

# COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT



November  
2017

Le Jardin Head Start and Early Head Start



Serving Homestead and  
Florida City, Florida

# Community Assessment

## LE JARDIN HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. (Le Jardin) has been serving low-income children and families in high need areas of southern Miami-Dade County, Florida for over 30 years. Le Jardin is a Delegate Agency of Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Division (MDC CAHSD) providing Head Start and Early Head Start services, a partner providing Early Head Start services as part of Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe's (ELCMDM) Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant, and most recently, is an Early Head Start grantee as part of the second round of EHS-CCP grants.

Per the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), Head Start and Early Head Start grantees are required to complete a community assessment at least once during their five-year grant period. This is Le Jardin's first community assessment since the agency became an Early Head Start grantee in early 2017.

Le Jardin's Head Start program, as a Delegate Agency to MDC CAHSD, is funded to serve 480 children. Services are provided across 24 classrooms in four locations. Most children served are 3 or 4-years old, are Hispanic or Latino<sup>1</sup>, and speak Spanish as their primary language at home. Over 90% are eligible for Head Start because their family's income is below the federal poverty level. There are 24 teachers and 24 assistant teachers that staff the Head Start program. Among the 24 teachers 5 have a master's degree, 16 have a bachelor's degree and 3 have an associate's and are close to completing their bachelor's degree. The racial and ethnic diversity of staff mirrors that of children and families served.

Le Jardin operates an Early Head Start program as a Delegate Agency to MDC CAHSD (32 slots), as a partner to ELCMDM under its EHS-CCP grant (32 slots), and as a grantee (144 slots). Most children are eligible to participate in Early Head Start as a result of their family's household income being at or below the federal poverty level. Le Jardin serves few pregnant mothers in its Early Head Start programs.

Le Jardin has experienced high demand for Early Head Start services, particularly among older infant and toddler age children. Many staff in the Early Head Start programs have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or state-awarded credential that meets CDA requirements, and few have obtained a bachelor's degree. The racial and ethnic diversity of staff in the Early Head Start programs aligns with Le Jardin's service area demographics.

Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs service area is zip code 33030, within the City of Homestead, and zip code 33034, within Florida City. The cities of Homestead and Florida City are within southern Miami-Dade County, Florida.

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<sup>1</sup> Nearly 70% of children served during the 2016 program year were Hispanic or Latino.

### SERVICE AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

The total population in Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start service area is 56,591. This area of the Miami suburbs is predominately agricultural. Residents are racially diverse, and many residents identify as Hispanic or Latino origin. The median age trends lower than Miami-Dade County as a whole, as does median household income.

Poverty is a significant challenge in Le Jardin's service area and there are substantial disparities in poverty rate by race as well as family composition. The overall poverty rate in Homestead (33030) is 36.2% and in Florida City (33034) it is 45.4%.

### NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEET THOSE NEEDS

There is a total of 2,457 children ages birth to five in the service area who are eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start services based their family having incomes at or below the federal poverty level. Le Jardin serves a sizable portion of eligible children in the service area, though demand remains high for Head Start and Early Head Start services. There are 640 children in Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs whose primary enrollment category is income eligible. Most of the other enrolled children are also income eligible, though their primary eligibility may be categorized otherwise (e.g., status as homeless). While Le Jardin currently serves few children who are experiencing homelessness or in foster care, in Miami-Dade County the number of these children continues to be among the highest in the state. Children and families in the service area are racially and ethnically diverse with many families immigrating to the area from Mexico and Central America.

Educational attainment in the service area is low and unemployment is higher than the county average, and the need for education, job training, and employment services is significant. There is also substantial need for these education and training services to be provided in both English and Spanish and include opportunities to grow literacy in both languages.

A high rental cost burden and severely stressed housing environments challenge families in Le Jardin's service area. Public transportation (bus) is available in the service area and many families have a vehicle. Work and training schedules vary. Families are coordinating employment, education, and child care across differing schedules and may have need for extended hours of care for their children.

Many children served by Le Jardin, particularly in the Early Head Start delegate program, have a diagnosed disability. There is a need for coordinated approaches to identifying and addressing children and families' developmental and health needs as early as possible. In the service area there is also a growing concern about drug abuse as well as under identified and unmet mental health needs.

In Miami-Dade County, The Children's Trust is a convening partner helping to advocate for and fund programs to improve the lives of children and families. Similarly, Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade brings together healthcare providers, private and for-profit agencies, cities and towns and many other entities to help combat the health challenges among county residents. Agencies such as United Way of Miami Dade work through multiple partnerships to help improve the lives of children and families across sectors.

Education, health, and social service resources are also available in the community. Higher education opportunities are available through a local college with a greater number outside the service area. Many

individuals have been able to leverage online degree programs to meet needs that may not be as accessible in the immediate community. There is also a wide range of social service agencies providing support to families. This includes homeless shelters and housing assistance, foster care support, and food assistance.

Homestead Hospital, part of Baptist Health South Florida, is the only acute-care hospital located near Le Jardin's service area. There are also two free clinics within the hospital system that serve low-income and uninsured individuals. Other service providers deliver screening, behavioral health, and other health-related services. The Le Jardin Prenatal Academy is also a growing source for support for pregnant mothers in the service area.

#### AGENCIES SERVING ELIGIBLE CHILDREN

Families with children birth to age 5 years old may access out of home care for their children through private child care facilities (licensed), family child care homes (licensed and unlicensed), pre-kindergarten programs in public school, and religious exempt facilities. As of October 2017, the total child care capacity in Le Jardin's service area is 7,332 (including school age care); 4,679 slots in Homestead (33030) and 2,653 in Florida City (33034). Among the 76 programs providing care only 7 are Head Start or Early Head Start and 26 are Gold Seal accredited, an indication of high quality services.

Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade, funded through the Department of Health, provides home visiting services in the service area. Home visitation is provided as part of the Nurse-Family Partnership, an evidence-based home visiting program provided to first-time parents.

Publicly funded prekindergarten is available in Florida for 4-year-old children. This is provided through the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK). VPK providers include public and private schools, licensed family child care providers, as well as child care centers. Among the 76 programs in the service area, 52 are VPK providers.

#### PARENT, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY INSIGHT

Parent, staff, and community input was a valuable source of information for Le Jardin's community assessment. Le Jardin conducted surveys of Head Start and Early Head Start parents and staff in October 2017.

Parents. Many parents expressed satisfaction with Le Jardin's services and indicated the program is meeting their needs. Among those that suggested improvements, later hours were indicated by 50%, followed by transportation and earlier hours. The top resource needs families indicated included: job search or training, immigration support, housing support, and education. There is a correlation with families' biggest stressors, as nearly half of respondents indicated their biggest stressor is financial.

Staff. Staff in Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs reflected on their personal perspectives as well as Head Start and Early Head Start families' needs. 63% of staff feel that professional development or training is an area where they could use more support in their professional role. Staff have great confidence that Le Jardin's programs are helping to prepare children for school. Most of Le Jardin's staff, 65%, indicated their family's biggest stressor is financial. Staff expressed concerns about workload, support in their roles, general benefits, and communication challenges. They also reflected on families' deep needs and resources necessary to address families' multiple stressors.

## Community Assessment

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Community. Le Jardin has relationships with many community partners and was able to leverage the Homestead Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment, released in fall 2016, to inform its community assessment. The report identified 6 priorities for the hospital's service area (Homestead and Florida City): access to care, availability of primary and preventative care, barriers to accessing care, chronic disease management, mental health and substance abuse, and socioeconomic challenges.

### EXPLORING MONROE COUNTY

As Le Jardin implements its programs in Homestead and Florida City, the agency continues to become aware of the growing need for high quality early childhood services both within and outside its service area. Monroe County, neighboring to the south of Miami-Dade County, is an area Le Jardin is considering for service expansion. Monroe County is not part of Le Jardin's current service area.

Monroe County has significant rural areas, particularly in the Upper Keys. In the Upper Keys, there are 630 children under age 5 years old. Approximately 14% of those children are living below the federal poverty level. While poverty rates in Monroe County trend lower than the state as a whole, families in Monroe County face other economic challenges unique to their area. Monroe County has the highest annual household survival budget for a family of four in the state, and many households are living near the brink of poverty.

In Monroe County other barriers for children and families include: a high rental cost burden, severe housing problems, and challenges accessing clinical care – particularly Medicaid services, labor and delivery, neonatal intensive care, and mental health care.

There are few early childhood programs available in the Upper Keys and even fewer high quality programs. The total capacity of Upper Keys child care programs is 476 (339 in Key Largo, 50 in Islamorada, and 87 in Plantation Key), which includes after school care. In this area there are no Head Start or Early Head Start providers, and the nearest grantee is at the southernmost point of the Keys in Key West.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Drawing from the key findings of the community assessment and input from Le Jardin administrators the following recommendations will be considered to improve the agency's Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

1. Explore new and continued strategies to enhance communication and relationship building among staff and between staff and parents.
2. Develop a robust strategy to support staff to increase their educational attainment over time.
3. Consider additional recruitment strategies to identify infants as young as possible for enrollment in the Early Head Start programs.
4. Further delve into the high rates of disabilities among children enrolled in the Early Head Start delegate program and low rate of disabilities in the Early Head Start grantee program.
5. Refine waitlist management strategies for Head Start and Early Head Start sites, considering mechanisms to grow the waitlist for Head Start sites as well manage the increasing demand for Early Head Start services.

6. Prepare a strategy for the increased number of children that will be transitioning out of Early Head Start, and leverage Le Jardin's Head Start program to continue to address these families' needs.
7. Improve the identification of and services to children experiencing homelessness or in foster care through staff training, community partnerships, and an analysis of case management.
8. Support families to access care for extended hours so that they may work or attend school.
9. Advocate for improved public transportation and additional bus stops at Le Jardin centers to help address families' transportation challenges.
10. Evaluate infrastructure challenges at Le Jardin's current Head Start and Early Head Start sites as well as the availability of acceptable facilities for quality child care programs.
11. Define and address barriers, including high staff caseloads, which lead to fewer children being up-to-date on preventative health care and age-appropriate immunizations from the beginning to the end of the enrollment year, as well as compliance with screenings within 45 days of program entry.
12. Offer enhanced, culturally appropriate, mental health services to families through new or existing partnerships, and increase awareness and screening of mental health issues among families.
13. Formalize the Le Jardin Prenatal Academy by pursuing funding to expand the program, dedicate staff to implementation, and further integrate the program with Le Jardin's Early Head Start program.
14. Refine family services through the provision of additional and/or improved services to meet families' needs related to education, job training, housing, and immigration.
15. Further explore the changing demographics of immigrant families and staff, including whether families' language needs are being met and whether program aspects (e.g., curriculum) are culturally appropriate to the population served. Modify program aspects, as needed.
16. Support continuous data analysis and program improvement by reviewing data on a regular basis to reflect about program accomplishments and needs, and identify action steps to continuously improve program services.
17. Develop a long-term strategy to improve services provided to currently enrolled children and families as well as consider the agency's ability to deepen its investments within and outside the service area.

# CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Head Start Program .....	8
Early Head Start Program.....	10
Early Head Start Delegate Program.....	10
Early Head Start Grant Program.....	11
Head Start and Early Head Start Service Area .....	12
Community Assessment.....	12
<b>METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Process and Data Collection Methods .....	13
An Eye Toward Expansion .....	14
Data Analysis: An Equity Perspective .....	14
Limitations of Le Jardin Community Assessment 2017 .....	14
<b>OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AREA .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Geographic Boundaries .....	15
County Government and Economics .....	15
Service Area Demographics.....	16
Poverty .....	16
Income and Economic Trends .....	17
Household Composition and Family Characteristics.....	17
<b>ELIGIBLE INFANTS, TODDLERS, AND PRESCHOOL CHILDREN .....</b>	<b>18</b>
Child Poverty and Geographic Location .....	18
Race and Ethnicity of Eligible Children in Poverty .....	19
Cultural Trends .....	19
Language of Eligible Children .....	20
Children Experiencing Homelessness.....	20
Children in Foster Care.....	20
Children with Disabilities .....	21
Children Receiving Public Assistance.....	22
<b>NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES .....</b>	<b>23</b>
Education .....	23
Health and Social Services .....	24
Nutrition .....	27
Social and Economic Factors Impacting Wellbeing.....	27
<b>EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING.....</b>	<b>28</b>

**AGENCIES SERVING ELIGIBLE CHILDREN ..... 30**  
    Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Programs ..... 30  
    Home Visiting..... 31  
    Publicly Funded Preschool..... 31

**RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ..... 31**

**PARENT STAFF, AND COMMUNITY INSIGHTS ..... 32**  
    Parent Input..... 32  
    Staff Input ..... 33  
    Community Input..... 34

**EXPLORING MONROE COUNTY ..... 34**

**REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 37**  
    Recommendations ..... 37

**LOOKING AHEAD ..... 40**

**APPENDIX ..... 41**  
    Appendix A – Le Jardin Community Partners ..... 41  
    Appendix B – Head Start/Early Head Start Parent Survey ..... 42  
    Appendix C – Head Start/Early Head Start Staff Survey..... 46

## INTRODUCTION



**Agency Overview** Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. (Le Jardin) has been serving low-income children and families in high need areas of southern Miami-Dade County, Florida for over 30 years. The agency’s experience administering and providing comprehensive services to children and families is unique; Le Jardin is a delegate, a partner, and a grantee. Le Jardin is a Delegate Agency of Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Division (MDC CAHSD) providing Head Start and Early Head Start services, a partner

providing Early Head Start services as part of Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe’s (ELCMDM) Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant, and most recently, became an Early Head Start grantee as part of the second round of EHS-CCP grants.

