

# LCF Children & Youth Initiative

*Evaluation Report 2010*



**LATINO  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Latino Community Foundation (LCF) builds a better future for California's communities by investing in Latino children and families. To fulfill its mission, LCF launched the Children and Youth Initiative (the Initiative) in 2008 to invest \$1,000,000 over four years in the Latino community. This evaluation report focuses on the accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned during Year 2 (March 2009 – April 2010) of the Initiative in which LCF granted \$250,000 to a cohort of 14 Latino-based organizations serving low-income Latino families in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties.

A total of 8,365 adults, teens, and children 0-5 received direct services in Year 2, compared to 3,691 participants served in Year 1. Nearly all of the participants are low-income; 82% are immigrants; 50% are in crisis and require emergency referrals to food, housing, paying utilities, and health services; 50% are survivors of domestic violence; and 40% are homeless or at-risk for homelessness.

Community partners are funded in three focus areas: Early Learning Enrichment, ages 0-5 (3 organizations); Parent Engagement (5 organizations); and Teen Pregnancy Prevention (6 organizations).

- Early Learning Enrichment focuses on structured early childhood education programming; child engagement while parent attends classes or services; and shared learning opportunities for parents and children.
- Organizations funded for Parent Engagement provide parents with children ages 0-5 with the skills and resources to fully understand, participate, and support their children's developmental needs and build an early learning environment.
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention focuses on outreach activities to promote awareness on healthy sexual and relationship behaviors; teen access to health care; and workshops and presentations on making informed decisions about sex to prevent unplanned pregnancies.

Using the services described above, funded community partners were able to achieve the following outcomes in Year 2 of the Initiative: **increase the number of children ages 0-5 (who had no previous pre-school experience) attending school readiness programs; increase children's developmental skills in preparation for school; increase parenting skills; improve family functionality; increase parent's understanding of child's socio-emotional development; and improve parental understanding of how to positively support their child's academic success; increase the knowledge of teens regarding pregnancy prevention; increase awareness of and access to reproductive health services; and increase knowledge of healthy relationship dynamics, especially in relation to safer sex negotiations.**

LCF supports the continued growth of a dynamic and useful learning community designed to strengthen the infrastructure of Latino-based organizations. LCF offers technical assistance and trainings to funded community partners in a culturally appropriate manner that strives to incorporate cultural values and norms and reduce language barriers.

These sessions have resulted in partners reporting that their involvement in the Initiative has positively impacted their organization's effectiveness and fostered both formal and informal collaboration among partners. Funded community partners also report that their relationship with LCF has helped them to communicate the value of their programming to funders and secure new types of funding. Partners have leveraged their participation in the Initiative to secure over \$1.3M in new funding.

As Year 3 of the Initiative approaches, LCF will continue to evolve shaped by our own learning, the national and local climate (both political and economic) and the ever-changing needs of Latino families in California.

# INTRODUCTION

This report focuses on the evaluation findings from the second year of the Latino Community Foundation's Children and Youth Initiative (the Initiative) from April 2009 to March 2010. During this second year of the Initiative, LCF granted \$250,000 to 14 Latino-based organizations serving low-income Latino families in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties.

LCF continues to work with jdcPartnerships, evaluation consultants, to provide a systematic analysis of the Initiative. The primary purpose of this report is to support the continued evolution of the Initiative and to provide LCF and the community of donors and funders with information on its impact to date. We will also share the report with external stakeholders and partners to communicate LCF's work and insights developed through the implementation of the cohort grantmaking model. It is LCF's hope that these learning and impacts will inform the work of other funders, particularly as it pertains to working with Latino organizations.

This report includes the following sections:

- I. Background and Context
- II. Community Partners
- III. Who We Serve and How
- IV. Initiative Impact
- V. Lessons Learned and Next Steps

LCF would like to thank the following funders who have made the Initiative possible: Citibank Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, The California Wellness Foundation, The Hellman Family Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, Union Bank Foundation, United Way of the Bay Area, W.K. Kellogg Foundation/ Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Wal-Mart Foundation, and Wells Fargo Foundation.

# I. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The mission of the Latino Community Foundation is to build a better future for California's communities by investing in Latino children and families. LCF launched the Children and Youth Initiative in 2008 to invest \$1,000,000 over four years in the Latino community.

Since this initial investment, there have been shifts in the local, regional, and national context which informs LCF's work. For example, with high teen pregnancy rates among Latinos, LCF has increased the amount of teen pregnancy prevention funding in order to address this public health issue. LCF has also learned lessons in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Initiative.

## National, Regional, and Local Context

The national economic recession has created conditions that continue to disproportionately affect communities of color, immigrant communities, and low-income and working class families. In California, the annual deficits in the state budget will continue to unravel the frail safety net already weighed down by an increased demand and more complex needs from its' traditional users. At the same time, individuals and families new to the system who find themselves in need of public assistance for the first time are also accessing the state's services.

The 2010 Census completed at this end of this year made a deliberate and very public outreach effort to improve the accuracy of reporting from traditionally undercounted groups (i.e., homeless, older adults, English Learners). The results, which should be available in 2012, will document the increase in the Latino population around the country. According to the California Department of Finance, Latinos will represent the majority of the population, 52%, by 2050. The sharpest increase will occur in the San Joaquin Valley with Los Angeles continuing to have the largest number of Latino residents.<sup>1</sup>

According to a 2007 State of California Department of Finance projection, the Latino population in the Bay Area will increase significantly. In the Bay Area, the Latino population is currently at

22.96 % and Latino youth (ages 19 and under) make up 35.40%. By the year 2050, Latinos are estimated to represent 37.14%, with children representing 29.27% of the population in the Bay Area. For LCF, this signals a pivotal time to invest in the future of Latino children (ages 0-5), youth (ages 6-19), and their families.

## Evolution of the Latino Community Foundation

It is in this shifting landscape that LCF engaged in its 2009 strategic planning process led by an independent consultant. The process included active and full participation by the growing Board of Directors, LCF staff, and key stakeholders across the state. The Strategic Plan which is available at [www.latinocf.org](http://www.latinocf.org) identifies LCF's goals for 2010-2013. As part of the plan, LCF identified the program areas in which its future investments will focus:

- Ensuring children and youth have access to greater educational opportunities;
- Supporting families to become more financially viable; and
- Engaging communities to create safer, healthier, and sustainable neighborhoods.

## Evolution of the Children and Youth Initiative

With a Theory of Change in place, two years of data, and an active learning community of funded partners, LCF is fortunate to be able to reflect actively on its efforts to date. Based on this feedback, there have been adjustments to both design and evaluation of the Initiative. A summary of those changes include:

- Greater specificity about data outputs and outcomes
- Modifications to reporting tools to collect, analyze, and aggregate both quantitative and qualitative data
- Expanded number of grantees from 10 to 14 and overall focus on teen pregnancy prevention
- Refinement to Theory of Change to better reflect outcomes and the expanded portfolio of community partners

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<sup>1</sup> State of California, Department of Finance, Population Projections for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, July 2007

## II. CHILDREN AND YOUTH INITIATIVE

The LCF Children and Youth Initiative places children and families at the center of community change; focusing on Latino families to promote educational and health opportunities for children and youth.

The goal of the Initiative is to increase the number of Latino children who are healthy and prepared for school in order to increase their future educational and economic success. Through the Initiative, LCF invests in Latino-based organizations that serve low-income Latino children (ages 0-5), youth (ages 6-19), and parents to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increase early learning experiences for Latino children ages 0-5 through culturally and linguistically appropriate early childhood enrichment programs.
- Strengthen parent and family engagement that promotes positive child development.

- Support teen pregnancy prevention and secondary prevention for teen parents.

### Our Community Partners

The 2009-2010 LCF Children and Youth Initiative funded community partners include community-based organizations primarily serving the Latino community in six Bay Area counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. These organizations are largely the first stop for Latinos seeking services in these communities and trusted community partners. Most organizations provide multiple and safety net services to immigrants, survivors of domestic violence, as well as those who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless.

