

# Denver Preschool Program (DPP)

Denver City Council Safety, Housing, Education and Homelessness Committee  
July 13, 2022

Presented by  
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Denver Preschool Program

# Introduction

**Our presentation consists of two sections:**

- 1. Annual Report**
- 2. Special Revenue Ordinance Change Request**



# Annual Report

# Annual Report Overview

exceptional  
 beneficial  
 life-changing  
 phenomenal  
 successful  
 equitable

remarkable  
 innovative  
 thriving

**\$150 Million**  
**IN TUITION CREDITS**

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**65,000**  
**CHILDREN SERVED**

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**15 Years**  
**IN THE COMMUNITY**

community-  
 driven  
 incredible  
 strong  
 high-quality  
 supportive  
 engaging  
 amazing  
 extraordinary

# Annual Report

## Strategic Planning



### VISION

Every child in Denver enters kindergarten ready to reach their full potential.

### EQUITY

Every child deserves equitable access to quality early childhood education and the opportunity to benefit from its promise: a strong foundation for a successful future. Denver Preschool Program commits to bold action to help eliminate differences in educational outcomes as a result of systemic racism, generational poverty and discrimination through our role in early childhood education.

### STRATEGIC GOALS

#### Families

Reach and engage families of young children to better serve them and, through innovation and partnership, promote the benefits of and increase access to quality early learning opportunities.

#### Preschool Programs

Improve and measure the quality of early childhood education programs in Denver.

#### Children

Increase the number of Denver's young children participating in preschool.

#### DPP Board and Staff

Strengthen DPP's internal operations and governance to steward our mission and financial resources, improve the delivery of services, lead in the early childhood space, and sustain operations.

#### Policy/Strategy Leaders

Respond to community needs and champion, advocate, and partner to advance early childhood education policies and strategies that help our youngest learners succeed.

#### Preschool Teachers

Strengthen Denver's early childhood education workforce by supporting preschool professionals to ensure they are well-qualified, effective, compensated and valued.

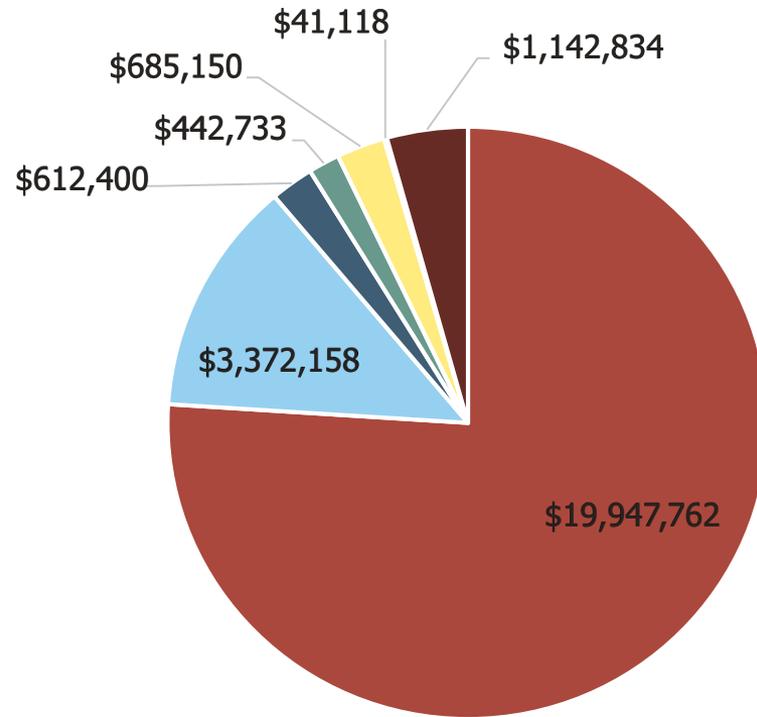
### MISSION

Denver Preschool Program helps Denver fulfill its commitment to its youngest learners. We champion, fund and increase access to quality preschool across our community.

### VALUES

# Annual Report

## Denver's Commitment – By The Numbers



**2021 AUDITED  
FINANCIALS**

- Tuition Credits
- Quality Improvement
- Family Eligibility
- Evaluation
- Outreach
- Contract Services
- Administrative

# Annual Report

## Tuition Credit Scale

**The scale is designed so that the families with the greatest financial need, that have a child attending the highest quality preschool, will receive the most tuition support**