Le Jardin’s extensive expertise implementing Head Start and Early Head Start programs in southern Miami-Dade County is complemented by a deep understanding of the high need communities the agency serves. Agency

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*Le Jardin Community Center’s Mission: Enriched by the diversity of our community, Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and families.*

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leadership has worked for decades to identify and bring services to children and families with the greatest needs in the cities of Florida City and Homestead. As Le Jardin moves further into its new phase as a grantee there are many lessons being learned. The agency is increasingly considering ways to leverage its expertise and expand its reach to bring high quality services to an even greater number of children families in South Florida.

### Head Start Program

Le Jardin’s Head Start program, operated as a Delegate Agency to MDC CAHSD, is funded to serve 480 children.<sup>i</sup> Services are provided across 24 classrooms in 4 locations (Table 1), situated among the highest need neighborhoods in Homestead, Florida. Transportation is not provided for enrolled children given they attend centers in their local community.

**Table 1. Head Start Locations and Total Enrollment as of October 2017**

Center Name	Address	Funded Enrollment	Actual Enrollment	Attendance	Waitlist
Center I	320 NW 2nd St. Homestead, 33030	100	100	89.23%	8
Center II	107 SW 8th St. Homestead, 33030	220	220	86.93%	4
Center III	136 NW 12th St. Homestead, 33030	40	40	90.50%	0
Center V	104 NW 12th St. Homestead, 33030	120	120	88.76%	31
<b>Total</b>		<b>480</b>	<b>480</b>		<b>43</b>

During the 2016 program year, turnover of enrolled children was 8.8% (46 children), and among the children who left the program approximately half (20 children) were enrolled less than 45 days.<sup>ii</sup> The age of children enrolled in the Head Start program is detailed in the table that follows.

**Table 2. Age of Children (at Enrollment) in Head Start During 2016 Program Year<sup>iii</sup>**

Age	Number of Children	Percent of Total Enrollment
2 years old	17	3.3%
3 years old	236	45.2%
4 years old	269	51.5%
5 years and older	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>100%</b>

Among children enrolled during the 2016 program year, 179 children (34.3%) were enrolled in Head Start for the second year, and 9 (1.2%) for the third year. Nearly half of enrolled children (248, 47.5%) were projected to start kindergarten in the following school year.<sup>iv</sup>

Children attending the Head Start program reflect the rich diversity of southern Miami-Dade communities, as illustrated in Table 3.

**Table 3. Race and Ethnicity of Children Enrolled in Head Start During 2016 Program Year<sup>v</sup>**

Race	# Children: Hispanic or Latino Origin	# Children: Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino Origin
Asian	0	1
Black or African American	6	160
White	350	1
Biracial/Multi-racial	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>359 (68.8%)</b>	<b>163 (31.2%)</b>

Spanish is the primary language of a majority of children enrolled in the Head Start program, 60.2% (314 children) of the total 2016 enrollment. English is the second most common primary language spoken at home, 35.6% (186 children), followed by Caribbean languages (19 children), Middle Eastern and South Asian languages (1 child), East Asian languages (1 child) and other (1 child).<sup>vi</sup>

Many of the children enrolled in Head Start during the 2016 program year, 471 children (90.2%), were eligible based having a family income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level. Other children were eligible based on receipt of public assistance (e.g., TANF, SSI) (44 children, 8.4%), status as homeless (4 children, 0.8%), or over income (3 children, 0.6%).<sup>vii</sup> No child's type of primary eligibility was due to being in foster care. Le Jardin's Head Start program received a child care subsidy for 219 (42%) of the total enrolled children.<sup>viii</sup>

Family involvement is a cornerstone of the Head Start program, and parent involvement was significant during the 2016 program year. Among 838 total individuals providing volunteer services, 651 are current or former Head Start parents.<sup>ix</sup>

There are 24 teachers and 24 assistant teachers who staff the Head Start program. Among the 24 teachers 5 have a master's degree, 16 have a bachelor's degree and 3 have an associate's and are close to completing their bachelor's degree. Out of 24 teacher assistants, 11 (50.0%) have an associate's degree in early childhood education or a related field and 12 have a Preschool National Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential.<sup>x</sup>

## Community Assessment

The race and ethnicity of child development staff (Table 4) aligns with the predominant racial and ethnic makeup of enrolled children and families.

**Table 4. Race and Ethnicity of Child Development Staff<sup>xi</sup>**

Race	# Staff: Hispanic or Latino Origin	# Staff: Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino Origin
Black or African American	1	10
White	35	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>36 (75%)</b>	<b>12 (25%)</b>

Among 48 child development staff 36 (75%) are proficient in a language other than English, including 35 of whom speak Spanish and 1 of whom speaks a European and Slavic language.<sup>xii</sup> Proficiency in Spanish, in particular, aligns with the needs of children and families served given that approximately 60% of families speak Spanish as their primary language. There is a trend noted among Le Jardin leadership that an increasing number of families speak Creole or dialects that staff do not speak themselves. Since the last PIR was reported a staff member who speaks Creole has joined the agency.

## Early Head Start Program

Le Jardin operates an Early Head Start program as a Delegate Agency to MDC CAHSD (32 slots), as a partner to ELCMDM under its EHS-CCP grant (32 slots), and as a grantee (144 slots). Early Head Start enrollment, waitlist, and attendance data by center location is provided in Table 5.

**Table 5. Early Head Start Locations and Total Enrollment as of October 2017**

Center Name	Address	Funded Enrollment	Actual Enrollment	Attendance	Waitlist
Center II (Delegate)	107 SW 8th St. Homestead, 33030	32	32	81.80%	17
Center IV (EHS-CCP Partner)	177 W. Mowry Dr. Homestead, 33030	32	32	85.6%	0
Center VB (EHS Grantee)	104 NW 12th St. Homestead, 33030	80	80	85.00%	82
Center VI (EHS Grantee)	1465 N Redland Rd. Florida City, 33034	64	64	77.6%	33
<b>Total</b>		<b>208</b>	<b>208</b>		<b>132</b>

Given the implementation structure of the 32 Early Head Start slots as part of ELCMDM's EHS-CCP grant, in depth data on this subset of Le Jardin's Early Head Start programs is not available.

## Early Head Start Delegate Program

For the 2016 program year Le Jardin had a funded enrollment of 32 children in a full day center-based program option in four classrooms. Cumulative enrollment for the 2016 program year was 52 children. Transportation is not provided to children enrolled in the Early Head Start program.<sup>xiii</sup>

Turnover was 38.5% during the 2016 program year, but nearly all of the children who transitioned out (17 out of 20) aged out. The age of children served in the Early Head Start delegate program during the 2016 program year is summarized in Table 6. Le Jardin leadership reports that the highest demand for Early Head Start slots in their service area is for older infant and toddler age children with mothers not returning to work

or school when their infants are under a year. Also, single parent mothers that are unemployed and may not have an expressed need for younger infant care head many families in the Early Head Start program.

**Table 6. Age of Children Enrolled in Early Head Start (Delegate) During 2016 Program Year<sup>xiv</sup>**

Age	Number of Children	Percent of Total Enrollment
Under 1 year old	2	3.8%
1 year old	17	32.7%
2 years old	33	63.5%
Pregnant women	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100%</b>

59.6% of cumulative enrollment (31 children) were eligible based on family income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level. Nineteen children (35.5% of cumulative program enrollment) were eligible based on receipt of public assistance, while 2 children were eligible based on status as homeless. No children in the program were eligible based on primary eligibility as status of foster child or over income. The program received a child care subsidy for only 2 enrolled children during the program year.<sup>xv</sup>

The racial and ethnic diversity of children enrolled in the Early Head Start program is summarized below. The primary language of families at home is approximately half English and half Spanish. One family spoke a non-specified language at home.<sup>xvi</sup>

**Table 7. Ethnicity and Race of Children Enrolled in Early Head Start During 2016 Program Year<sup>xvii</sup>**

Ethnicity and Race	Number of Enrolled Children	Percent of Total Enrollment
White, Hispanic or Latino Origin	30	57.7%
Black or African American, Non-Hispanic Non-Latino Origin	22	42.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the eight Early Head Start classroom teachers, all eight have an Infant/Toddler National CDA Credential.<sup>xviii</sup> Half of the teaching staff are also enrolled in an early childhood associate's degree program. 75% of teaching staff are White and Hispanic or Latino origin. One teacher is White, non-Hispanic or non-Latino, and one teacher is Black or African American, non-Hispanic or non-Latino. Seventy-five percent of teaching staff are proficient in Spanish in addition to English. Turnover among teachers was low in Early Head Start, with only one teacher who left during the 2016 program year.<sup>xix</sup>

### Early Head Start Grant Program

Le Jardin's Early Head Start program grew in 2017 with the addition of 144 slots when the agency was awarded an Early Head Start grant. Since the first enrollment year for these slots was 2017, 2016 program year PIR data is not available. Rather, limited 2017 PIR data to date (as of October 2017) is provided.<sup>xx</sup>

Le Jardin's Early Head Start grant program is funded for 144 slots across 18 classrooms in 2 centers. The program operates year-round, 5-days per week and for 10-hour days. Transportation is not provided in the program. The age and number of children and pregnant women served are summarized in Table 8. <sup>xxi</sup>

## Community Assessment

**Table 8. Age and Number of Children and Pregnant Women Enrolled in Early Head Start During 2017 Program Year<sup>xxii</sup>**

Age	Number of Children	Percent of Total Enrollment
Under 1 year old	13	8.9%
1 year old	54	37.0%
2 years old	77	52.7%
Pregnant women	2	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100%</b>

Nearly all children, 95.8%, enrolled in Early Head Start are eligible based on family income while the remaining 4.2% are eligible based on receipt of public assistance. The program has served 1 family experiencing homelessness so far during the program year, although the child's primary eligibility was characterized otherwise. To date, the program has not served any children in foster care.<sup>xxiii</sup>

The racial and ethnic diversity of children enrolled in the Early Head Start program is summarized below. The primary language spoken is English (45.9%) or Spanish (54.1%).<sup>xxiv</sup> Ethnicity and race of enrolled children is described in Table 9.

**Table 9. Ethnicity and Race of Children Enrolled in Early Head Start During 2016 Program Year<sup>xxv</sup>**

Race	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic
Black or African American	2.0%	21.4%
White	71.0%	4.1%
Biracial/Multi-racial	1.4%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>74.5%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>

There are 40 teachers staffing the Early Head Start classrooms. Among teachers, 17 (42.5%) have an Infant/Toddler National CDA Credential. The remaining 20 teachers have an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or CDA not specific to infants/toddlers. Staff who do not have an Infant/Toddler National CDA Credential are enrolled in a program to acquire the credential or will begin in December 2017.<sup>xxvi</sup> A majority of teaching staff, 97%, identify as White and Hispanic or Latino. Additionally, nearly all staff are proficient in both English and Spanish.<sup>xxvii</sup>

## Head Start and Early Head Start Service Area

Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs serve children and families in Homestead and Florida City, within southern Miami-Dade County, Florida. These cities are located between Biscayne National Park to the east and Everglades National Park to the west, sitting approximately 40 miles southwest of Miami. Service area zip codes are 33030 (Homestead) and 33034 (Florida City). This area is primarily agricultural.

## Community Assessment

This 2017 community assessment is the first conducted by Le Jardin as an Early Head Start grantee. As a Delegate Agency to MDC CAHSD for nearly 30 years and recent partner with ELCMDM, Le Jardin has not previously been required to conduct its own community assessment. The 2016 MDC CAHSD needs assessment, to which Le Jardin's services and communities contributed, provided valuable context for Le Jardin's Early Head Start application. The continued high demand for services in Florida City (33034) and Homestead (33030) experienced by Le Jardin, and backed by data in MDC CAHSD's community assessment, provided substantial impetus for Le Jardin's successful Early Head Start application.