**Table 1. LCF Community Partners, by program area**

\*Year 1 and Year 2 Children and Youth Initiative Community Partner; \*\*Year 2 Children and Youth Initiative Community Partner

LCF Program	LCF Funded Community Partner	Grant Purpose
Early Learning Enrichment	<b>Good Samaritan Family Resource Center *</b> Good Samaritan, located in the San Francisco Mission District, provides family support, education, and health services to over 2,500 families a year. The mission of Good Samaritan Family Resource Center is to help immigrant families access needed services, develop self-sufficiency, and participate fully as members of the San Francisco community.	To support Kid's Club, a school readiness program that aims to enhance children's development and ability to attain academic and social success.
Early Learning Enrichment	<b>Novato School Readiness Program*</b> The Novato School Readiness Program's goal is to serve primarily Latino children ages 0-5 and their families to improve all aspects of child's health, including physical, socio-emotional, and mental health and is located in Marin County.	To support the School Readiness Program, Kinder Academy, and prepare children ages 0-5 to enter Kindergarten ready to learn, and provide bilingual parent education workshops to Latino parents.
Early Learning Enrichment	<b>Learning and Loving Center*</b> Learning and Loving Center, located in Morgan Hill, provides education and outreach to over 250 low-income immigrant women and children per year. The Center's mission is to be an agent of change encouraging immigrant women to build relationships among themselves, their families and their community. Through literacy, technology and basic skills education women acquire necessary abilities for further self-development.	To support the School Readiness and Early Literacy Project that provides early childhood and parenting education to Latino children ages 0-5 and their parents.
Parent Engagement	<b>Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement, Inc. (BAHIA) *</b> BAHIA, located in West Berkeley, serves over 200 low-income Latino families per year in Northern Alameda County. The mission of BAHIA is to provide quality bilingual and multicultural child care to children ages 2 to 10 years of age, particularly serving low-income Latino families.	To support the parent education program of BAHIA/Centro VIDA, focusing on parents with children ages 0-5.
Parent Engagement	<b>Canal Alliance*</b> Canal Alliance provides strength-based, family-centered case management, skills-building and economic development services to approximately 6,000 families per year in the San Rafael community of Marin County. The mission of Canal Alliance is to develop self-sufficiency and leadership for a healthier community.	To support healthy pregnancies through the Compañeras Program and provide family resources to low-income, immigrant families.

Parent Engagement	<p><b>Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA) *</b></p> <p>Mujeres Unidas y Activas provides early childhood education trainings and mental health services to over 400 immigrant Spanish-speaking children and their parents yearly in Oakland, Richmond and San Francisco. The mission of MUA is to empower and educate Latina immigrant women through mutual support and training to be leaders in their own lives and in their community.</p>	To support the Caring Hands Childcare Training Program and to provide parent education workshops to Latino parents with young children.
Parent Engagement	<p><b>Somos Mayfair*</b></p> <p>Somos Mayfair, located in San Jose, serves 6,000 families per year focusing on improving the health and well-being of Latino children and their families through family support, community engagement and civic action. The mission of Somos Mayfair is to cultivate the dreams and power of the people of Mayfair through cultural activism, social services and community organizing.</p>	To support the Siembra Family Support Program peer community educators to provide early childhood and health education case management services to Latino immigrants families with children ages 0-5.
Parent Engagement	<p><b>The Latina Center *</b></p> <p>The Latina Center is a grassroots organization based in the City of Richmond serving 6,000 families a year. The mission of the Latina Center is to improve the quality of life and health of Latinos by providing personal and leadership development opportunities to Latinas and their families.</p>	To support Primero Nuestros Niños/ Our Children First, a program for Latina survivors of family violence with children ages 0-5.
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	<p><b>Familias Unidas **</b></p> <p>Familias Unidas is a community-based mental health and social service agency serving over 5,500 low-income families, including youth, adults, parents and seniors in Contra Costa County. Their mission is to strengthen the county's multicultural communities by promoting family health and self-sufficiency with a focus on serving Spanish-speaking immigrant families living at or below the poverty level.</p>	To support Proyecto Bienestar in East Contra Costa County and provide pregnancy prevention education workshops and other program activities to at-risk Latina/o youth in schools sites in that region.
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	<p><b>La Clínica de La Raza*</b></p> <p>La Clínica, with clinics in Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties, serves over 45,000 people annually, particularly at-risk youth. The mission of La Clínica is to improve the quality of life of the diverse communities they serve by providing culturally appropriate, high quality and accessible health care for all.</p>	To support Clínica Alta Vista's Centering Pregnancy Program for pregnant teens and case management for teen mothers to prevent second pregnancies.
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	<p><b>Mexican American Community Services (MACSA) **</b></p> <p>MACSA is a multi-service agency located in San Jose serving over 76,000 Latino families per year in the area. MACSA's mission is to enrich the lives and advance the interest of the Latino Community of Santa Clara County. Their youth programs provide mentors, support groups, and educational workshops to help young men and women make positive life choices.</p>	To support their youth programs, Cultural Rites of Passage Circles and Youth Theatre that provides information and awareness about teen pregnancy prevention to youth ages 11 to 19 years.
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	<p><b>Mission Neighborhood Health Center (MNHC)*</b></p> <p>MNHC, located in the San Francisco's Mission District, is a comprehensive, community-based health center serving over 11,000 low-income Latino children, adolescents, adults and families in San Francisco. MNHC's mission is to provide high quality, culturally competent primary care services, focusing on the Latino Spanish-speaking population.</p>	To increase access to reproductive health care services and education to teens through the Teen Clinic.
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	<p><b>Teen Talk Sexuality Education</b></p> <p>Located in San Mateo County, Teen Talk Sexuality Education offers educational programs to over 4,000 youth per year. Their mission is to improve positive and honest communication between adults and youth, encouraging youth to make healthy choices, and reducing teen pregnancy and HIV/STDs in the community.</p>	To support the Teen Talk Program and Male Involvement Program that provides pregnancy prevention education and free, clinical resources to Latino students in the Redwood City School District.
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	<p><b>Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center (TVHC)**</b></p> <p>TVHC is a community-based health center in southern Alameda County serving over 22,000 people per year. Their mission is to promote the health and well-being of the community by providing accessible high quality care.</p>	To support the School Based Health Center programs to provide teen pregnancy prevention services.

# III. WHO WE SERVE AND HOW

## Who Is Being Reached?

The program and services of the fourteen funded community partners include a variety of strategies, target populations, and intended outcomes. Within the context of the Children and Youth Initiative, partners are in three focus areas:

- Early Learning Enrichment, from birth to age 5 (3 organizations)
- Parent Engagement, who have children ages 0-5 (5 organizations)
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention (6 organizations)

Across these focus areas, between March 2009 and April 2010, a total of 8,365 adults, teens, and children 0-5 received direct services, more than doubling the number of people served (3,961) in Year 1 of the Initiative.

The figure below describes clients receiving direct services in each of the focus areas.

Figure 1.

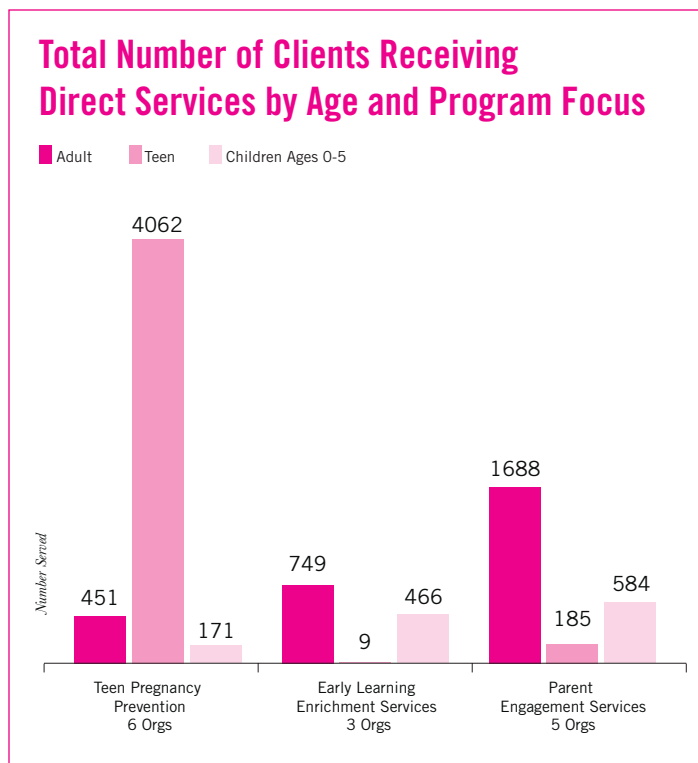
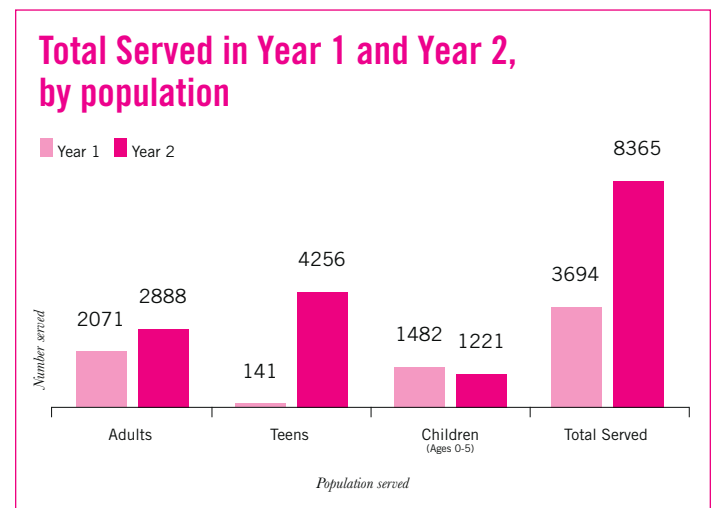


