group of students while maintaining these small class sizes, each set of participants came to programming two days a week (Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday) during one of two time blocks: 8:30am-1:30pm or 1:30-6pm. Given the limited number of program slots, EOYDC prioritized the children of essential workers and those from high-need households.

Classroom setup and activities were designed to enable social-distancing (6 feet between people or more) and each participant received their own supply kit to avoid the potential spread of germs through the sharing of supplies.



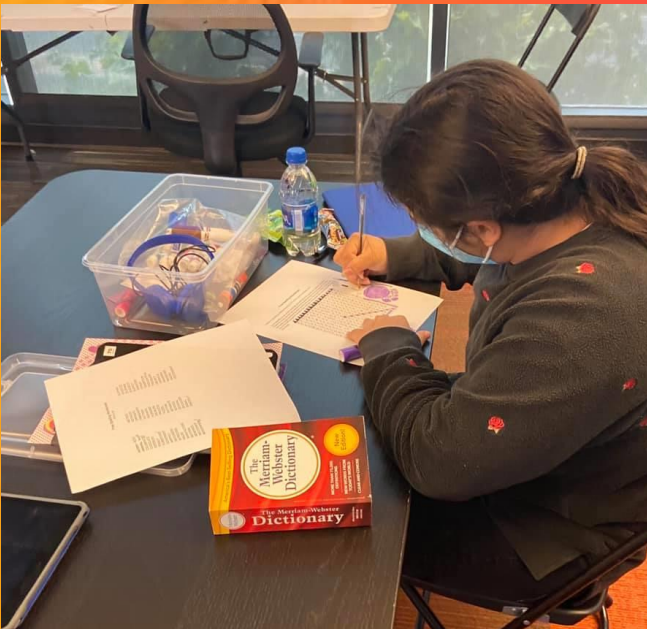
Safety Measures

- ✓ Upgraded air system filtration system to ensure optimal classroom ventilation
- ✓ Mandated COVID testing for all staff and interns; staff required to retest monthly and following high-risk activities (e.g.; traveling by plane, attending a mass gathering, etc.)
- ✓ Provided ongoing staff training on safety guidelines including proper mask wearing, hand-washing, and disinfecting protocols
- ✓ Provided parents and caregivers with information on how they can mitigate risks at home
- ✓ All sign-in/out conducted outside of the building; no one but staff and participants were allowed in the building during program hours (including parents)
- ✓ Daily health screening questions and temperature checks prior to entry
- ✓ Required everyone to wear masks inside of the building at all times; fresh surgical and/or N95 masks provided to students and staff daily
- ✓ Each class with no more than 10 people, seated at least 6 feet apart
- ✓ Assigned all students to a “pod” and limited crossover between groups
- ✓ Taught students how to properly wash hands and scheduled regular handwashing breaks throughout the day
- ✓ Participants provided with their own individual activity supply kit to limit the spread of germs
- ✓ Served all meals and snacks outdoors with social distancing maintained between participants
- ✓ Sealed off all water fountains and provided students with freshwater bottles daily
- ✓ Fridays reserved for staff prep and deep cleaning
- ✓ Hired janitorial service for daily cleanings and weekly deep cleanings



Next Iteration of Programming

To provide essential workers and high-need households with more consistent support, we are offering elementary and middle school students full day programming, four days/week (Monday-Thursday from 8:30am-5pm). During this time, students are supported in attending virtual classes and completing their assigned distance-learning schoolwork, in addition to participating in EOYDC's academic and enrichment activities.



Acknowledgements

EOYDC is tremendously grateful to the funders and donors who make it possible for us to offer free programming, to the health officials and experts who have provided critical guidance throughout the pandemic, to our staff for their hard work and dedication, and to the families that we serve for trusting us to be a part of their village.

EOYDC's Mission is Learn more about EOYDC and how you can access our services or support our work at www.eydc.org



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