## METHODOLOGY



### Head Start Program Performance Standards

Community assessment is a central aspect to any Head Start or Early Head Start program, serving as a tool for program planning and implementation. The recently revised Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), Section 1302.11, *Determining community strengths, needs and resources*, requires that programs complete a community assessment once during each five-year grant period and must review and update the community assessment annually.<sup>xxviii</sup> The Le Jardin Community Assessment 2017 provides data and information to describe the strengths, needs, and resources of its Head Start and Early Head Start programs and service area. Data from the community assessment will be used by the agency, in collaboration with the Governing Board and Policy Council, to determine goals and objectives for the program in the immediate and longer-term. Per the HSPPS, Section 1302.11<sup>xxix</sup>, required data presented in the Community Assessment 2017 includes:

- 1) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:
  - a) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A));
  - b) Children in foster care;
  - c) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;
- 2) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;
- 3) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- 4) Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;
- 5) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and, Strengths of the community.

### Process and Data Collection Methods

The Le Jardin Community Assessment 2017 was conducted in fall 2017 under the leadership of Eduardo Berrones, Executive Director, and leadership staff. Le Jardin contracted with Foundations for Families, a consulting, training, and technical assistance company, to conduct the community assessment with input and guidance from Le Jardin leadership team members.

Data collection methods included:

- Review of program operations, challenges and observed trends with agency staff;
- Program-level data from the Head Start and Early Head Start programs;
- Needs assessments and reports shared by community partners;
- Information gathered from publicly available data sources (e.g., U.S. Census, state departments, federal agencies); and
- Recent data from surveys of Head Start/Early Head Start staff and families.

## **An Eye Toward Expansion**

One of the goals of Le Jardin's Community Assessment is not only to examine the service area and families it currently serves, but also to explore widening its reach to high need neighboring communities.

There are many benefits of children participating in Head Start programs. The effects of participation are strongest among certain populations of children, including Hispanic children and dual language learners.<sup>xxx</sup> Early Head Start has been shown to have positive impacts on children's cognitive, language, and social-emotional development.<sup>xxxi</sup> A 2010 Head Start Impact Study found that participation in Head Start positively impacted children's school readiness.<sup>xxxii</sup> The benefits of participation in Early Head Start and Head Start extend well into an individual's life, with positive trends related to areas such as high school graduation, college attendance, health and employment.<sup>xxxiii</sup> It is for these reasons that Le Jardin is excited to explore serving a greater number of children and families within its current high need service area.

Recognizing substantial need for services outside of the existing service area, Le Jardin is also gathering data on Monroe County, which sits to the south of Miami-Dade County. This county is much smaller, covering a land area of roughly 983 square miles, and has a far fewer population per square mile at 74.3. Monroe County has significant rural areas, particularly in the Upper Keys<sup>xxxiv</sup>, and areas of high need. There are not any Early Head Start programs in the county, and just one Head Start program in Key West at the southern point of the Florida Keys. Monroe County data and particularly that of the Upper Keys, closest to Le Jardin's current service area, is presented in the report as part of exploratory data gathering. Since Monroe County is outside Le Jardin's service area, communication with the Office of Head Start (OHS) Regional Office would be necessary for such an expansion to be considered.

## **Data Analysis: An Equity Perspective**

When conducting Le Jardin's Community Assessment data was analyzed from an equity perspective to determine if there are certain types of families that are accessing or benefiting from Head Start/Early Head Start more than other families. In doing so, Foundations for Families explored layers of data to uncover disparities among subgroups within the service area and amongst children and families served. By taking the additional step to identify disparities Le Jardin will be able to target its strategies to address the most pressing service area needs through its Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This is a method to continuously improve program implementation while monitoring specific data for trends indicating whether outcomes are improving for the children and families most in need.

## **Limitations of Le Jardin Community Assessment 2017**

As a recently awarded Early Head Start grantee, Le Jardin does not have a prior community assessment of its own with which to compare data, trends, and progress. However, being in the unique position of having provided Head Start and Early Head Start services for many years as a Delegate Agency, Le Jardin is both familiar with and has been committed to documenting trends and modifying program services as appropriate.

Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start service area – zip codes 33030 (Homestead) and 33034 (Florida City) – encompass only part of the cities, and an even smaller portion of Miami-Dade County. When possible, zip code data was obtained to present the most accurate picture of children, families, and resources in the service area. Given that zip code level data is not always available, city data from Homestead and Florida City was often obtained. Miami-Dade County data is also included, where appropriate, to help present the clearest picture Le Jardin's service area.

Given the timing of the community assessment and implementation of Le Jardin’s Early Head Start grant, complete Program Information Report (PIR) data for the Early Head Start grant program was not available. Limited PIR data to date from the 2017 program year is described. PIR data was a critical resource for the Head Start (delegate) and Early Head Start (delegate) programs. PIR data was not available for Le Jardin’s 32 Early Head Start Partnership slots it serves as part of ELCMDM’s EHS-CCP grant. Other sources were leveraged to provide comparable data, when possible.

## OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AREA



### Geographic Boundaries

Miami-Dade County encompasses 1,897 square miles, while Florida City and Homestead total approximately 20 square miles (Florida City - 5.95 sq. mi., Homestead – 15.14 sq. mi.) within the county. The service area is more densely populated than the county as a whole, however. The population per square mile in Florida City is 1,888.6 and Homestead is 3,996.8, while countywide the population per square mile is 1,315.5.<sup>xxxv</sup>

The service area includes many families living at or near poverty, and particularly notable is that in the most populous service area zip code (Florida City, 33034) 78% of the population is living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

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*In Florida City, 78% of the population is living at or below 200% of poverty.*

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### County Government and Economics

Miami-Dade County operates as a two-tier system of governance. The County provides significant services across the county (e.g., traffic engineering, airport/seaport). It also provides additional city-like services to unincorporated areas (defined as those outside of cities). However, both Homestead and Florida City are municipalities (incorporated cities) in Florida. Therefore, these cities provide their own police and fire support, planning, zoning, and other significant aspects of city operation.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

United States Census data reports that the primary industries in Florida City are 1) arts, entertainment, retail trade, and recreation, and accommodation and food services; 2) retail trade, and 3) educational services, and health care and social assistance. In Homestead, industry is similar, but with a greater focus on 1) educational services, and health care and social assistance, followed by 2) professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services, and 3) retail trade.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

Southern Miami-Dade County, which includes Homestead and Florida City, has experienced significant growth in infrastructure and business over the past decade. The service area is rich with diverse culture, and is home to many recent immigrants. Sitting near to Everglades National Park and Biscayne National Park, service area cities have also seen growing tourism in recent years.

## Service Area Demographics

### Population

The total population in Le Jardin’s Head Start and Early Head Start service area is 56,591. Table 10 displays the total population by geographic area (service area zip codes and the county as a whole) and by racial composition.

**Table 10. Population (and Percent of Population) by Geographic Area and Race<sup>xxix</sup>**

Race	33030 (Homestead)	33034 (Florida City)	Miami-Dade County
White	27,135 (78.3%)	13,143 (59.9%)	1,999,090 (75.8%)
Black or African American	5,642 (16.3%)	7,748 (35.3%)	491,978 (18.6%)
American Indian and Alaskan Native	251 (0.7%)	82 (0.4%)	4,001 (0.2%)
Asian	350 (1.0%)	162 (0.7%)	41,871 (1.6%)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	612 (0.0%)
Some other race	656 (1.9%)	487 (2.2%)	64,010 (2.4%)
Two or more races	611 (1.8%)	324 (1.5%)	37,480 (1.4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,645 (100%)</b>	<b>21,946 (100%)</b>	<b>2,639,042 (100%)</b>

The population in Homestead (33030) has risen gradually over recent past years, increasing by 7.5% from 2011-2015. Opposite to the overall trend of an increase in population, the population of children age 5 years old and younger fell by 16.3%. In Florida City (33034), however, the population is on a steady decline. Since 2011 the population in zip code 33034 has decreased by 25%. Despite the decline in overall population in 33034, the number of children under the age of 5 in the zip code grew by 16.1% from 2011-2015.<sup>xi</sup>

Florida City residents are predominately White, and there is also a more substantial population of Black or African American individuals.<sup>xii</sup> Racial and ethnic diversity in Homestead aligns closely with Miami-Dade County, with a significant portion of the population identifying as White and Hispanic or Latino origin (Table 11).

**Table 11. Hispanic or Latino Origin by Geographic Area<sup>xlii</sup>**

Ethnicity	33030 (Homestead)	33034 (Florida City)	Miami-Dade County
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	68.4%	48.8%	65.6%
Not Hispanic or Latino	31.6%	51.2%	34.4%

The population in Homestead and Florida City service area zip codes tends to be younger than Miami-Dade County or the state, as a whole. Median age in Florida City (33034) is 32.7 years and median age in Homestead (33030) is 31.0 years, much lower than 39.0 years in Miami-Dade County and 40.7 years in the state of Florida. The service area is also more diverse with a percent of foreign-born residents higher than the state average. Thirty-two percent of residents in Florida City (33034) were foreign born, and 38.6% in Homestead (33030). This is significantly higher than the state (19.7%).<sup>xliii</sup>

### Poverty

The poverty rate in service area zip codes compared to Miami-Dade County and Florida, as a whole, is provided in the table that follows.

**Table 12. Poverty Rate by Geographic Area and Year<sup>xliv</sup>**

Geographic Area	2012	2013	2014	2015
33030 (Homestead)	34.6%	35.4%	39.3%	36.2%
33034 (Florida City)	43.9%	46.3%	44.6%	45.4%
Miami-Dade County	19.1%	19.9%	20.5%	20.4%
Florida	15.6%	16.3%	16.7%	16.5%

In the service area there are substantial disparities in poverty rate by race as well as family composition. For example, in zip code 33034 (Florida City) the poverty rate among White individuals is 34.9%. It is 52.9% for Black or African American individuals. Further, there is a correlation between the number of a householder's children in the home and poverty rate. In zip code 33034 the poverty rate is 19.6% for a family without children. It then rises to 54% when the householder has 1 to 2 children, and the poverty rate climbs to 82.4% for families with 5 or more children of the householder. Similar trends follow in zip code 33030 (Homestead). Additionally, in 33030 (Homestead) the poverty rate among individuals with less educational attainment is significantly higher. The poverty rate for individuals with less than high school graduation is 52.8%, while it is only 4.5% for those with a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>xlv</sup>

## Income and Economic Trends

Median household income trends are described in Table 13. Miami-Dade County median income is less than the state, as a whole, while zip codes within the service area are even significantly less.

**Table 13. Median Household Income by Geographic Area<sup>xlvi</sup>**

Geographic Area	Median Household Income <sup>xlvii</sup>
Florida	\$47,507
Miami-Dade County	\$43,129
Homestead	\$40,959
33030	\$30,695
Florida City	\$25,840
33034	\$28,800

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in Miami-Dade County in August 2017 was 4.8%, down from 5.6% at the same time in the year prior.<sup>xlviii</sup> However, the unemployment rate in the service area trends much higher. In 2015, U.S. Census data reports the annual unemployment rate in Homestead (33030) was 14.7%, and in Florida City (33034) it was 21.1%.<sup>xlix</sup>

Residents in Homestead (33030) are employed in a variety of industries, though the most common are 1) agriculture, fishing and hunting, and mining, 2) education services, and health care and 3) social assistance.<sup>2</sup> While residents of Florida City (33034) are employed in similar industries, the three most prominent in this part of the service area are educational services and healthcare and social assistance; retail trade; and arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services.<sup>1</sup>

## Household Composition and Family Characteristics

In the service area many occupied housing units are family households (71.4% in 33030 and 79.6% in 33034), and a significant portion of family households are headed by a female householder with no husband present. In Florida City (33034) this is 32% of family households. While Homestead (33030) also has a

<sup>2</sup> Data reported is U.S. Census Bureau categories for industries.

sizeable percent of households headed by a female householder with no husband present, 16.6%, there is also a sizeable percent of homes headed by a male householder with no wife present, 10.1%.<sup>ii</sup>

Household size varies, though a substantial percent of occupied housing units are 4-person-or-more households (37.8% in 33030 and 40.5% in 33034). Compared to Miami-Dade County, where 25.9% of individuals live in 4-person-or-more households, and the state of Florida, 19.2%, individuals in the service area tend to more frequently reside in a home with a large household size.<sup>iii</sup>

## ELIGIBLE INFANTS, TODDLERS, AND PRESCHOOL CHILDREN



To be eligible to participate in Head Start or Early Head Start children must meet the age requirement of 0-2 years old for Early Head Start or 3-5 years old for Head Start. Children are eligible to receive services if they meet one or more of the eligibility requirements: their family has an income at or below the federal poverty level, the family is eligible for public assistance (e.g., TANF), the child is homeless, or the child is in foster care. Table 14 provides

estimated numbers of eligible children by primary eligibility type as compared to the current number of children served by Le Jardin’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Primary eligibility captures only one factor by which a child is eligible for services and many children have needs that fall into multiple categories.