Figure 2.



The Initiative also seeks to assess the number and types of individuals who are “reached” through the efforts of its funded partners beyond those who may be recipients of direct services. This assessment of participants served indirectly was calculated with the understanding that Latinos often live together beyond the nuclear family unit and therefore share information with extended family and friends that live in the same household. According to 2008 Pew Research Center Report, Latinos (22%) are significantly more likely than whites (13%) to live in a multi-generational family household<sup>2</sup>. In addition, among Latinos, 48% are in a three-generation household, 47% are in a two-generation household, and 4% are in a skipped-generation household (grandparent and grandchild, no parent). **The extended reach of the Initiative’s funded services includes approximately 2021<sup>3</sup> adults and 2293 children.**

## Demographics

Funded community partners reported serving a variety of high-needs populations. This became apparent in the site visits conducted by LFC staff in 2009 and through discussions with community partner staff. Consequently, data reporting forms were updated from year one to capture information about the types of living situations and stressors affecting the lives of the clients served through the Initiative.

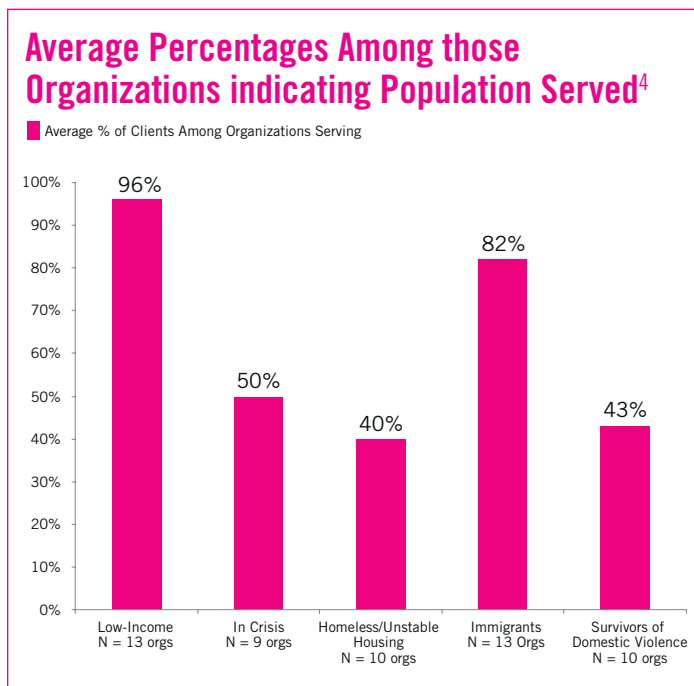
2 The Return of the Multi-Generational Family Household, Pew Research Center Report, March 18, 2010

3 Within the teen pregnancy prevention area, teen couples may include a partner who is 18 or older.

Across the organizations, nearly all of their clients are low-income (using the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2010 state income limits, a family of 4 earning \$56,800 or less is considered low-income), and, on average, a large percentage are immigrants (82%). Many organizations are also serving clients who are:

- In crisis: 9 organizations report this is true for an average of 50% of their clients<sup>4</sup>
- Survivors of Domestic Violence: 10 organizations report this is true for an average of 43% of their clients
- Homeless or in Unstable Housing: 10 organizations report this is true for an average of 40% of their clients

**Figure 3.**



## How are clients being served?

Across focus areas, LCF funded community partners served 8,365 unduplicated clients. Program services vary in level of intensity and duration, but all serve to promote participants' progress toward short-term goals identified in the Initiative's Theory of Change. These short-term goals include increased

<sup>4</sup> In crisis: clients requiring assistance for emergency referrals to food, housing, paying utilities, and health services.

early educational learning experiences for low-income Latino children ages 0-5; increased parental engagement among Latino parents with children birth to 5; and primary and secondary teen pregnancy prevention.

During convenings of each program focus area, funded community partners discussed and articulated the strategies and services that describe the ways their work aligns, collectively. This provides a shared framework for describing the array of strategies used in a particular program area. The following summarizes the core elements of strategies per program areas.

### Early Learning Enrichment, Ages 0-5

Three organizations work primarily with children 0-5 and their parents/caregivers. These programs provide child specific developmental activities and engage parents in structured activities with their children with the aim of supporting child development and increasing adult capacity to support that development.

#### Services Offered

- Structured early childhood education programming
- Child engagement in early learning opportunities while parent is in other services/classes
- Parents concurrently engaged in activities to support their learning and understanding of child's development and how to support educational success
- Kindergarten readiness program
- Shared learning opportunities among parents and children

### Parent Engagement

Five organizations focus primarily on parent engagement. Their programming spans a range of service types and focus areas important for parental success and family strengthening. Their services include individualized support in the form of case management and leadership development, as well as those provided through group sessions to reduce social isolation and build a support network.

#### Services Offered

- Group and Peer Support to provide opportunities for parents to share common experiences and build a community to decrease isolation

- Case management to support families as they navigate through various systems of care, such as schools, medical, legal, and social service systems. Immigrant families often feel overwhelmed with these large, complex institutions and case managers provide them with the resources and support to engage with these important entities in their families' lives.
- Leadership development to educate and empower Latinos to be leaders in their own lives and in their communities. Latinos need to be vocal advocates for their children's educational needs. This leadership component is an important step for families who may come from countries where advocacy may be discouraged.
- Mental health consultation for families dealing with the family violence. Mothers receive counseling and guidance on how to support their children through this difficult time.

### **Teen Pregnancy Prevention**

Six organizations describe themselves as either clinical or non-clinical. Within this program area, three organizations include some medical components to their service delivery, while the rest provide school-based or community-based sessions. The largest numbers of individuals were reached through this combination of services and on-site outreach. Services are often provided in group settings, which is consistent with best practices on how to work with youth.

### **Services Offered**

- Teen access to health care (via referral, outreach, navigation, transportation, accompanying)
- Outreach activities to promote awareness about pregnancy prevention, domestic violence, and healthy behaviors
- Workshops and other informative presentations regarding topics such as healthy sexuality, decision-making, negotiation/refusal skills, and birth control methods
- Intentional gender-specific and mixed-gender comprehensive programs for pre-sexually active and sexually active youth that focus on personal development through cultural teachings that provide life skills, cultural identity, and leadership development
- Case management services for pregnant and parenting teens that include child development, health discipline techniques, and communication skills
- Development of an Individual Service Plan for pregnant and parenting teens that covers secondary pregnancy prevention, nutrition, and psychosocial services
- Peer Public Service Announcements (PSAs) with targeted messages around teen pregnancy prevention

## IV. OUR IMPACT

In this section, we highlight the accomplishments of Initiative community partners organized by the outcomes identified in the Theory of Change: more Latino children enter school healthy and ready to learn; more parents have the skills and resources to fully participate and support their children's learning environment; more adolescents stay in school by reducing primary and secondary teen pregnancy; and increase investment to Latino community-based organizations in order to strengthen services to Latinos in the Bay Area.

For each outcome, we provide an overview of clients served and populations touched through the strategies used, impacts of efforts and stories, which illustrate the work of community partners on the lives of those they touch.