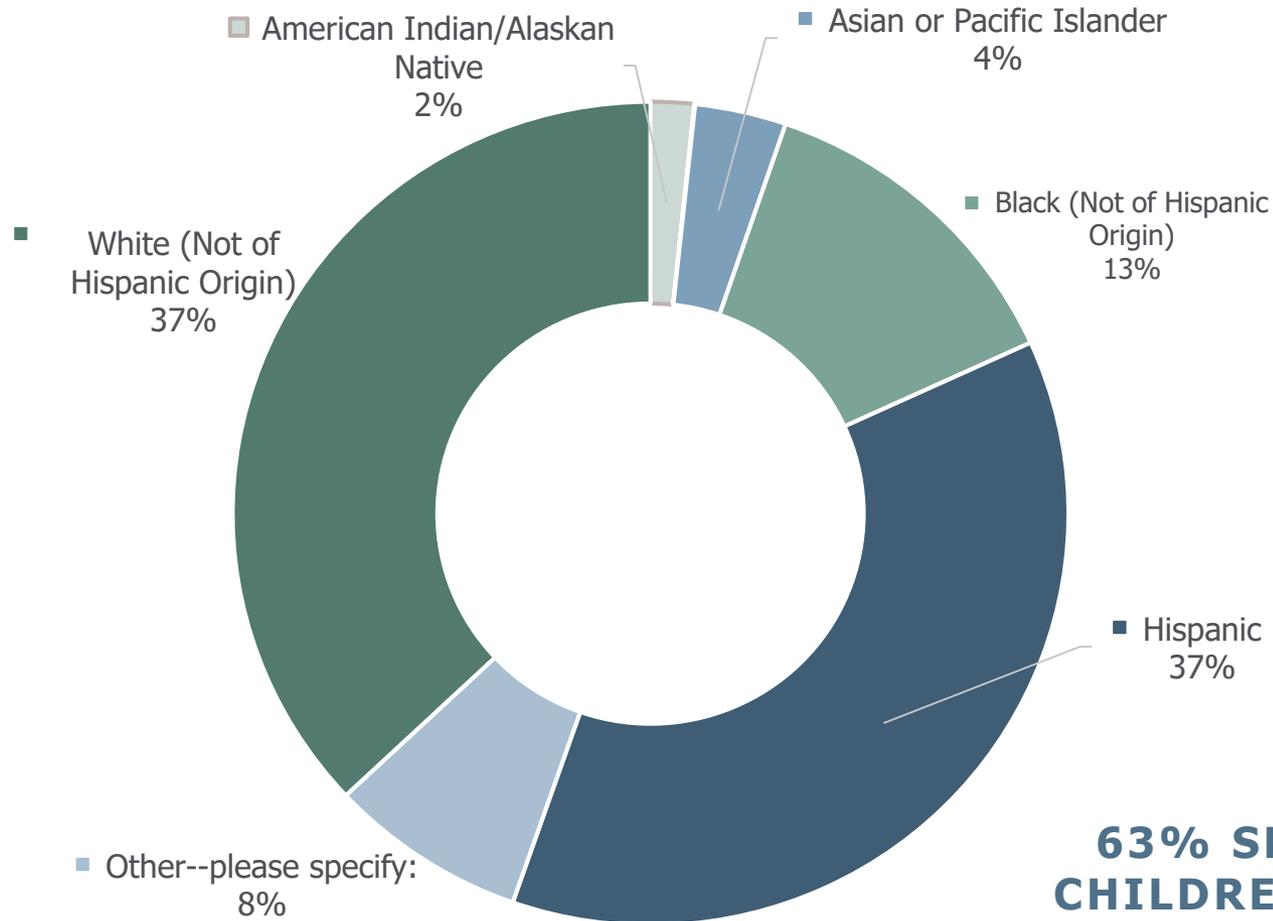
**The total amount of tuition credits for the 2020-2021 program year was \$15.1 million, distributed to 4,019 students**

- \$9.264 million to DPS (61% of students)
- \$5.92 million to community sites (39% of students)
- The typical child received \$788/month, up from \$715/month during the 2019-2020 school year