**Table 14. Estimated Number of Children in the Service Area Eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start Services and Number Currently Served by Agency<sup>3</sup>**

Eligibility Criteria	Total Number Eligible of Children	Number of Cumulative Children Served by Le Jardin HS/EHS by Primary Eligibility Category <sup>4</sup>
Income-eligible	2,457	640
Children experiencing homelessness	Data unavailable	6
Children in foster care	>50	0
Children with disabilities	435	0
Children receiving public assistance	3,602	71
Over income	-	3
Enrollees exceeding the allowed over income enrollment	-	0

## Child Poverty and Geographic Location

There is a total of 2,457 children in the service area who are eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start services based their family having incomes at or below the federal poverty level, and further described in Table 15.

<sup>3</sup> Sources for estimates within each of the eligibility areas are described in the detailed sections that follow.

<sup>4</sup> Data does not include Le Jardin’s 32 Early Head Start Partnership slots. Data includes 2016 program year data for the Head Start and Early Head Start delegate programs, as well as 2017 program year data to date for the Early Head Start grant program. Data reflect primary eligibility for enrolled children, though children may be eligible based on other factors as well (e.g. Le Jardin serves many children who are income eligible who also have a diagnosed disability).

**Table 15. Number of Children Under 5 Years Old Living Below the Federal Poverty Level by Zip Code**

Zip Code	Total Number of Children < 5 Years Old	Number of Children <5 Years Old Below Poverty Level	Poverty Rate of Children <5 Years Old
33030	2,785	1,429	51.3%
33034	1,561	1,028	65.9%
Total	4,346	2,457	56.5%

The high rate of child poverty in the service area creates additional challenges for families, as the effects of concentrated poverty are profound. Families who are already burdened by low-incomes face the challenges of living in neighborhoods often with elevated crime, poorer performing schools and a host of other barriers making it more challenging to increase the family's income and wellbeing.<sup>liii</sup>

## Race and Ethnicity of Eligible Children in Poverty

Data on the precise number of young children living in poverty by race is not readily available. The tables that follows illustrates the percent of individuals in each service area zip code – by race and ethnicity – that live below the federal poverty level.

**Table 16. Percent of Individuals Below Poverty Level by Race and Zip Code<sup>liv</sup>**

Race	33030	33034
White	33.5%	40.1%
Black or African American	47.5%	56.9%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	73.7%	9.1%
Asian	7.1%	71.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	-	-
Some other race	41.0%	11.9%
Two or more races	49.8%	47.2%

**Table 17. Percent of Individuals Below Poverty Level by Ethnicity and Zip Code<sup>lv</sup>**

Ethnicity	33030	33034
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	39.5%	40.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	8.9%	32.2%

## Cultural Trends

The state of Florida and Miami-Dade County, in particular, is becoming increasingly culturally and linguistically diverse. In federal fiscal year 2016, a total of over 41,000 new entrants (refugees, entrants and asylees) settled in Miami-Dade County. This number has doubled in the past 5 years. Additionally, 71% of refugees settling in Florida did so in Miami-Dade County. A vast majority of these individuals arrived from Cuba, followed by individuals from Haiti, Columbia and Syria among others. By comparison, the county in Florida where the second most number of new entrants settled was Hillsborough County at approximately 5,000 individuals.<sup>lvi</sup>

Le Jardin administrators have also observed immigration trends in the service area. In past years many families immigrated from Mexico and Central America, while more recently there have been increasing numbers of families from Cuba and Venezuela. New staff hires in the Head Start and Early Head Start programs reflect these patterns as well, with many individuals from Cuba and Columbia joining the staff.

Southern Miami-Dade County has also experienced growth and an increasingly diverse community of residents as a result of business development and housing affordability. Where residents may get priced out of neighborhoods in the Miami area, they are able to move south in the county to more affordable communities that are growing. Additionally, with the recent devastation in Puerto Rico by Hurricane Maria it is anticipated that there may be a substantial influx of individuals fleeing to southern mainland Florida.

### Language of Eligible Children

In Le Jardin’s Head Start and Early Head Start service area a substantial portion of individuals speak a language other than English. In fact, in Homestead (33030) 63.7% of the population over the age of 5 years old speaks a language other than English, and in Florida City (33034) it is 55.5%.<sup>lvii</sup> Table 18 describes the percent of the population over the age of 5 years old that speak a specific language.

**Table 18. Language Spoken by Population Age 5 Years and Older by Zip Code<sup>lviii</sup>**

Zip Code	English	Spanish	Other Indo-European Languages	Asian and Pacific Island Languages	Other Languages
33030	36.3%	60.8%	2.7%	0.3%	0.0%
33034	44.5%	45.3%	8.7%	0.7%	0.8%

Le Jardin’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs are largely reflective of these patterns in the general population.

### Children Experiencing Homelessness

Every year the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust conducts a point in time census of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals. In the South Dade area of Miami-Dade County (which encompasses Le Jardin’s service area) there was a 75% increase in the number of unsheltered homeless individuals from the 2016 to 2017 point-in-time count.<sup>lix</sup> The number of sheltered homeless individuals at the same point-in-time was 2,839 for the entire county, down slightly from the previous year.

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*There was a 75% increase in the number of unsheltered individuals in the South Dade area of Miami-Dade County from 2016 to 2017.*

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During the 2016 program year there were 2 children served in the Early Head Start delegate program and 4 in the Head Start program that that were eligible for services based on status as homeless. Le Jardin staff have observed an increase in unsheltered individuals in communities served, though staff reflect that the agency tends to serve sheltered families who are homeless. In cases where, for example, multiple families are living in one house, a child’s status as experiencing homelessness might not be accurately counted.

### Children in Foster Care

In Miami-Dade County, 3,564 children received foster care services from October 2015 to September 2016. This is the third highest number among Florida counties. Nearly half of the children that were discharged during that same time period were reunified with their family (47%), followed by adoption (25%), and

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*In Miami-Dade County, 3,564 children received foster care services from October 2015 to September 2016. This is the third highest number among Florida counties.*

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guardianship (19%). Public data is not readily available on the geographic distribution within the county of children receiving foster care services.<sup>lx</sup>

Below (Table 19), estimates for the number of children receiving foster care services by zip code are illustrated. Estimates are derived from zip code level U.S. Census data (2015) on the number of children under the age of 18 years old, percent of children under age 6 years old, and the percent of children whose relationship to the householder is foster child or another unrelated child.

**Table 19. Estimated Number of Children Under the Age of Six Years Old Living in Foster Care Homes by Zip Code**

Zip Code	Number of Children
33030	50
33034	Census data unavailable
Total	50

During the 2016 program year in Le Jardin's delegate Head Start and Early Head Start programs the agency did not serve any children who were in foster care, nor has the Early Head Start grant program to date in the 2017 program year. A small number of children in the delegate programs were referred to the program by a child welfare agency, although those children did not receive foster care services during the program year. Le Jardin administrators report this as an area for improvement; enhancing case management to be able to identify, document, and support children in foster care and their families.

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*During the 2016 program year in Le Jardin's delegate Head Start and Early Head Start programs the agency did not serve any children who were in foster care, nor has the Early Head Start grant program to date in the 2017 program year.*

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## Children with Disabilities

Florida Early Steps, under the umbrella of Children's Medical Services, manages the statewide early intervention program (IDEA Part C). Early Steps serves children birth to age 3 who have significant delays or a condition that may likely result in a developmental delay.<sup>lxi</sup> The Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services administers Part B funding for special education services for preschool age children (children ages 3 to 5 years) through the Florida Diagnostics and Learning Resource System (FDLRS).

The Florida Department of Education 2017 LEA Profile for Miami-Dade County Public Schools reports that 10% of district students (beginning with prekindergarten) have a diagnosed disability.<sup>lxii</sup> Applying this percentage to the number of children under the age of 5 years old in the service area (4,346), there is an estimated 435 children with disabilities in the service area (though there may be an even greater number of children with a disability who have gone undiagnosed).

During the 2016 program year there were 48 children in Le Jardin's Head Start program who had an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This is 9.2% of the total enrollment for the program year. The most commonly diagnosed disability was non-categorical/developmental delay (33 children), followed by speech or language impairments (13) and autism (2).<sup>lxiii</sup>

## Community Assessment

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In the delegate Early Head Start program during the 2016 program year, over 55% of total enrolled children (29 out of 52) had an IFSP. Most of those children, 26 out of 29, were determined eligible for early intervention services prior to the program enrollment year. Additionally, it is reported that while 31 children were newly enrolled in the Early Head Start program since the prior year's PIR was reported, only 10 of those children had required screenings completed within 45 days.<sup>lxiv</sup>

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*In the delegate Early Head Start program during the 2016 program year, over 55% of total enrolled children had an IFSP.*

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Among the 144 children currently enrolled in the Early Head Start grant program during the 2017 program year, 8 children have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for an identified disability (5.56% of total enrollment). All 8 were determined to be eligible for early intervention prior to enrollment in the program.<sup>lxv</sup>

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*In the Early Head Start grant program during the 2017 program year, 5.56% of total enrollment had an IFSP.*

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## Children Receiving Public Assistance

Many families of children in Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs receive one or more types of federal or other assistance, as described in Table 20.

**Table 20. Number and Percent of Families Served at the End of the 2016 Program Year That Received Federal or Other Assistance**

	TANF	SSI	WIC	SNAP
Early Head Start (Delegate)	0	20 (42%)	47 (98%)	47 (98%)
Head Start (Delegate)	5 (1.0%)	52 (10.7%)	138 (28.3%)	308 (63.2%)

In Le Jardin's delegate Early Head Start program all but one family, 98% of total enrollment in the 2016 program year, received services under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

In Miami-Dade County, 38.9% of children under the age of 18 live in households receiving public assistance (SSI, cash public assistance income, or food stamp/SNAP benefits) in the past 12 months. The rate is much higher, 58.3%, in homes where there is a female householder with no husband present. The rate is also higher in Homestead (33030) where 59.3% of children under the age of 18 live in households receiving public assistance.<sup>lxvi</sup> Table 21 estimates the number of children living in households receiving public assistance in the service area.

**Table 21. Children Under the Age of 6 Living in Households Receiving Public Assistance by Zip Code<sup>lxvii5</sup>**

Zip Code	Number of Children
33030	2,102
33034	1,500 <sup>6</sup>
Total	3,602

## NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



The needs of children and families in Le Jardin's service area are significant. With significantly high rates of poverty and the challenges associated with moving to self-sufficiency in communities with limited resources and education and training opportunities, the need for Early Head Start and Head Start services is substantial.

### Education

In Miami-Dade County, 80.1% of the population ages 25 and over are a high school graduate or higher. The rate of bachelor's degree or higher for the same population is 26.9%. Table 22, below, further describes education attainment by race.<sup>lxviii</sup>

**Table 22. Education Attainment, High School Graduation, and Bachelor's Degree (Ages 25 and over) by Race in Miami-Dade County<sup>lxix</sup>**

Race	Rate of High School Graduate or Higher	Rate of Bachelor's Degree or Higher
White alone	80.9%	29.0%
Black alone	76.7%	15.2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native alone	70.3%	20.5%
Asian alone	86.5%	51.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	94.3%	6.8%
Some other race alone	75.4%	23.9%
Two or more races	79.7%	28.2%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	77.4%	24.1%
All races and ethnicities	80.1%	26.9%

Le Jardin has experienced challenges recruiting staff that hold a bachelor's degree, and this could be due, in part, to even lower rates of educational attainment in the service area. The rate of bachelor's degree or

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*The rate of bachelor's degree or higher in Florida City is 4.7%.*

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<sup>5</sup> Derived from U.S. Census data on the population of children under the age of 6 years old and percent of the population under the age of 18 years old living in a household receiving public assistance in the last 12 months.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census data necessary to derive this number is not available. An estimate was made proportionate to zip code 33030 and the number of children living in poverty in 33034.

## Community Assessment

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higher in Homestead is 16.3%, and in Florida City only 4.7%.<sup>lxx</sup> The table that follows describes educational attainment of families served by Le Jardin’s programs.

**Table 23. Educational Attainment of Families Served by Le Jardin by Program Type (highest level of education obtained by parent(s)/guardian(s))**

	Less than a high school degree	High school graduate or GED	Associates degree, vocational school or some college	Advanced degree or bachelor’s degree
Early Head Start (Delegate)	45.8%	31.6%	20.8%	2.0%
Head Start (Delegate)	58.3%	23.8%	15.2%	2.7%

## Health and Social Services

The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ranks communities across many health and wellness factors. According to the most recent rankings Miami-Dade County ranks last (67) among counties in the state for physical environment quality. This includes factors such as air pollution, drinking water violations, and severe housing problems. The rate of violent crime in the county is also significantly higher than the state average.<sup>lxxi</sup> Other health and social service related factors contributing to resource needs in the service areas are discussed below.