### Increase Early Learning Experiences and Parent Engagement

Eight of the currently funded community partners design and deliver services and supports, which increase early learning experiences. Good Samaritan Family Resource Center, Learning and Loving Center, and Novato Youth Center focus their efforts in early learning enrichment services for children ages 0-5. BAHIA, Canal Alliance, Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA), Somos Mayfair, and The Latina Center design and deliver parent engagement strategies for parents with children ages 0-5. Although these organizations span multiple counties, a commonality in their approaches supports optimal child development through innovative and best practice methods with Latino families and their young children.

#### Clients Served

This cohort has successfully provided family support and parenting services through Promotores, school readiness through pre-K experiences, and increasing the knowledge of childcare providers. Following is an overview of those served and touched in this outcome area and the strategies used:

- 156 parents reached through a continuum of Parent Education Workshops in Alameda County on topics such as child development, school readiness, nutrition, parent engagement and involvement
- 277 Latina survivors of family violence and 247 children ages 0-5 participated in the Primero Nuestros Niños/Our Children First program in Contra Costa County
- 57 Latina immigrant mothers in Contra Costa County received individual counseling from licensed therapists for family violence. Topics include parent-child relationships, legal issues, domestic violence, and sexual abuse
- 173 families received social services referrals and case management services in Northern Marin County
- 943 families in the Canal neighborhood of San Rafael in Marin County received services through the Family Resource Program
- 93 low-income Latino immigrant parents and 72 children received early education services through the Support School Readiness and Family Support programs in San Francisco County
- 170 Latino adults and 85 children received early childhood and parenting education services in Santa Clara County
- 118 Latino immigrant parents received direct case management services and 119 children ages 0-5 by Promotores through the Family Support Program in the Mayfair community of San Jose in Santa Clara County

#### Client Outcomes

Those served in this area experienced outcomes related to child development and parenting including those regarding school readiness and creating and sustaining a healthy and stable home environment . Following are some highlights:

- 66% (86) of children ages 0-5 who reported that they had no previous pre-school experience were enrolled in a school readiness program
- 98% (83) demonstrated increased developmental skills to prepare for school through a school readiness and early literacy project
- 95% (162) of parents participating in parenting workshops learned skills to positively support their children's academic success and upward mobility as well as adopted healthier practices to improve their families well-being
- 92% (48) of parents reported that they had increased parenting skills and are maintaining stable home environments for their children
- 90% (867) parents demonstrated improved family functionality
- 100% (5) of childcare providers reported feeling confident in their abilities and secure in their roles as providers
- 83% (21) of mothers reported a positive change for their children over the course of their participation in the program. 84% (54) of mothers reported that their participation improved their communication with their children. 80% (51) indicated a better understanding of their child's socio-emotional development. 74% (47) indicated that participation helped them to resolve problems with their children. 84% (54) indicated that participation helped them to improve their health
- 95% (54) of parents demonstrated increased knowledge of healthy behaviors and 100% (268) of newborns weighed were normal birth weight (more than 2500 grams) in the prenatal program

- 47% (74) of children who were considered at-risk show some improvement on Ages and Stages questionnaire at 6-month follow-up. 38% (76) of families developed Family Success Plans. 80% (60) of these families achieved the goals outlined in their Family Success Plans

#### From The Field

### Early Identification and Treatment: Good Samaritan Family Resource Center

Within the first few days of the child's participation in the Kids' Club, teachers noticed that a child was demonstrating unusual eating behaviors. She would keep her food in her mouth after the first bite and would not swallow for a long period. She would not try new foods, her body would often shake, and it was very difficult for her to transition to playing with the other children. The teachers brought their concerns to their mental health staff meeting. After the implementation of the registration process and orientation, they discovered that the family was undergoing a separation, which was bringing much stress to the family. The teachers followed appropriate steps to refer the child to our partners at Child Trauma Research Project at San Francisco General Hospital, where the mother and child are receiving parent/child psychotherapy. Though the family is receiving treatment outside of Good Samaritan, the teachers continue to have a working alliance with the parent and child. The mother continues to bring her daughter to the Kids' Club, engages, and bonds with her by reading together.

### Improve Health Outcomes to Improve Educational Outcomes

Six of the currently funded community partners design and deliver services and supports, which contribute to improved health outcomes, in the areas of pregnancy prevention with a focus on teens. These include Familias Unidas, La Clinica de La Raza, Mexican American Community Services Agency (MACSA), Mission Neighborhood Health Center, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, and Teen Talk. These organizations are located in clinical, school-based and community settings. As such, they utilize a variety of strategies that are culturally and contextually appropriate for their client populations.

#### Clients Served

Collectively, these organizations have successfully provided pregnancy prevention to teens through reproductive health services, workshops and presentations, peer education support

groups, and leadership development activities. Following is an overview of those served and touched in this outcome area and the strategies used:

- 400 teens received individualized family planning education and 283 accessed pregnancy testing and counseling from school-based health centers in Alameda County
- 5,200 student reached through a student-produced pregnancy prevention PSA video in Alameda County
- Peer Educators conducted 755 one-to-one peer psycho-educational sessions on the messages of abstinence, safe sex and responsible sexual behavior in Contra Costa County
- 229 teens accessed reproductive health care services in San Francisco County
- 929 students in San Mateo County received pregnancy prevention education and free, confidential clinical resources
- 22 male and 22 female teens attended "Rites of Passage", a gender-specific model, which contributes to the transition and development of teens in to healthy and responsible adults in Santa Clara County
- 21 youth participated in a theater institute, which is designed to tap in to their arts and culture as a means to build self-efficacy and resilience to prevent early pregnancy in Santa Clara County

#### Client Outcomes

Those served in this area experienced outcomes ranging from increases in knowledge to improved success in school and employment. Following are highlights:

- 89% (230) youth who attended preventive education workshops demonstrated an increase in knowledge how to prevent pregnancy
- 92% (153) youth who attended middle school presentations demonstrated an increase in knowledge how to prevent pregnancy
- 86% (35) of teen mothers reported an increase in birth control knowledge and utilization
- 100% of teen peer educators demonstrated an increased skill as facilitators to their peers
- 71% (25) teen peer educators strongly agreed that Peer Training helped them realize of the possibility of a good future
  - 64% (22) strongly agreed that the group taught them how to have health relationships
  - 68% (24) strongly agreed that they learned things in the group that will help them make good decisions

#### From the Field

### Encouraging Responsible Behavior: Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc.

In February 2010, a 16-year-old Latino male came into the Tennyson Health Center to support his girlfriend who was requesting clinical services as she was experiencing symptoms of a potential sexually transmitted infection (STI). The girlfriend met with a Health Educator to discuss her concerns. Upon conducting a thorough assessment, the Health Educator encouraged her to become a patient, as she did present symptoms of a STI and she had been having unprotected sexual intercourse for the past two weeks. The young woman was processed, immediately seen by the medical provider, and given the appropriate treatment for the infection. The Health Educator also approached the boyfriend and encouraged him to become a patient of the Tennyson Health Center. Both teens were identified by the Health Educator as a part of the high-risk category and flagged for more specific and continuous follow-up interventions.

During one of the follow-up sessions, the young man disclosed that he had a high number of female sexual partners in his home country of Guatemala. He revealed that he had well over 15 female sexual partners by the age of 16 and had never used a condom. The Health Educator discussed with him the importance of testing for STI's and HIV, using condoms, and identifying behavior change strategies to reduce his risk for STI, HIV, and pregnancy. The Health Educator and Family Nurse Practitioner also worked closely with his girlfriend to develop her condom negotiation skills, as well as how to properly use hormonal birth control to prevent pregnancies. Both teens left with prescriptions for condoms and a hormonal birth control method and have been successful in their follow-up visits to renew their prescriptions.

### Strengthen Latino-Organizations

As part of the Initiative, LCF brings funded community partners together to provide a space for shared learning and to build relationships that can advance the effectiveness of participants individually and collectively. This includes a combination of mandatory technical assistance and training (TAT) sessions, designed and delivered by JDCPartnerships, and CommunityConversaciones, a speaker series that brings community members together to address pressing issues in the Latino community, sponsored by LCF. Participation in the CommunityConversaciones is not mandatory but encouraged.