# Annual Report

## 2020-2021 Student Demographics

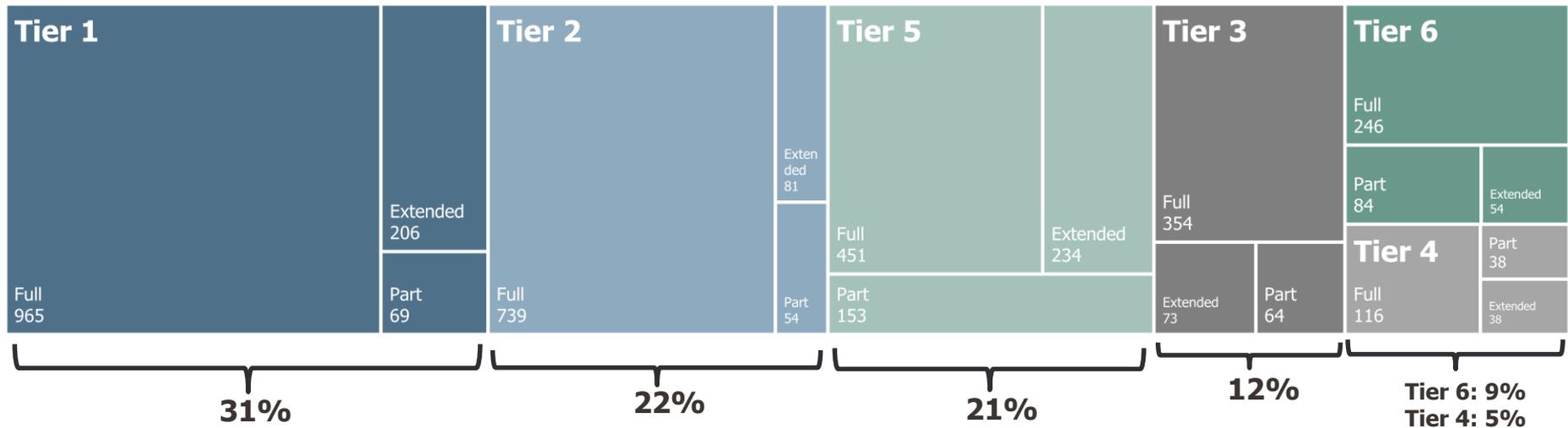


**63% SERVED ARE CHILDREN OF COLOR**

# Annual Report

## Income Tiers Distribution

Income tiers based on federal poverty level (FPL) percentages:



53% of DPP students came from low income families.

# Annual Report

## Intentional Inclusivity

### 2020-2021 Participation Levels by Percentage

Though the vast majority of our children are in school for a full or extended day (mirroring a work day), DPP offers families a part-time option as well to allow families to choose the participation level that best works for them.



# Annual Report

## DPP Scholarship

Average monthly family  
income:

**\$2,600**

Average DPP tuition credit  
(\$796) combined with average  
scholarship (\$700):

**\$1,497**

Highest scholarship:

**\$1,770**



### 2020-2021 Scholarship Stats



Out of pocket for families:

**\$0**

Scholarship recipients:

**214 students**

Total scholarship amount  
distributed:

**\$983,531**

# Annual Report

## Equity and Access



### Beyond the Basics: Ensuring Equity and Access

**Quality early childhood education plays a critical role in early development, school readiness, and, therefore, long-term success for every child, helping to end the cycle of generational poverty and benefitting our community as a whole.**

Alongside our partners, DPP will continue to make efforts toward equity and inclusion, address the preschool deserts in our communities, support early childhood workforce development, streamline early childhood education enrollment processes, and rethink policies that may be creating barriers for families. Addressing early childhood education in Colorado is an issue that affects all of us, and it is certainly a collaborative effort that we are proud to play a part in.

# Annual Report

## Pilot Programs



### Out Ahead: Spearheading New Programs

**Denver Preschool Program’s ability to lead confidently requires supporting providers with what they need in real-time.**

Since inception, DPP has been fiscally responsible and, as such, created a reserve to support pilot initiatives. The reserves coupled with our ability to be agile and adaptable are the reasons our providers were able to navigate through a difficult, unpredictable pandemic. The pilot programs continue to address foundational needs across Denver families while allowing DPP to be a leader in addressing new opportunities to ensure every child in Denver has a jumpstart on a quality education.



# Annual Report

## High-Quality Programs

**Pursuing excellence in all aspects of DPP's work increases positive outcomes for children**

### **INVESTING IN HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAMS:**

- Leadership, Management and Administration Supports
- Quality Improvement Grants for Classroom Materials, Curriculum and Additional Resources
- Strengthening Grants
- Program Achievement Awards



# Annual Report

## High-Quality Teachers



### INVESTING IN HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS:

- Child Development Associate™ Scholarship
- Teacher and Director Achievement Awards
- Professional Development Opportunities: Learning Communities and Trainings
- Coaching on Positive Teacher-Child Interactions

# Annual Report

## Measuring High-Quality

**Research shows that high-quality preschool produces lasting, positive impacts for children. DPP measures the quality of programs through Colorado Shines:**

### **COLORADO SHINES QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS)**

- Colorado's Statewide QRIS
- Workforce Qualifications and Professional Development
- Family Partnerships
- Leadership, Management and Administration
- Learning Environment
- Child Health

# Annual Report

## Informed Choice

- Grassroots outreach to communities with the greatest need
- Presentations for partners working directly with families to train how to share DPP's benefits with families
- Partnership with Denver Public Libraries through story times, Bookmobiles, Little Universities, LENA program, etc.
- Pivoting during the pandemic to distribute DPP information via COVID-19 testing sites and food distribution sites