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*Miami-Dade County ranks last in the state for physical environment quality – air pollution, drinking water violations, and severe housing problems.*

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### Drug Abuse

According to a 2017 Miami-Dade County Opioid Addiction Task Force report, the county has seen a significant spike in heroin use and overdose deaths consistent with a growing national concern about the opioid epidemic. In Miami-Dade County there has been a spike in heroin hospitalizations in the past five years. The number of opioid-related deaths by year has also grown significantly. During 2005-2015 opioid-related deaths trended at about 100 deaths per year; in 2016 that number jumped to 229.<sup>lxxii</sup>

Recent surveys of Head Start and Early Head Start staff and parents – discussed further in the sections that follow – did not identify drug treatment as a resource most needed by families. However, as reported in the Homestead Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment (2016), data gathered through a community consumer focus group identified substance abuse (and mental health) as a “widely recognized” issue in service area communities. It was also noted that there is very little support for community residents in need of these services.<sup>lxxiii</sup> Le Jardin administrators also report having observed increases in drug abuse issues in the service area.

### Healthcare and Clinical Care

Insurance and Access to Healthcare. In Le Jardin’s Head Start program most enrolled children had health insurance during the 2016 program year (500 children, 95.8%) and nearly all of those children received their health insurance through Medicaid and/or CHIP. There were 22 children who did not have health insurance.<sup>lxxiv</sup> In the Early Head Start delegate program, all of the 52 children enrolled during the 2016 program year had health insurance, mostly through Medicaid and/or CHIP and with one child accessing

private insurance.<sup>lxxv</sup> To date in the 2017 program year in the Early Head Start grant program the percent of children without any health insurance is higher than the delegate programs, with 12.5% of enrolled children without coverage.<sup>lxxvi</sup>

Although most enrolled children have access to health insurance, lack of insurance and underinsurance were identified in the Homestead Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment (2016) as a barrier to access to good healthcare in the service area. This is coupled with mistrust of the medical system and immigration concerns. The Homestead Hospital report identifies challenges providing care for undocumented immigrants, of which there is a very high rate in South Florida.<sup>lxxvii</sup>

There are other factors in the service area that limit access to care, including cultural and language barriers, limited numbers of practices accepting Medicaid, and few nighttime and weekend office hours, as well as lack of transportation. Compounding these concerns is a shortage of healthcare providers in the service area. In fact, the Homestead Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment (2016) reports that the Human Resources and Services Administration designated Homestead a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).<sup>lxxviii</sup>

Preventative and Primary Health Care and Immunizations. While a majority of the children in Le Jardin's Head Start program are up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary health care (according to Florida's EPSDT schedule), the number fell when looking at the number of children at enrollment (476) and the number at the end of the enrollment year (428). Similarly, the number of children who are determined to be up-to-date on age-appropriate immunizations also fell from the time of enrollment and the end of the enrollment year. At enrollment, 11 out of 508 children (2.2%) were determined to have not received all age-appropriate immunizations, and that number grew to 67 out of 453 (14.8%) at the end of the enrollment year. Alternatively, improvements were seen in the number of children with access to continuous dental care, with 441 children having access at enrollment, and 496 at the end of the program year.<sup>lxxix</sup>

The number of children in the Early Head Start delegate program who are up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary health care (according to Florida's EPSDT schedule) was high, 50 out of 52 children. Unlike the Head Start program, in the Early Head Start program the number of children who are determined to be up-to-date on age-appropriate immunizations remained steady from enrollment to the end of the enrollment year. Continuous access to dental care was also high in the Early Head Start program, also at 50 out of 52 total enrolled children.<sup>lxxx</sup>

In Miami-Dade County, in 2016 the rate of kindergarteners who received required immunizations was 91.6%. This rate has been steady over the last five years.<sup>lxxxi</sup>

Child obesity. In the Head Start program, nearly 40% of children enrolled during the 2016 program year were overweight or obese (25% obese and 15% overweight), according to the 2000 CDC BMI age-for-growth charts.<sup>lxxxii</sup> These rates trend higher than the state data, where 13.4% of low-income children ages 2 to 5 years old are obese and 14.8% of low-income children ages 2 to 5 years old are overweight.<sup>lxxxiii</sup> The Head Start program statistics align with a national trend indicating racial disparities between Latino and White children. Nationally, 16.7% of Latino children are obese, as compared to 3.5% of White children.<sup>lxxxiv</sup>

Chronic Diseases. Diabetes has become a significant growing concern among healthcare providers in South Florida. While the percent of adults in Miami-Dade County is consistent with the national average (8.1%), there is substantial variability among Miami-Dade zip codes for the rate of hospitalization for diabetes. In Florida City (33034), the rate of hospital visits associated with diabetes is 49.9 per 10,000 residents, and in

Homestead (33030) it was 39.8 per 10,000 residents. The rate for Miami-Dade County is 25.3, putting the service area significantly higher than the county.<sup>lxxxv</sup>

**Child Health and Wellbeing**

Child Abuse. Miami Matters reports a child abuse rate in Miami-Dade County that is significantly lower than the rate for Florida, 434.4 cases per 1,000 versus 901.3 cases.<sup>lxxxvi</sup> It has been noted, however, that the rates of reporting child abuse and domestic violence may be lower in communities with high concentrations of immigrant families. This could be due to “cultural, economic, legal and practical factors,” which may prevent immigrant families from reporting or avoiding contact with government or law enforcement.<sup>lxxxvii</sup>

Infant Mortality. The table that follows describes the infant mortality rate in Miami-Dade County.

**Table 24. Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000) by County and Year<sup>lxxxviii</sup>**

County	2013	2014	2015
Miami-Dade	4.4	4.5	4.8

In Miami-Dade County the infant mortality rate is disproportionately higher among Black infants, at 8.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. The rate for Hispanic infants and White infants is lower than the county average, at 3.7 and 3.4 respectively.<sup>lxxxix</sup>

Teen Pregnancy. The teen birth rate (ages 15-19 years old) per 1,000 individuals in Miami-Dade County was 15.3 in 2015, trending less than the state value of 20.3. The rate has fallen gradually in recent years, however concerning trends arise when analyzing teen birth rate by race and ethnicity. The teen pregnancy rate among Black teens during the same time period is substantially higher, at 27.1 per 1,000 females aged 15-19.<sup>xc</sup>

Teen mothers are at a higher risk for delivering a baby that is low birth-weight (defined as weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces). Other risk factors include race, as African American babies are twice as likely than White babies to have a low birth weight), multiple births and mother’s health.<sup>xcii</sup> Adequate prenatal care is critical to help mothers achieve a healthy pregnancy.

Prenatal care. According to the March of Dimes’ PeriStats, in 2014 9.8% of live births in Miami-Dade County were to a mother who received inadequate prenatal care. This equates to nearly 1 in 10 infants. A majority of live births were to women who received early prenatal care, 84.0%. Approximately 12% of live births were to women who began prenatal care in the second trimester, and nearly 4% of live births were to women who received late prenatal care or no prenatal care at all.<sup>xcii</sup>

Low birth weight. In 2015 in Miami-Dade County, the rate of babies born with low birth weight was 8.4%. The rate was highest among Black women (13.1%), and less so for White and Hispanic women (7.1% and 7.2% respectively). As described in Table 25, in the service area zip codes the rate is less than the county average for the same time period although it has fluctuated in recent years.

**Table 25. Rate of Low Birth Weight by Zip Code and Year<sup>xciii</sup>**

Zip code	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
33030	10.2%	6.9%	6.9%	7.8%	7.5%
33034	8.6%	8.9%	12.1%	8.4%	6.8%

## Mental Health

The Homestead Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment (2016) reported that consumers of health services noted that substance abuse and mental health are significant issues in the community. Yet, they also reported there are very little support for residents who need these services.<sup>xciv</sup>

In the Head Start program, PIR data shows that of the 522 children served during the 2016 program year, a mental health professional consulted with program staff about 39 children. There were 21 children who required three or more consultations with staff, and 13 children (4.4% of total enrollment) received a referral for mental health services. During the same program year, mental health services were limited for families. Only 5 families expressed interest or need for mental health services and two received such services.<sup>xcv</sup>

In the Early Head Start delegate program the data on mental health support is similar to the Head Start program. For the 52 children served during the 2016 program year, mental health professionals consulted with program staff about 15 children. One child (2% of total enrollment) received a referral for mental health services. Only 1 family expressed interest in or need for mental health services and one family received services.<sup>xcvi</sup>

## Nutrition

Access to nutritious food is essential for children's healthy development. There are segments of the Head Start and Early Head Start service area that are designated food deserts. According to United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Environment Atlas, in zip code 33034 a significant portion of residents live in a low-income area that is greater than 1 mile from the nearest grocery store.<sup>xcvii</sup>

When a family has limited or uncertain availability of healthy foods, this is considered food insecurity. In Miami-Dade County the rate of child food insecurity is 20.6%.<sup>xcviii</sup>

A further measure of children's need for access to healthy food may be viewed through the lens of free and reduced lunch. In Miami-Dade Public Schools, which serves the Homestead and Florida City service area, 75% of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch.<sup>xcix</sup>

## Social and Economic Factors Impacting Wellbeing

### Housing Availability and Type

Miami-Dade County ranks last (worst) in the state of Florida for the percent of households with severe housing problems. Overcrowding, high housing costs, and/or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities define severe housing problems. In Miami-Dade County 32% of households have severe housing problems, more than any other county. This is also well above the state percent (22%) and far more than top performers in the United States where 9% of households have severe housing problems.<sup>c</sup>

In Homestead (33030), many occupied homes are single unit detached (47.5%) followed next by apartments with 10 or more units (19.6%). The rates are similar in Florida City (33034) where 41.8% of occupied homes are single unit detached and 16% are apartments with 10 or more units. In zip code 33034 there is also a substantial percent of housing units identified as "mobile home or other type of housing." Over half of occupied homes in Homestead (33030), 52.9%, were built prior to 1979. Many homes in Florida City (33034), 44.8%, were built between 1980 and 1999.<sup>ci</sup>

## Community Assessment

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Occupied housing units make up 85.4% of total housing units in Florida City (33034) and 92.3% in 33030 (Homestead).<sup>cii</sup>

### Home Value and Affordability

Median home values, owner costs, and renter costs for service area zip codes are described in the tables that follow.

**Table 26. Median Home Value by Zip Code<sup>ciii</sup>**

Zip Code	Median Home Value
33030	\$121,000
33034	\$76,700

**Table 27. Median Monthly Owner Costs and Median Monthly Rent by Zip Code<sup>civ</sup>**

Zip Code	Median Owner Costs	Median Rent
33030	\$1,450	\$901
33034	\$1,238	\$910

In Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start service area the rental cost burden is significant. The rate is 72.8% in Homestead (33030) and 68.8% in Florida City (33034). These are among the highest rental cost burdens in all United States zip codes.<sup>cv</sup> High rental cost burden is defined as renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent. A high rental cost burden can strain a family's finances and make it difficult to sustain stable housing and have other income available to support other expenses (food, medical care, etc.).<sup>cvi</sup>

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*The rental cost burden in Homestead and Florida City are among the highest in the United States.*

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## EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING



### Employment

Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start service area is challenged by higher than average unemployment rates and low percentages of the population in the workforce, particularly in Florida City. These challenges are compounded by low levels educational attainment and limited opportunities for educational advancement.

In Miami-Dade County, 62.3% of the population (age 16 years and older) is in the workforce. As described in Table 28, the rate is similar in Homestead but is much lower in Florida City.<sup>cvi</sup>

**Table 28. Percent of Population in Labor Force (Age 16+) by Zip Code<sup>cvi</sup>**

Zip Code	Percent of Population in Labor Force
33030	61.7%
33034	44.9%

The unemployment rate in Miami-Dade County in August 2017 was 4.8%, down from 5.6% at the same time in the year prior.<sup>cxix</sup> However, as presented in the table that follows, the unemployment rate in the service area trends substantially higher, over double the county rate.