#### Technical Assistance and Training

LCF offers technical assistance and trainings to funded community partners in a culturally appropriate manner. Translation services are provided at all meetings. Beyond language, LCF strives to incorporate cultural values and norms into our technical assistance and trainings. LCF seeks to build a strong network among Latino-based organizations. To this end, trainings and convenings are developed from a position of partners' assets. LCF values and supports the unique expertise each funded community partner contributes to the whole cohort. Each technical assistance and training session is designed to help our partners strengthen their infrastructures, while valuing all that each partner adds to our community.

There were four sets of trainings offered during Year 2: Program Planning and Evaluation Design (May 2009); Fundraising Strategies (August 2009); Data Collection by Core Strategy Area (December 2009); and a Data Analysis webinar (March 2010).

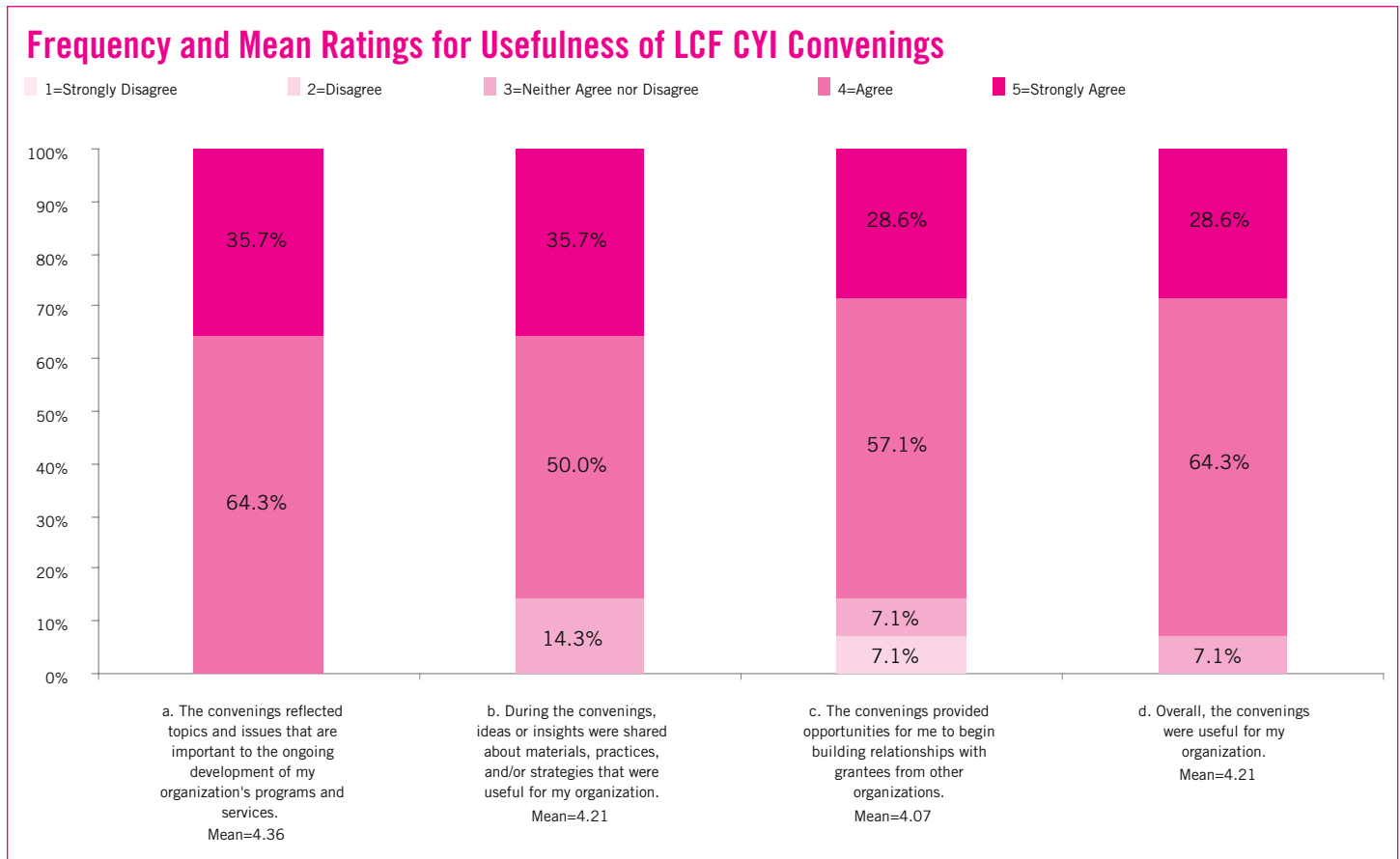
In September 2009, a Community Conversaciones event was held to assess LCF's new grantmaking model, "Enhancing Grantmaking Models Using a Multi-Faceted Approach." In February 2010, another Community Conversaciones event discussed "Investing in Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Aligning Philanthropy, Policy, and Practice."

To assess the relevance and impact of these components, funded Community Partners respond to an annual survey administered on-line in English and Spanish at the end of the grant period. Partners describe changes in collaborative activities with others in the Initiative, the ways in which participation in the Initiative has helped them to leverage funds, and what changes have occurred in their organization's capacity. All fourteen of the Initiative's partner organizations provided feedback through this survey. Following is a summary of key findings.

### Usefulness of Convenings

Survey respondents who attended at least one convening were asked to rate the importance of the convening(s) in terms of relevance to their organization's work on a five-point scale (1 = Strongly Disagree; 5 = Strongly Agree). All respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the convenings reflected topics and issues that are important to the ongoing development of their organization's programs and services (mean = 4.36).

**Figure 4.**

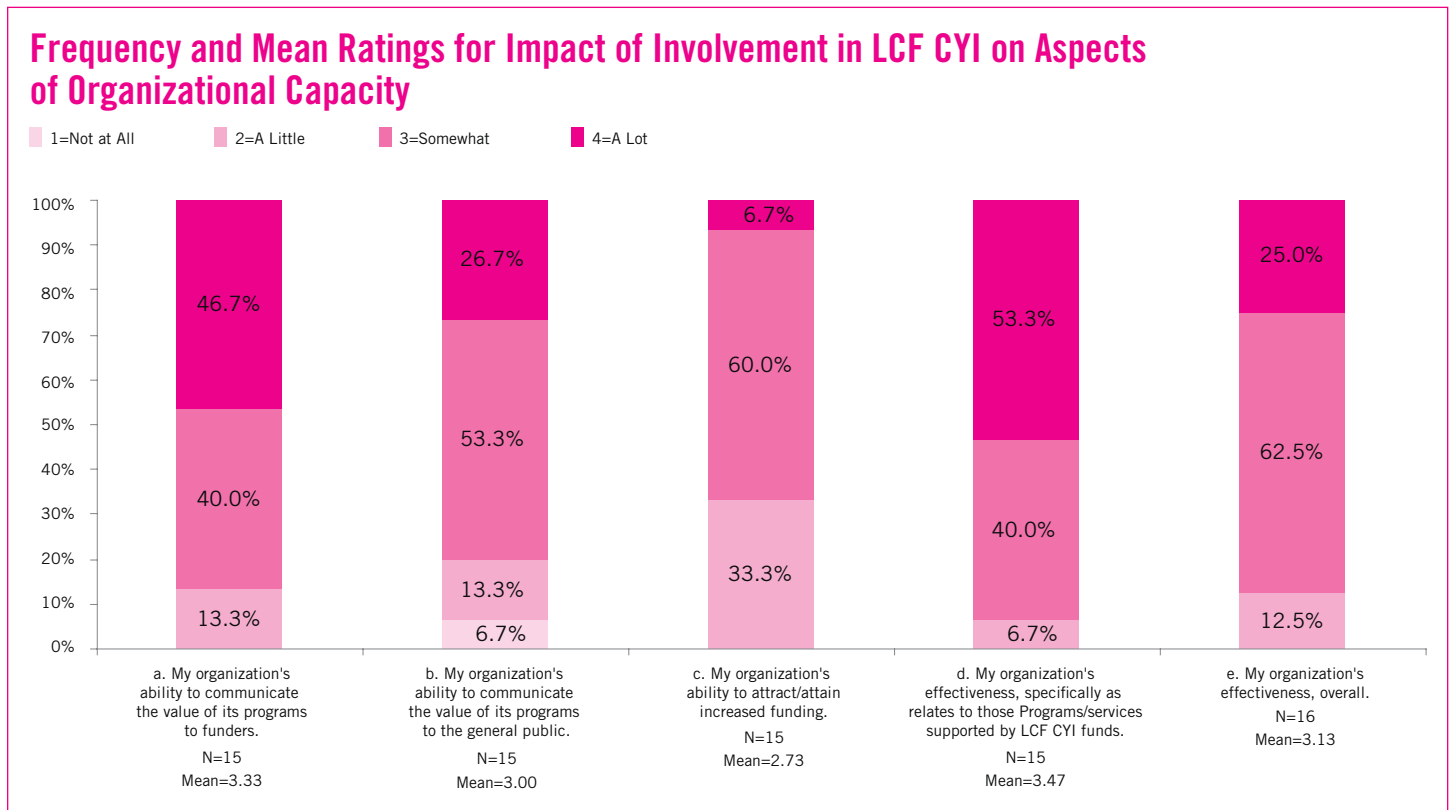


### What difference are we making?

Funded Community Partners indicated how strongly they feel that their involvement in the Initiative impacted various aspects of their organizational capacity. They gave the strongest overall mean rating for the impact of the Initiative on their organization's effectiveness, specifically as it relates to programs and services supported by LCF funds (3.47 on a four-point scale).