# Annual Report

## Leadership in Action

**DPP champions early childhood education, ensuring that the community realizes the benefits of DPP's investment in young children.**

### **10 years of data show that DPP students are:**

- More likely to read at grade level
- Missed fewer days of school
- Progressed to higher grade levels without having to repeat a year

# Special Revenue Ordinance Change Request

# SRF Ordinance Change Request

## Where We Began



- In creating the Special Revenue Fund (SRF) ordinance, the city placed some conditions on DPP in order to minimize the effects of significant fluctuations in the amount of sales and use tax revenues received for any calendar year.
- One of the conditions stated the requirement that the City will hold a \$600,000 unappropriated restricted fund balance.
- Today, DPP is ground-breaking. Our success has allowed several other organizations to model it and win voter approval for funding for their organizations.

# SRF Ordinance Change Request

## Today's Reality: DPP is Highly Successful

**DPP is meeting or exceeding every expectation set for them when Denver voters approved the preschool tax:**

- DPP is living up to the promise that every child in Denver enters kindergarten ready to reach their full potential.
- DPP is delivering an educational return-on-investment to Denver taxpayers.
- DPP is a model for similar programs across the country.



# SRF Ordinance Change Request

## What DPP Needs for Continued Success

Two specific steps will ensure the Denver Preschool Program can continue to deliver on our promise to Denver voters, taxpayers and its youngest learners:

- 1. Amend the Denver Revised Municipal Code, Article III, Section 11-21 to allow to allow DPP to participate in broader initiatives such as Colorado's Universal Preschool.**
- 2. Amend DPP's Special Revenue Fund ordinance with the City and County of Denver to eliminate the requirement for an unappropriated fund balance going forward.**
  - Following the removal of the language in the SRF ordinance, appropriate the \$600,000 fund balance directly to DPP

# SRF Ordinance Change Request

## Allow Participation in Broader Initiatives



BR22-0804: Amends the Denver Revised Municipal Code, Article III, Section 11-21 to strike the word “sole” from the Denver Revised Municipal Code to allow Denver Preschool Program (DPP) to pursue additional funding opportunities and programmatic services beyond administering programming under contract with the City.

# SRF Ordinance Change Request

## Allow Participation in Broader Initiatives

- Mission: To champion, fund and increase access to quality early childhood education (ECE) across our community.
- Original agreement and subsequent amendments did not foresee the development of Colorado's Universal Preschool (UPK) initiatives or other opportunities to support ECE.
- Supporting UPK and other early childhood programs is consistent with the DPP mission and the intention of voters; would follow DPP's current bylaws and not commingle funds.
- It is important to leverage our expertise for other programs to support Denver families in gaining access to high-quality education.

# SRF Ordinance Change Request

## Eliminate the City-Held Fund Balance Requirement

### Companion bills to Finance and Governance:

- BR22-0805: Amends Ordinance 309, Series 2007, to eliminate the requirement for an unappropriated fund balance for the Denver Preschool Program (DPP) Special Revenue Fund (fund number 11851).
- BR22-0806: Authorizes an appropriation of \$600,000 to the Denver Preschool Program Special Revenue Fund.

# SRF Ordinance Change Request

## Eliminate the City-Held Fund Balance Requirement

### **The fund balance requirement is no longer necessary:**

- It was not included in the voter-approved language.
- Other organizations, similar to DPP, that were formed later do not have this program requirement.
- DPP is an independent 501(c)3 that has undergone 14 successful financial audits including an audit by the City and County of Denver which concluded DPP maintained proper oversight and no malfeasance.
- DPP has demonstrated financial stability and successful financial stewardship.
- DPP's reserves are maintained to minimize the effects of significant fluctuations in the amount of sales and use tax revenues received for any calendar year and, in fact, would cover outstanding tuition credits and the cost to wind down if the organization were not reauthorized.

# SRF Ordinance Change Request

## Following Amendment, Appropriate \$600,000

- **The \$600,000 in reserves held by the city is not needed to cover their intended purpose due to DPP's reserves and could instead be put to good use immediately serving our city's youngest learners.**
- **DPP's Total Board Designated Reserves: \$18.443 million**
  - Long Term Reserves (Program Wind Down) – Reserves of \$10.511 million, equal to eight months of tuition credits and quality improvement dollars, administrative expenses, data storage/transfer and any transition costs
  - Programmatic Board Designated Reserves – Reserves of \$7.932 million, currently designated to 3-year-old Tuition Credit Pilot, Educator Scholarships, DPP Scholarships and Bonus Year Preschool
- **The \$600,000 of unappropriated preschool tax held at the city will be allocated to the Preschool for 3s pilot program, significantly increasing DPP's ability to serve 3-year-old children.**

# Questions?

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