**Table 29. Unemployment Rate by Year and Zip Code<sup>cx</sup>**

Zip Code	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
33030	13.8%	14.8%	17.1%	16.3%	14.7%
33034	15.0%	15.9%	19.6%	20.7%	21.2%

Unemployment is a challenge among Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start families. In fact, Le Jardin's Early Head Start delegate program, over 50% of families served during the 2016 program year were single-parent families, and in all of those families the parent/guardian is the mother. Among those single-parent mothers, 67% (18 out of 27) were not working and 93% were not enrolled in job training or school (25 out of 27).<sup>cxix</sup>

### Transportation

Access to reliable transportation is essential to maintaining employment. In Le Jardin's service area public transportation is available. Metrobus routes travel throughout Florida City and Homestead and to nearby communities. In Florida City (33034) 10.5% of the workforce commutes to work via public transportation and the rate is 7.8% in Homestead (33030).<sup>cxii</sup> Many families served by the Head Start and Early Head Start programs leverage public transportation.

Le Jardin staff have also observed that many families have access to a vehicle of their own. U.S. Census data reports that nearly a quarter of households in Homestead (33030) have no vehicle available, and in Florida City the percent is slightly less at 17.2%.<sup>cxiii</sup> Given that families may have more than one employed individual and only one car, access to public transportation continues to be essential even for those families with access to a vehicle.

In the service area the mean travel time to work is 31.6 minutes Florida City (33030) and 35.1 minutes in Homestead (33034).<sup>cxiv</sup>

### Work and Training Schedules

While specific work and training schedules of eligible families is not readily available, Le Jardin administrators report that many families are employed in agricultural industries which may have non-traditional business hours or may provide seasonal employment. As described in the Overview of Service Area section, some of the principle occupations in the service area are those that likely do operate traditional, year-round, business hours.

Similarly, education and training schedules may vary for families. With both day and evening classes, in person and online programs, and some educational facilities being located a substantial distance from the community families' needs are likely diverse.

With varying industry and employment options it can be assumed that eligible families may need full day options for care with extended hours when possible. This is reaffirmed by currently served Head Start and Early Head Start families indicating that extending program hours or providing after care support would be valuable to their family.

## AGENCIES SERVING ELIGIBLE CHILDREN



In Florida, early care and education programs may obtain quality accreditations from a variety of sources including National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation and APPLE (Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment). Additionally, the Gold Seal Quality Care (Gold Seal) program was implemented in the state to recognize child care programs that are accredited by nationally recognized agencies. Gold Seal is also approved accreditation for programs to be eligible to participate in VPK, Florida’s publicly funded prekindergarten program.<sup>cxv</sup> Programs that have the Gold Seal

accreditation are recognized as quality providers. Currently, Le Jardin centers are APPLE, NAEYC and Gold Seal accredited.

### Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Programs

As of October 2017, the total child care capacity in Le Jardin’s Head Start/Early Head Start service area is 7,332. This includes 4,679 slots in Homestead (33030) and 2,653 in Florida City (33034). This includes school age children that may be attending after school care.<sup>cxvi</sup> In the tables that follow the number of existing child care programs by quality type by service area zip code is described.

**Table 30. Number of Existing Child Care Programs by Zip Code<sup>cxvii</sup>**

Zip Code	Child Care Facility	Family Day Care Home	Large Family Child Care Home	Public School	Religious Exempt Facility	Total
33030	40	1	1	3	6	51
33034	23	0	2	0	0	25
Total	63	1	3	3	6	76

**Table 31. Number of Existing Child Care Programs by Quality Type (not mutually exclusive) and Zip Code<sup>cxviii</sup>**

Zip Code	Gold Seal	Head Start	School Readiness <sup>7</sup>	VPK
33030	18	6	29	39
33034	8	1	19	13
Total	26	7	48	52

Among quality provider types, the fewest number are Head Start programs and yet the need for Head Start and Early Head Start comprehensive services is great.

In Homestead zip code 33030 approximately half of existing child care programs (23 out of 51) provide care to infants. Most programs (45 out of 51) provide full day care and are open year-round (47 out of 51). In zip code 33034, the ratios are similar: approximately half (11 out of 25) providing care to infants, and most programs (22 out of 25) provide full day care and open year-round (23 out of 25).<sup>cxix</sup>

<sup>7</sup> The School Readiness program provides financial assistance to low-income families.

## Home Visiting

Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade, funded through the Department of Health, provides home visiting services in Le Jardin's service area. Home visitation is provided as part of the Nurse-Family Partnership, an evidence-based home visiting program provided to first-time parents. Women in the service area who meet income-eligibility requirements and are pregnant with their first child may participate. Public data on the number of women receiving home visiting services through Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade is not readily available.

## Publicly Funded Preschool

In Florida, publicly funded prekindergarten is available for 4-year-old children. This is provided through the VPK program, and children may attend VPK for one year. VPK providers include public and private schools, licensed family child care providers, as well as child care centers.<sup>cxix</sup> The Florida Office of Early Learning reports that almost 80% of 4-year-olds attended VPK during the 2016-2017 school year.<sup>cxxi</sup>

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



As evident in the breadth of data presented about individuals residing in Le Jardin's service area, the needs of children and families are significant. Le Jardin has a wealth of existing partners to help communicate, refer, and enhance services provided to children and families (see the Appendix for a list of current community partners). There are also numerous opportunities for new or evolving partnerships to further leverage resources available in the community to meet the needs of eligible children and families.

In Miami-Dade County, The Children's Trust is a convening partner that helps to advocate for and fund programs that will help to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County. The Children's Trust is a strong collaborator helping to work toward coordinated programs and services in the county.<sup>cxixii</sup>

Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade is also a convening entity designed to improve the lives of Miami-Dade County residents. Miami-Dade County healthcare providers, private and for-profit agencies, cities and towns and many other entities have joined together through this consortium to help combat the health challenges among county residents. The momentum behind this consortium is critical to delivering a coordinated approach to address health issues in the county.<sup>cxixiii</sup>

United Way of Miami Dade is also a driving partner in the county, working across sectors and with many partners to help improve education, financial, and health services in the county.

Education. Higher education opportunities are available in the service area through Miami Dade College Homestead Campus. However, this campus provides limited coursework related to early childhood education and many of Le Jardin's current Head Start and Early Head Start teaching staff must commute to Miami Dade College campuses outside the service area (e.g., Kendall Campus in Miami) to obtain early childhood coursework. Florida International University to the north in Miami is an additional option for higher education. However, this too poses challenges with commute times and availability of coursework offered at times convenient to working families. Le Jardin administrators have acknowledged online education opportunities as

## Community Assessment

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a valuable resource for community residents and staff to meet their educational needs on a timeline and schedule that is most convenient to the individual.

Health. Homestead Hospital, part of Baptist Health South Florida, is the only acute-care hospital located near to Le Jardin's service area. There are also two free clinics within the hospital system, Open Door Health Center, and Good News Care Center. Both clinics serve low-income and uninsured individuals.<sup>cxxiv</sup> Le Jardin also has a partnership with Nicklaus Children's Hospital to support healthy eating initiatives in the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade provides screening services to pregnant women and children, program focused on healthy child development, as well as professional development and trainings to professionals in the maternal, infant, and child health field.<sup>cxv</sup>

Within Le Jardin's agency, the Le Jardin Prenatal Academy is also a growing source for support for pregnant mothers. Over a 9-month period pregnant mothers access education and support services to help prepare them for their child's early years. This is also a referral source for Early Head Start, creating a natural transition for participating pregnant women to enroll their infant in the Early Head Start program.

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*Le Jardin Prenatal Academy is a growing source of support from pregnant mothers.*

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Social Services. This is a wide range of social service agencies providing support to families in Le Jardin's service area. For example, homeless shelters and assistance provided through Community Partnership for Homeless South Miami Dade, foster care support provided by Our Kids, as well as food assistance through local pantries.

Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs work diligently to help meet the needs of eligible children and families. Community partners and other agencies serving eligible children and families help to address the significant needs in the service area.

## PARENT STAFF, AND COMMUNITY INSIGHTS



Parent, staff, and community input are valuable sources of data to guide program options and services and to enhance collaborations among partners.

### Parent Input

Le Jardin conducted a survey of Head Start and Early Head Start parents in October 2017 to gather families' opinions about services provided and to learn about their ideas and experiences. Survey questions are included in the Appendix. Rich information was learned about families' needs.

51 individuals completed the Head Start/Early Head Start Parent Survey, most of whom (88%) is an enrolled child's mother. A majority of respondents identify as White (64.7%) or Black or African American (23.5%). Nearly 73% identify as Hispanic or Latino origin. Many respondents work full or part time (68.6%) or are in

school or training (16.5%). Approximately 20% of respondents are unemployed and not enrolled in education or training.

In general, parents expressed satisfaction with Head Start and Early Head Start services and indicated that the location of their child's program and the current program schedule is meeting their family's needs. Among those that suggested improvements, later hours was indicated by 50%, transportation by 32%, and earlier hours by 32%.

Positive feedback was also shared by parents about the Head Start and Early Head Start programs being inviting for fathers, helping children get ready for school, and providing a safe place for children to learn.

When reflecting on their community and personal situation, nearly all parents expressed that they feel safe in their community. In response to a question asking what is best about the community they live in, parks and playgrounds rose to the top for over 50% of respondents, followed by services offered by community organizations (34%).

The Head Start/Early Head Start survey also shed light on families' needs that may not currently be accessible in their community. The top areas families indicated they're not able to find or access resources in their community included: job search or training (39.2%), immigration support (25%), housing support (25%), and education (17.8%). There is a correlation with families' biggest stressors, as nearly half of respondents indicated their biggest stressor as financial (47.6%), followed by housing (26.1%), and immigration issues (19.0%). In response to open-ended questions families reiterated concerns related to finances and education.

## Staff Input

In October 2017 Le Jardin conducted a survey of Head Start and Early Head Start staff to hear input about the program and get their ideas about families' needs. The Head Start/Early Head Start Staff Survey is included in the Appendix.

Le Jardin had a strong response to the survey among staff, with 138 individuals completing the survey. Many instructional and component staff completed the survey, along with management staff and others. A majority of respondents identified as White (81.8%) or Black or African American (10.8%). A majority – 86.2% - also identified as Hispanic or Latino origin. Many staff completing the survey are bilingual, speaking both English and Spanish. Most staff believe that Le Jardin staff reflect the language and culture of children served, and this is reaffirmed by PIR data shared earlier in this report.

When asked the types of supports that would be most helpful to improve in their current professional role, many staff indicated multiple areas. 63% percent of staff feel that professional development or training is an area where they could use more support, 45.8% indicated materials/supplies, and 45.1% indicated time and/or scheduling flexibility.

A vast majority of staff (94.2%) feels that the center or location where they work is convenient for them. Most staff live in nearby communities, commuting less than 30 minutes to work (78.9%). Approximately 94% of staff also agree or are neutral when asked if the office or center where they work is safe for them and for children to learn. Staff have great confidence in Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs to prepare children for school, with nearly 93% of staff indicating agreement.

## Community Assessment

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A majority of Le Jardin's staff, 65%, indicated their family's biggest stressor is financial. This was followed by work/life balance, which was indicated by nearly 27% of staff. In open-ended responses staff expressed concerns about workload, support in their roles, and general benefits. They also reflected on families' deep needs and resources – such as immigration support, education, or training – necessary to address families' multiple stressors. In general, staff felt that the Head Start and Early Head Start program structures meet the needs of families, though they also indicated families may need transportation or longer hours/after care services.

Communication was also a central theme in open-ended responses in the Staff Survey. Staff expressed challenges communicating with families due to several factors, such as varying dialects spoken and also some parents' lack of involvement in their child's education. Staff also shared communication challenges within the program.

Overall, Staff Survey results align with program data, insights from community trends and areas raised by Le Jardin leadership as opportunities for improvement.

## Community Input

The Le Jardin service area is rich with community partners, some of which have undertaken their own needs assessments and shared findings for Le Jardin's use. The Homestead Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment, released in fall 2016, gathered information from the hospital and community health leaders to identify six priorities for the hospital's service area (Homestead and Florida City). In order of priority, they include: access to care (uninsured), availability of primary and preventative care, barriers to accessing care, chronic disease management, mental health and substance abuse, and socioeconomic challenges.<sup>cxv</sup>

## EXPLORING MONROE COUNTY

As Le Jardin implements its Head Start and Early Head Start services in Homestead and Florida City, the agency continues to become aware of the growing need for high quality service both within and outside the immediate service area. Monroe County, neighboring to the south of Miami-Dade County, is an area for considered expansion outside of the existing service area.

As part of Le Jardin's 2017 Community Assessment preliminary data was gathered on Monroe County to help gauge the possibility of further exploring expansion opportunities should they arise.

Geographic Area. Neighboring Monroe County covers a land area of roughly 983 square miles, and has a far fewer population per square mile at 74.3.<sup>cxvii</sup> Monroe County has significant rural areas, particularly in the Upper Keys. In this area there are no Head Start or Early Head Start providers, and the nearest grantee is at the southernmost point of the Keys in Key West.