Close to that was their rating of the impact of the Initiative on their organization's ability to communicate the value of its programs to funders (mean = 3.33). The majority felt that the Initiative had a more moderate impact on their organization's overall effectiveness (mean = 3.13) and the impact of the Initiative on their organization's ability to attract or attain increased funding (mean = 2.73).

Figure 5.



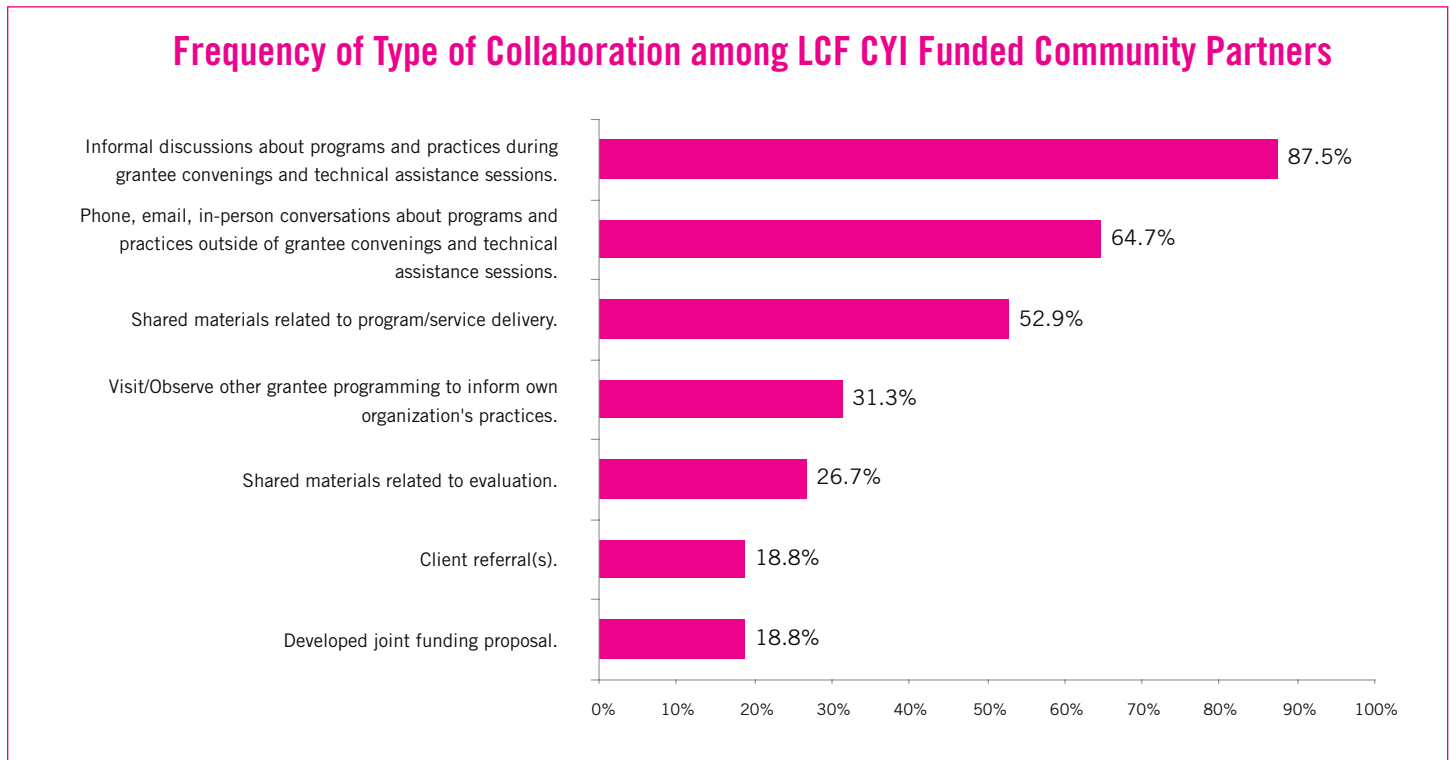
### New relationships and practices

Partners are positive in their assessment of the ways in which participating in the Initiative has impacted various aspects of their overall organizational capacity and effectiveness, especially as relates to those programs/services supported by LCF funds (3.47 on a four-point scale). Overall, it appears that the relevance of the information and topics in the convenings and the ways in which these convenings have fostered collaboration among partners are informing improved practice.

The relationships that developed during the convenings are translating into collaborative activities among partners. A large majority have joined other Initiative partners in informal

discussions about programs and practices during convenings and technical assistance sessions (87.5%). Smaller majorities have had conversations about programs and practices outside of the convenings and technical assistance sessions (64.7%) and/or shared materials related to program or service delivery (52.9%). Nearly a third have observed another's programming to inform their own organization's practices (31.3%), and about a quarter have shared materials related to evaluation (26.7%). Several have also shared client referrals (18.8%) or developed a joint funding proposal (also 18.8%). The three ways in which they were most likely to collaborate (conversations both during and outside of convenings and sharing materials) were also the ways in which they collaborated most often.

Figure 6.