Demographics. In the Upper Keys, which extends from Key Largo in the north (33037) to Plantation Key (33070) and Islamorada (33036) in the south, there are 630 children under age 5 years old. Approximately 14% of those children are living below the federal poverty level.

**Table 32. Number of Children in Upper Keys Under 5 Years Old Living Below the Federal Poverty Level by Zip Code**

Zip Code	Total Number of Children < 5 Years Old	Number of Children <5 Years Old Below Poverty Level	Poverty Rate of Children <5 Years Old
33070	282	53	18.8%
33036	57	0	0.0%
33037	291	38	13.1%
Total	630	91	14.4%

**Poverty.** In Monroe County, the median age is 46.8 years, substantially higher than Le Jardin’s current service area and Miami-Dade County as a whole.<sup>cxxviii</sup> An analysis of poverty rates over recent years, described in Table 33, shows Monroe County trending lower than the state as a whole. Similarly, Table 34 describes a median household income that trends higher than the state average. However, families in Monroe Counties face other economic challenges unique to their area.

**Table 33. Poverty Rate by Geographic Area and Year<sup>cxxix</sup>**

Geographic Area	2012	2013	2014	2015
Monroe County	12.1%	13.5%	13.9%	13.4%
Florida	15.6%	16.3%	16.7%	16.5%

**Table 34. Median Household Income by County<sup>cxxx</sup>**

County	Median Household Income
Miami-Dade County	\$43,129
Monroe County	\$57,290
Florida	\$47,507

While the poverty rate in Monroe County trends substantially lower than Le Jardin’s Head Start and Early Head Start service area, and slightly less than Florida as a whole, this measure might not capture income-related needs and challenges. A 2017 report from United Way of Florida, ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, found that Monroe County had the highest annual household survival budget for a family of four at \$68,952 – more than any other county in the state. This is substantially higher than the comparative U.S. poverty rate of \$24,250. Even though only 12% of Monroe County households fell within the poverty threshold in 2015, there were an additional 34% considered to fall into the ALICE category (earning more than the Federal Poverty Level but less than the basic cost of living). Together, this is 46% of county households living below or near the brink of poverty.<sup>cxxxi</sup>

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*Monroe County has the highest annual household survival budget for a family of four in the state.*

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United Way’s ALICE report also states that a substantial portion of individuals falling into the ALICE category often do not have access to child care subsidies. This is because the cost of living is 44% higher than the U.S. average, and thus federal poverty rates are not fully reflective of what a family is able to afford.<sup>cxxxi</sup>

**Housing.** The Mariners Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment (2016) reports that 51.3% of county residents use over 30% of their income for housing costs. This is nearly twice the national rate.<sup>cxxxi</sup> Monroe County also ranks second to last among counties in the state for the percentage of households with severe housing problems (overcrowding, high housing costs, or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities), at 29%. The only county in the state with a greater percent of households with severe housing problems is Miami-Dade County.<sup>cxxxi</sup>

## Community Assessment

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**Healthcare and Clinical Care.** Mariners Hospital serves the Upper Keys, and the 2016 Mariners Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment reports transportation and language barriers as significant barriers to individuals accessing care. More than 16% of residents of Monroe County also lack health insurance.<sup>cxxxv</sup>

The Mariner’s Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment also reports that in Monroe County there are not any obstetricians that accept Medicaid, nor are there any pediatricians, specifically in the Upper Keys, that accept new Medicaid patients. Additionally, there are not any hospitals in the Upper Keys that offer labor and delivery services. The only hospital in Monroe County that provides labor and delivery care is in Key West. Similarly, there are not any neonatal intensive care units in the Upper Keys to assist infants who may have early health challenges.<sup>cxxxvi</sup>

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*In Monroe County, no obstetricians accept Medicaid. In the Upper Keys, no pediatricians are taking new Medicaid patients and no hospital offers labor and delivery service.*

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Another critical consideration related to the health needs of children and families in Monroe County is that the suicide rate in the county ranks the highest in the state. Lack of mental health care and the distance to major hospitals are noted as possible factors contributing to this statistic.<sup>cxxxvii</sup>

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*The suicide rate in Monroe County is the highest in the state.*

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**Agencies Serving Eligible Children.** As described in Table 35, in the Upper Keys there are limited child care programs and even fewer high quality programs.<sup>cxxxviii</sup>

**Table 35. Number of Existing Child Care Programs by Upper Keys Zip Code<sup>cxxxix</sup>**

Zip Code	Child Care Facility	Family Day Care Home	Large Family Child Care Home	Public School	Religious Exempt Facility	Total
33070	1	0	0	1	0	2
33036	1	0	0	1	0	2
33037	5	0	0	1	0	6
Total	7	0	0	3	0	10

In the Upper Keys zip codes all sites are VPK and School Readiness sites. Six of the 10 sites serve infants, however all but one is located in Key Largo. There are no Head Start or Early Head Start sites in the Upper Keys. The total capacity of Upper Keys child care programs is 476 (339 in Key Largo, 50 in Islamorada, and 87 in Plantation Key). It should be noted that nearly half of these slots are located in 33037 (Key Largo) and include after school care. While infant care is available at 5 of 6 sites in Key Largo, in zip codes 33070 and 33036 there is only one program, located in Tavernier, which serves infants.<sup>cxl</sup>

## REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start service area is rich with diversity among children, families, and community members. There are many community partners committed to improving the lives of children and families in the service area, and Le Jardin plays an increasingly central role to help ensure children have access to high quality early childhood comprehensive services.

Through Le Jardin's implementation of Head Start and Early Head Start services as a delegate, partner, and grantee the agency has had a unique opportunity to experience a variety of implementation strategies. Under each funding strategy is a different set of administrative capacities within which Le Jardin has a different degree of control. With the flexibility and control that comes with serving as a grantee Le Jardin has been afforded an opportunity to maximize its expertise and implementation strategies to provide even greater quality services.

As a community partner and as a seasoned provider of Head Start and Early Head Start services, Le Jardin administrators and staff have deep knowledge about the needs of children and families, what works, and how to continuously improve. Community assessment, and the significant data gathering and analysis that accompanies, helps to supplement the expansive expertise within Le Jardin.

### Recommendations

Drawing from the key findings of the community assessment and input from Le Jardin administrators the following recommendations will be considered to improve services to children and families in Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs and the broader service area.

**Recommendation 1. Explore new and continued strategies to enhance communication and relationship building among staff and between staff and parents.** Le Jardin administrators have begun to put into place a variety of supports to improve staff morale, communication, and overall satisfaction as an agency employee. Feedback provided through the Head Start/Early Head Start staff survey reiterates the need to deepen these investments. Trainings, onboarding programs, and social events, among other avenues are newer strategies the agency has begun to implement, and deepening this investment may help to improve communication-related challenges even further.

**Recommendation 2. Develop a robust strategy to support staff to increase their educational attainment over time.** This may include implementing a strategy that coaches and funds staff to attain degrees. Beginning with Early Head Start teachers, where there is an identified need for support to attain their National CDA credential, supervisory staff may assist teaching staff to develop an educational attainment road map. Such a road map may help to move staff to increasingly higher levels of educational attainment over time as well as reduce the agency's challenges identifying bachelor's degree qualified teaching staff in the service area.

**Recommendation 3. Consider additional recruitment strategies to identify infants as young as possible for enrollment in the Early Head Start programs.** Many children are enrolled in the Early Head Start programs as toddlers and are transitioning to Head Start after 1-2 years. Enrolling children as young as possible will help children benefit from attending multiple years.

**Recommendation 4. Further delve into the high rates of disabilities among children enrolled in the Early Head Start delegate program and low rate of disabilities in the Early Head Start grant program.** Explore whether there are opportunities for disabilities to be identified earlier or remediated sooner, particularly given the high number of children who are entering Early Head Start with an existing IFSP. Also consider whether there are opportunities for new or improved partnerships to refine a coordinated strategy for the identification and referral of children with disabilities into Le Jardin's Early Head Start programs.

**Recommendation 5. Refine waitlist management strategies for Head Start and Early Head Start sites, considering mechanisms to grow the waitlist for Head Start sites as well manage the increasing demand for Early Head Start services.** Given that preschool-age children in Florida have multiple options for care, including publicly funded prekindergarten through VPK, demand for Head Start services does not tend to rise as high as Early Head Start. However, with the deep need in the communities for quality comprehensive services the highest need children may benefit from placement on the waitlist.

**Recommendation 6. Prepare a strategy for the increased number of children that will be transitioning out of Early Head Start, and leverage Le Jardin's Head Start program to continue to address the needs of these children and families.** Because of the deep poverty demographics of Florida City and Homestead and multi-generational poverty, Le Jardin has observed that many Early Head Start families require transitioning into Head Start to continue to move toward self-sufficiency. Ensuring continuity of care within Le Jardin's Early Head Start and Head Start programs will be essential to supporting families to achieve self-sufficiency.

**Recommendation 7. Improve the Identification of and services to children experiencing homelessness or in foster care through staff training, community partnerships, and an analysis of case management.** There are high rates of homelessness and children in foster care in Miami-Dade County, and few children served in Le Jardin's programs. The agency may look at how scoring at intake and point allocation support enrollment of children experiencing homelessness or in foster care. This may also include deepening family interview questions to gain a full picture of families' housing status and ensure risks are identified. Additionally, Le Jardin has experienced that lower case worker caseloads (as is implemented in the Early Head Start grant program) support more effective identification and services to families. Delegate program caseloads, which are substantially higher, may need to be lowered to support the same level of effectiveness that has been observed in the Early Head Start grant program.

**Recommendation 8. Support all avenues for families to access care for extended hours so that they may work or attend school.** Families' need for care during extended hours was confirmed through the parent and staff surveys. Coupled with high unemployment and the multiple barriers faced by families to work, attend school, or participate in training this strategy becomes essential to help families move toward self-sufficiency.

**Recommendation 9. Advocate for improved public transportation and additional bus stops at Le Jardin centers to help address families' transportation challenges.**

**Recommendation 10. Evaluate infrastructure challenges at Le Jardin's current Head Start and Early Head Start sites as well as the availability of acceptable facilities for quality child care programs.** Le Jardin is facing high demand for services, particularly Early Head Start, and not enough space to meet the needs of children and families. This is a groundwork step to determine infrastructure challenges in the service area.

**Recommendation 11. Define and address barriers, including high staff caseloads, which lead to fewer children being up-to-date on preventative health care and age-appropriate immunizations from the**

**beginning to the end of the enrollment year, as well as compliance with screenings within 45 days of program entry.** To date, Le Jardin is also observing higher rates of compliance and screening in the Early Head Start grant program, where it has lower caseloads than in delegate sites. This programmatic consideration is important to help ensure children's health needs are met.

**Recommendation 12. Offer enhanced, culturally appropriate, mental health services to families through new or existing partnerships, and increase awareness and screening of mental health issues among families.**

**Recommendation 13. Formalize the Le Jardin Prenatal Academy by pursuing funding to expand the program, dedicate staff to implementation, and further integrate the program with Le Jardin's Early Head Start Program.**

**Recommendation 14. Refine family services through the provision of additional and/or improved services to meet families' needs related to education, job training, housing, and immigration.** Delve deeper into areas where additional information about family needs may be necessary (e.g., housing). This recommendation includes ensuring that all services are provided in both English and Spanish and are culturally sensitive. Each of these areas tie back to families' concerns expressed about their family's financial health.

**Recommendation 15. Further explore the changing demographics of immigrant families and staff, including whether families' language needs are being met and whether program aspects (e.g., curriculum) are culturally appropriate to the population served. Modify program aspects, as needed.**

**Recommendation 16. Review data on a regular basis to reflect about program accomplishments and needs, and identify action steps to continuously improve program services.**

**Recommendation 17. Develop a long-term strategy to improve services provided to currently enrolled children and families as well as consider the agency's ability to deepen its investments within and outside the service area.** This includes developing strategies to:

- Meet the high demand for Head Start and Early Head Start services (particularly Early Head Start) in the service area while providing the highest quality care. Consider building a new site or adapting existing sites, and explore infrastructure challenges.
- Explore possible expansion of Early Head Start (and/or Head Start) services to the Upper Keys in Monroe County (e.g., connecting with School Board of Monroe County, exploring infrastructure challenges, determining if/how additional funding may be available to support expansion).
- Support families who may be relocating from Puerto Rico to the service area due to displacement from Hurricane Maria.

## LOOKING AHEAD



Le Jardin will leverage the data and key findings emerging from the 2017 Community Assessment to improve the ability of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs to meet children and families' needs. The Le Jardin Board, Policy Council, Policy Committee, staff, and parents will be provided an update on Community Assessment findings and be engaged in dialogue about how to use this information to establish or modify short and long-term goals for the programs.