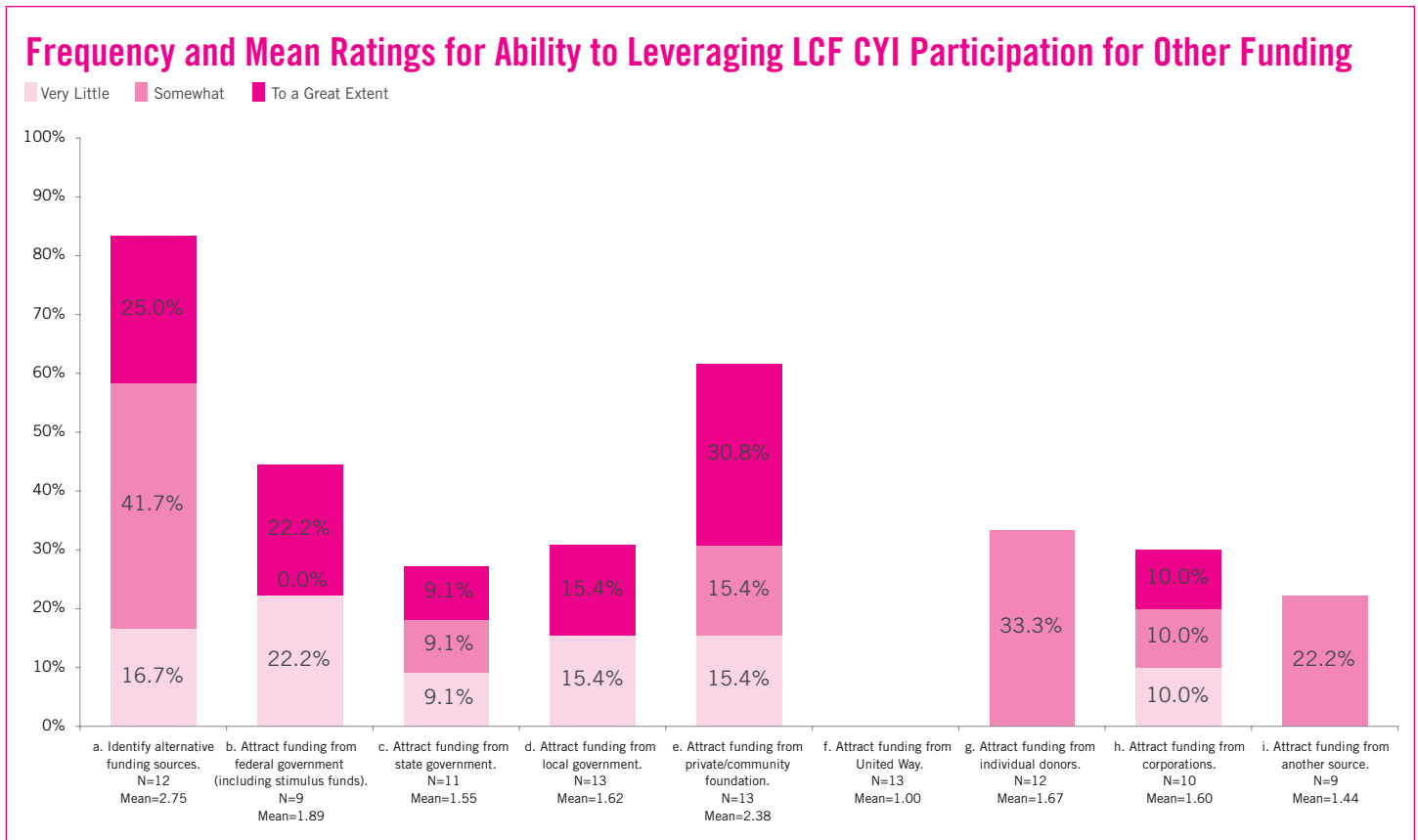


Furthermore, as mentioned above, one of the 2009-2010's Training and Technical Assistance Sessions focused on Best Practices and Evidence-Based Programs. Partners indicate moderate growth in understanding of best practices and evidence-based programs (3.65) and a large percentage of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they gained insight from their participation in the TA sessions (71.6%, or 12 of 17). Partners responded similar moderate growth in having gained ideas for incorporating best practices and evidence-based programs into their work (mean = 3.59). Those individuals directly participating in the convening rated their growth somewhat higher (3.90) for both increased understanding of and ideas for integrating best practices.

### Leveraged funds

Partners report that participation in the Initiative has positively impacted their organization's ability to communicate the value of their programming to funders (3.33 on a four-point scale). In general, participation helped most (83%) be able to identify alternative funding sources. In addition, some have been able to leverage their participation in the Initiative to secure other funding. More than one-half were able to attract funding from a private or community foundation (61.5%, with a mean of 2.38). For several organizations funding from the federal government (44.4%; mean = 1.89), from individual donors (33.3%; mean = 1.67), from a local government (30.8%; mean = 1.62), or from corporations (30%; mean = 1.60) was also secured. Given California's current fiscal status, it is not surprising that fewer have attracted funding from a state government (27.3%; mean = 1.55).

**Figure 7.**



Partners rated the contribution of participation to their ability to identify new sources or actually secure funds on a scale of “1” to “4” (1 = Not at All, 2 = Very Little, 3 = Somewhat, 4 = To a Great Extent). Those partners that indicated they have been able to leverage their participation to attract funding at a more significant level (“Somewhat” or “To a Great Extent” compared with “A little”) described the sources and amounts of funds from each.

Five Partners provided this information including the amounts of each type of funding presented in the table below. Overall, funding amounts ranged from \$12,000 (individual donor) to \$400,000 (city or county funding). Three of them have secured funding from a city or county, for a total of \$582,500 (range: \$43,500 – \$400,000.)

**Table 2. Type and Amount of Leveraged Funds**

Funding Sources	Number of Partners Securing More Significant Funds	Total Amount Secured (range)
City/County Funding	3	\$582,500 (\$43,000-\$400,000)
Private/Community Foundation	3	\$220,750 (\$20,000-\$150,750)
Federal Funding	2	\$285,000 (\$85,000 & \$200,000)
State Funding	1	\$270,000
Individual Donors	1	\$12,000

One of the partners receiving city or county funding indicated that this was a new type of funding for the organization over the previous fiscal year. Two of those receiving private or community foundation funds and the one receiving individual donor funds said that these funds represented a small increase over the previous fiscal year. The partner receiving state funds and one of those receiving private or community foundation funds indicated that this was a moderate increase. One of the partners receiving federal funds says this represents a substantial increase over the previous fiscal year.

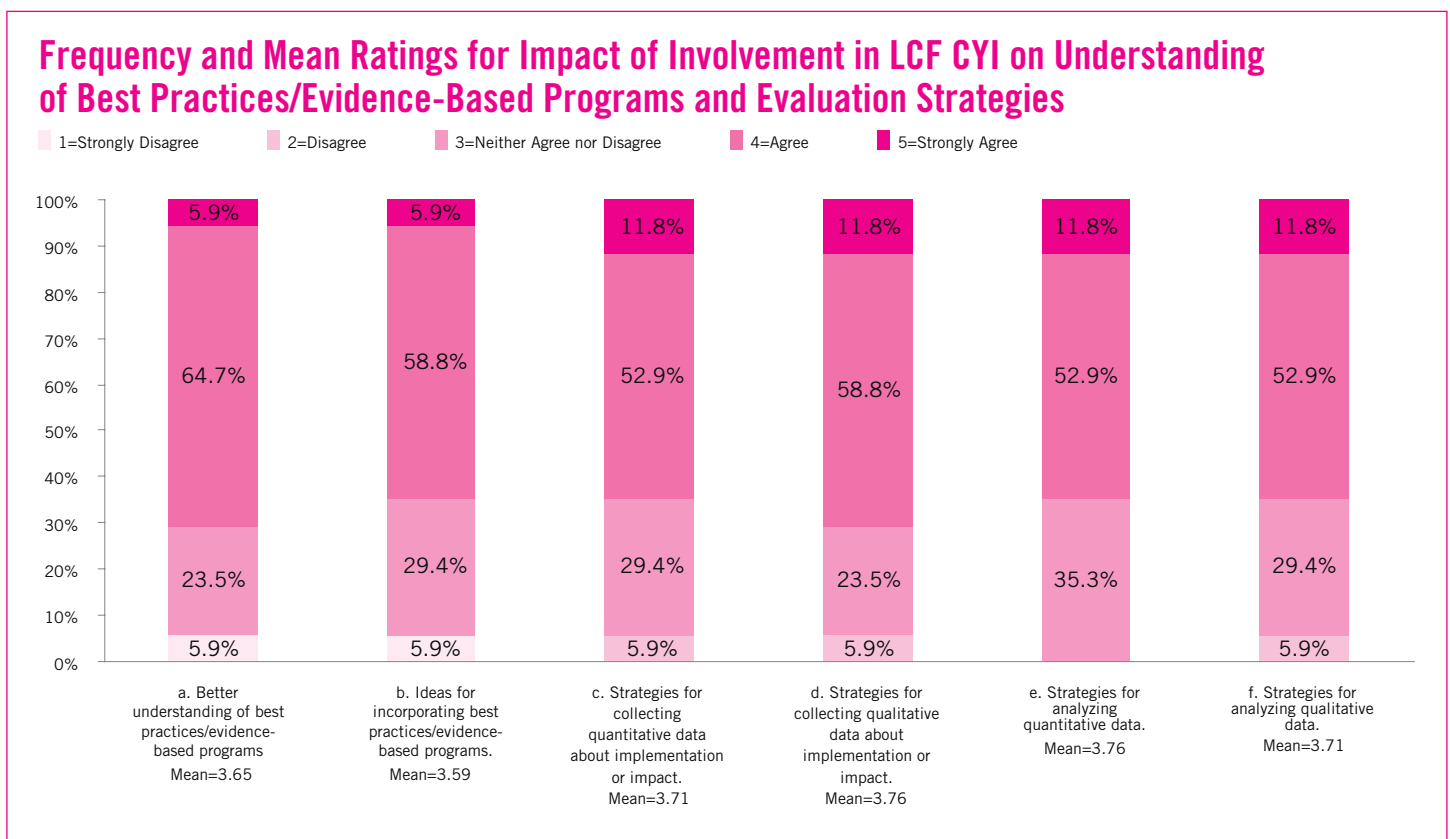
### Evaluation capacity

When asked about ways in which LCF is unique among funding agencies, partners most strongly rated its commitment to supporting evaluation capacity (4.82 on 5-point scale). More specifically, partners also used a five-point scale (1= Strongly Disagree, 5= Strongly Agree) to express the extent to which being a part of the Initiative improved or enhanced their awareness of evaluation

and related tools and resources for program evaluation. Their ratings here were slightly lower, overall, than in the 2008–2009 when TA focused on a general introduction to evaluation concepts and practices and support for logic model development. However, nearly two-thirds agreed or strongly agreed with each statement about whether LCF had helped them understand or gain competency in each evaluation strategy. Mean ratings across four items related to quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis strategies are similar (3.71-3.76), and suggest moderate growth in the overall evaluation capacity of these organizations.