The HSPPS requirement to annually review and update the Community Assessment provides Le Jardin with an opportunity to continuously reflect and improve upon data monitoring, data use, and implementation of data-driven, outcomes-oriented goals. With Community Assessment data as a driving factor for understanding and meeting community needs, Le Jardin will continue its mission to support individuals and families to achieve self-reliance.

## APPENDIX

### **Appendix A – Le Jardin Community Partners**

ABC Pediatric Rehab

Albizu University

AT services

Behavioral Aid Solutions

Bright Therapy Services

CareerSource South Florida

Dr. Andrez Rodriguez

Dr. Naved Fatmi (Dentist)

Family Nutrition Program; Farm to School and Community: UF/FAS Extension

Gerardin Law Firm (Immigration and Family Law)

Hear 4 Kidz

Hernandez Mental Health Inc.

Homestead Behavioral Clinic

Hour Bliss, Inc.

JMT Logistics JM Transportation, INC

M.U.J.E.R. (Mujeres Unidos en Justicia Education y Reforma)

Miami Kendall West Lions Club

Miami Mental Health Services, Corp.

My Kid Therapy

OT Wellness

Psych Solutions

University of Miami, Department of Developmental Psychology

Young Men's Christian Association

## Appendix B – Head Start/Early Head Start Parent Survey

### Head Start/Early Head Start Parent Survey Community Needs Assessment

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. (Le Jardin) is interested in your opinions about the Head Start and Early Head Start services provided by our agency. Sharing your ideas and experiences will help us to ensure services meet your needs. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and is confidential.

1. This survey is being completed by:
  - Mother
  - Father
  - Both Parents
  - Guardian
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Race:
  - American Indian or Alaska Native
  - Asian
  - Black or African American
  - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
  - White
  - Biracial/Multi-racial
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Ethnicity:
  - Hispanic or Latino origin
  - Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino origin
  
4. The language(s) spoken in my home include:
  - Creole
  - English
  - Spanish
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Employment/Education Status (Check all that apply)
  - Work full-time
  - Work part-time
  - In school full-time
  - In school part-time
  - Participating in a training program
  - Unemployed and not enrolled in an education or training program
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Highest Education Level:
  - Some high school
  - High school graduate/GED

- Associate's degree
  - Bachelor's degree
  - Advanced degree (Master's, PhD, etc.)
7. Was your highest education credential earned in the United States or in a country outside the United States?
- United States
  - Outside the United States
8. The program schedule (days and number of hours per day) offered by the program meet my family's needs.
- Yes
  - No
9. If the program schedule does not meet your needs, what would better meet your needs? (Check all that apply)
- Additional days per week
  - Earlier hours
  - Later hours
  - Transportation (more, different schedules)
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
10. The location of the Head Start/Early Head Start center meets my family's needs.
- Yes
  - No
11. I am satisfied with the Head Start/Early Head Start services my family receives.
- Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Don't know
12. The Head Start/Early Head Start program is friendly and inviting for fathers.
- Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Don't know
13. Head Start/Early Head Start is helping my child get ready for school.
- Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Don't know
14. Head Start/Early Head Start gives my child a safe place to learn.
- Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree

- Don't know

15. Head Start/Early Head Start provides me with quality information through: (Check all that apply)

- Newsletters
- Parent handbook
- Parent/teacher conferences and home visits
- Monthly calendars
- Flyers announcing upcoming events
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Head Start/Early Head Start has provided me with informational support regarding: (Check all that apply)

- Child development
- Community resources
- Personal relationships
- Disabilities
- Mental health
- Health/dental health
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. Head Start/Early Head Start has enabled me to: (Check all that apply)

- Define my own life goals
- Accomplish and pursue my goals
- Understand my role as the primary educator for my child(ren)

18. My family and I feel safe in our community.

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Don't know

19. What do you think is best about the community you live in? (Check all that apply)

- Availability of jobs
- Housing options
- Parks and playgrounds
- Supportive neighbors/"tight knit" community
- Services offered by community organizations
- Transportation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

20. If there were something you could improve about your community, what would it be? (Check all that apply)

- Availability of jobs
- More/better housing options
- More parks/playgrounds
- Neighborhood relationships
- Services offered by community partners

- Transportation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

21. Are there services that you or your family needs or wants that you're not able to currently find or access in your community? (Check all that apply)

- Counseling
- Drug treatment
- Education
- Housing support
- Food pantry
- Immigration support
- Job search or training
- Health/dental health services
- Reliable transportation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

22. My family's biggest stressor(s) are: (Check all that apply)

- My child's disabilities
- Community violence
- Educational/job training
- Employment
- Financial
- Housing
- Immigration issues
- Marital/personal
- Medical/dental
- Mental health
- Transportation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

23. My biggest concern for my family at this time is:

24. Other comments I have:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Survey adapted from *A Workbook for Head Start Programs Serving Hispanic and Other Emerging Populations*.  
Version 1. December 2007

## Appendix C – Head Start/Early Head Start Staff Survey

### Head Start/Early Head Start Staff Survey Community Needs Assessment

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. is in the process of gathering information to inform its required community needs assessment to inform its Early Head Start and Head Start programs. We are working with Foundations for Families, a training, technical assistance, and consulting company, who is helping us to gather information and compile the community assessment report. Your feedback as a Le Jardin team member is an important aspect of information gathering. Sharing your ideas and experiences will help us to ensure we are providing services that meet children and families' needs. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and is confidential.

#### **Tell us about yourself**

1. This survey is being completed by (Check the option that most aligns with your current position):
  - Management staff
  - Component staff
  - Instructional staff
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Race:
  - American Indian or Alaska Native
  - Asian
  - Black or African American
  - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
  - White
  - Biracial/Multi-racial
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Ethnicity:
  - Hispanic or Latino origin
  - Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino origin
  
4. The language(s) spoken in my home include:
  - Creole
  - English
  - Spanish
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statement: I believe Le Jardin staff reflects the language and culture of children and families served.
  - Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Don't know
  
6. Is the location of the office or Head Start/Early Head Start center where you work most often convenient for you?
  - Yes
  - No

7. How long is your commute to the office or center where you work most often?
  - Less than 30 minutes
  - 30 minutes to 1 hour
  - Over 1 hour
  
8. Indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statement: The office or center where I work most often is safe, both for me to work and for children to learn.
  - Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Don't know
  
9. Indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statement: Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs are helping to prepare children for school.
  - Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Don't know
  
10. What type of supports beyond those that you're currently receiving do you feel would be helpful for you to improve in your professional current role? (Check all that apply)
  - Professional development or training
  - College coursework
  - Coaching and/or mentoring
  - Supplies and materials
  - Time and/or scheduling flexibility
  - Management/leadership development or training
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
11. What are your family's biggest personal stressors? (Check all that apply)
  - Community violence
  - Educational/job training
  - Employment
  - Financial
  - Housing
  - Immigration issues
  - Marital/personal
  - Medical/dental
  - Mental health
  - Transportation
  - Work/life balance
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tell us your ideas about Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs**

12. Do you think the location of the Head Start/Early Head Start centers meets families' needs?
- Yes
  - No
13. Do you think the program schedules (days and number of hours per day) offered by Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start programs meet families' needs?
- Yes
  - No
14. If no, how do you think we could better meet families' schedule needs? (Check all that apply)
- Additional days per week
  - Earlier hours
  - Later hours
  - Transportation (more, different schedules)
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statement: The communities in which Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start families live are safe.
- Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Don't know
16. What do you believe are Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start families' biggest stressors? (Check all that apply)
- Child's disabilities
  - Community violence
  - Educational/job training
  - Employment
  - Financial
  - Housing
  - Immigration issues
  - Marital/personal
  - Medical/dental
  - Mental health
  - Transportation
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
17. What services do you believe Le Jardin's Head Start and Early Head Start families most need or want? (Check all that apply)
- Counseling
  - Drug treatment
  - Education
  - Housing support
  - Food pantry
  - Immigration support

- Job search or training
- Health/dental health services
- Reliable transportation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

18. How do you think Le Jardin can do a better job to meet families' needs? (Check all that apply)

- Improve communication with parents
- Improve referrals to community service providers
- Offer more and/or greater variety of services or training opportunities
- Provide a greater degree of case management support
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

19. What ideas do you have for how Le Jardin can better partner with community agencies to meet the needs of children and families

20. My biggest concern about Le Jardin's Head Start and/or Early Head Start programs is:

21. My biggest concern about children and families served is:

22. Other comments I have:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

<sup>i</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>ii</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>iii</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>iv</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>v</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>vi</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>vii</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>viii</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>ix</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>x</sup> Data reported by Le Jardin administrators, as of November 2017.

<sup>xi</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>xii</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Head Start Program)

<sup>xiii</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Early Head Start Delegate Program)

<sup>xiv</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Early Head Start Delegate Program)

<sup>xv</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Early Head Start Delegate Program)

<sup>xvi</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Early Head Start Delegate Program)

<sup>xvii</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Early Head Start Delegate Program)

<sup>xviii</sup> Data reported by Le Jardin administrators, as of November 2017.

<sup>xix</sup> Program Information Report, Summary Report (2016) – Program Level (Early Head Start Delegate Program)

<sup>xx</sup> Program Information Report, 2017-2018 – Program Level (Early Head Start Grant Program)

<sup>xxi</sup> Program Information Report, 2017-2018 – Program Level (Early Head Start Grant Program)

<sup>xxii</sup> Program Information Report, 2017-2018 – Program Level (Early Head Start Grant Program)

<sup>xxiii</sup> Program Information Report, 2017-2018 – Program Level (Early Head Start Grant Program)

<sup>xxiv</sup> Program Information Report, 2017-2018 – Program Level (Early Head Start Grant Program)

<sup>xxv</sup> Program Information Report, 2017-2018 – Program Level (Early Head Start Grant Program)

<sup>xxvi</sup> As reported by Le Jardin in November 2017.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Program Information Report, 2017-2018 – Program Level (Early Head Start Grant Program)

<sup>xxviii</sup> Head Start ECLKC. *Head Start Policy and Regulations, 1302.11 Determining community strengths, needs, and resources*. Retrieved from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-11-determining-community-strengths-needs-resources>

<sup>xxix</sup> Head Start ECLKC. *Head Start Policy and Regulations, 1302.11 Determining community strengths, needs, and resources*. Retrieved from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-11-determining-community-strengths-needs-resources>

<sup>xxx</sup> National Head Start Association. *Head Start Facts and Impacts*. Retrieved from <https://www.nhsa.org/facts-and-impacts>

<sup>xxxi</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. (2002). *Making a Difference in the Lives of Infants and Toddlers and Their Families: The Impacts of Early Head Start, Executive Summary*. Retrieved from <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/~media/publications/PDFs/ehsfinalsumm.pdf>

<sup>xxxii</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. (2010). *Head Start Impact Study Final Report Executive Summary*. Retrieved from [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/executive\\_summary\\_final.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/executive_summary_final.pdf)

<sup>xxxiii</sup> National Head Start Association. *Head Start Facts and Impacts*. Retrieved from <https://www.nhsa.org/facts-and-impacts>

<sup>xxxiv</sup> U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/>

<sup>xxxv</sup> U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/>

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Homestead Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment (2016)

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Human Resources Department, Training & Development Unit, Miami Dade County. (2017) *Know Your County Government*. Retrieved from <https://www.miamidade.gov/humanresources/library/know-your-county-government.pdf>

<sup>xxxviii</sup> <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

<sup>xxxix</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>xl</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>xli</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>xlii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>xliiii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>xliv</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>xlv</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>xlvi</sup> U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/>

<sup>xlvii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>xlviii</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2017). *Miami Area Economic Summary*. Retrieved from [https://www.bls.gov/regions/southeast/summary/blssummary\\_miami.pdf](https://www.bls.gov/regions/southeast/summary/blssummary_miami.pdf)

<sup>xlix</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>l</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>li</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>lii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>liii</sup> Brookings Institute. (March 2016). *U.S. concentrated poverty in the wake of the Great Recession*. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/research/u-s-concentrated-poverty-in-the-wake-of-the-great-recession/>

<sup>liv</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>lv</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>lvi</sup> Florida Department for Children and Families. *Statistics for Florida 2016*. Retrieved from <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/refugee-services/statistics-florida>

<sup>lvii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>lviii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>lix</sup> Miami-Dade County. *Homeless Trust Census Results and Comparison: January 21, 2016/January 26, 2017*. Retrieved from <http://www.homelesstrust.org/library/homeless-census-comparison-2016-2017.pdf>

- <sup>ix</sup> Fostering Court Improvement. Statistics for Miami-Dade County. Retrieved from <http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/fl/County/Miami-Dade/>
- <sup>ixi</sup> Children's Medical Services. Florida's Early Steps System. Retrieved from [http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/families/early\\_steps/early\\_steps.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/families/early_steps/early_steps.html)
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