Additionally, comments from partners about their key accomplishments and contextual factors included several notations about improved evaluation methods and clearer objectives and outcomes, including mentions of continued refinement and use of their logic models. While generally positive, the variability in ratings and comments indicate that as the technical assistance has moved towards application of deeper evaluation concepts and strategies, increased clarity around expectations and more tailored, individualized support may be needed.

Figure 8.



## How do we do it?

Partners recognize the convenings LCF sponsors as useful and valuable to the work of their organizations. Rating them most positively in terms of reflecting topics and issues important to the ongoing development of their organization’s programs and services and providing ideas and insights about materials, practices, and strategies.

Comments from partners about the factors that supported their accomplishments this year further illustrate ways in which LCF’s approach to this initiative is supporting the emergence of a vibrant and useful learning community.

*The relationships developed with other partners at convenings helped. I appreciated the opportunities to hear about the successes and challenges of others.*

*Program services increased and staff gained more familiarity and comfort in program delivery and administration, we also continue to increase and expand the breadth of related services to the Initiative program; we gained feedback on our evaluation, which could be more rigorous, particularly in the process of data analysis required for reporting.*

*Much staff time was dedicated to different meetings and trainings over the year, but we are now noticing the benefits of this investment.*

*Having the diversity of perspectives and expertise has made our quality of service much higher.*

*Setting specific goals in our work plan and performance measures in the reports helped keep our staff on track with making these improvements.*

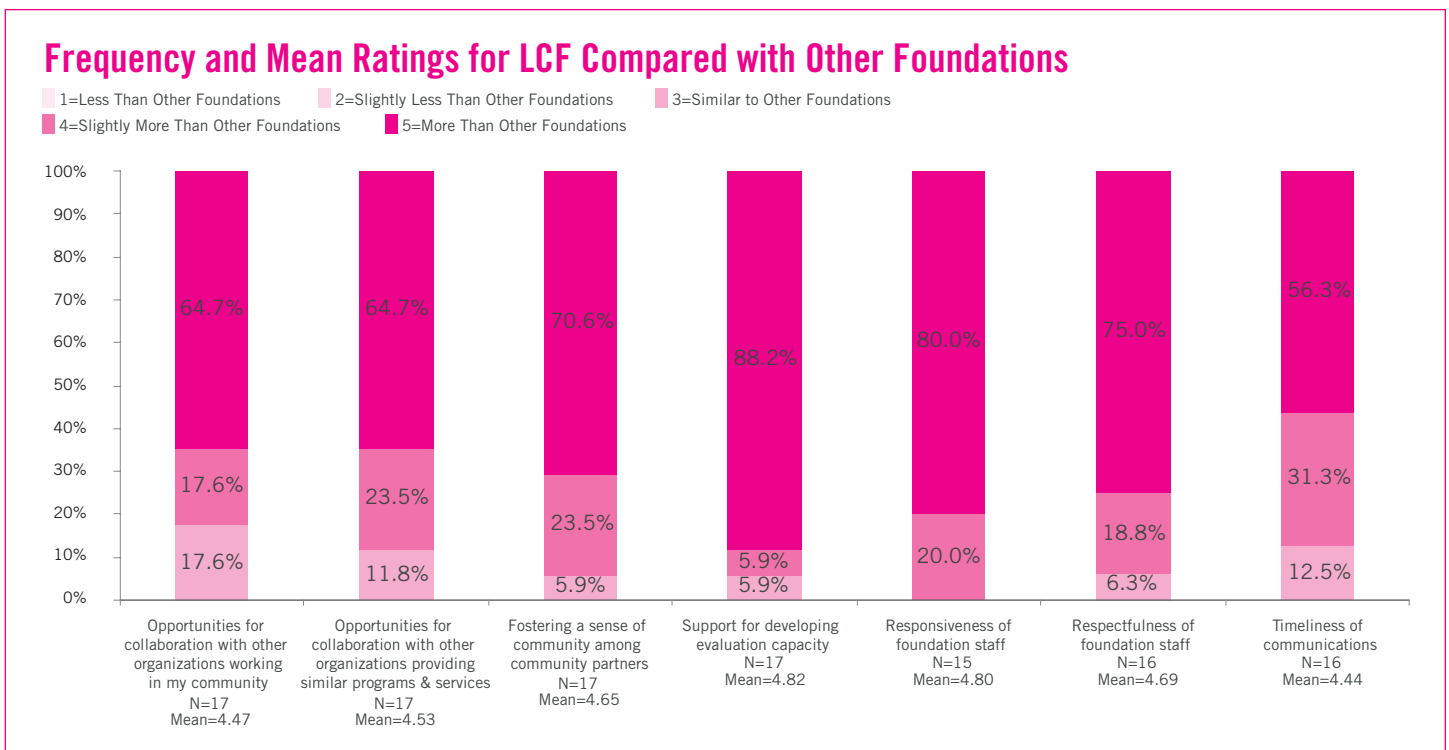
*The reporting process held us accountable to the changes and the LCF meetings on how to gather data helped think of better ways to measure these outcomes.*

*The Initiative funds allowed us to pilot the program in local schools and adjust the curriculum before its completion.*

*Working with LCF propelled us to improve our internal communication.*

Partners also recognize the uniqueness of LCF’s approach to building this learning community, with ratings (scale: 1 = less so than other funders; 3 = about the same; 5 = more so than other funders) that indicate LCF provides more support for developing evaluation capacity (4.82), that LCF staff are responsive (4.80) and respectful (4.69) and that LCF fosters a sense of community among partners (4.65) with opportunities to collaborate with other providing similar programs and services (4.53) and/or organizations in their community (4.47).

Figure 9.



## V. LESSONS LEARNED AND NEXT STEPS

### Lessons Learned

The work of LCF continues to evolve shaped by our own learning and that of the broader fields in which we work, environmental context, and the issues of our community. Although there have been many lessons learned over the past two years, those that have primarily informed our thinking and actions can be organized in to four categories.

#### Working With Extremely High Needs Communities

In this challenging economic climate, funded community partners need larger amounts of funding to provide the comprehensive array of services that the community vitally needs. LCF funded community partners are providing an incredible amount of needed services to the Latino community, many of which go unfunded. Higher-needs participants require additional staff time and more intensive services. Funding sources must be mindful of this context as more and more community-based organizations are being asked to increase numbers served while funding remains constant, or even decreases. In addition to ensuring that funds are adequate for the increased services needed for this high-need community it is also important to identify ways to provide core operating support to organizations. When one family needs multiple services it is often hard to distinguish funding sources that will cover the services. Providing core operating funds allows organizations more flexibility in providing services to high-need families.

#### Designing and Supporting a Multi-Year Cohort Model

The strength of this cohort really lies in the quality of services, trusted reputations, and complementary array of services that each partner contributes to the group. LCF intentionally funded a cohort with the intent of funding organizations over four years in order to give organizations an opportunity to enhance their relationships and rely on a steady stream of funding. The cohort is focused on issues impacting educational learning for children, youth and their families, which has also been a source of strength. Funded community partners share many similar characteristics that have allowed for greater learning and collaboration as they all work with communities with similar needs and provide very complimentary services to their clients. Funding a cohort also helps LCF stay abreast of emerging areas of need and changing community practices and norms as we meet with our partners on a quarterly basis in addition to annual site visits.

#### Identifying and Using Evidence-Based Curricula/ Best Practices

With both government and private funding moving toward funding programs that utilize evidence-based curricula (identified as such by large-scale studies that yield data showing their effectiveness over time and/or across various communities), it is important to have discussions with organizations about the models they use to provide services in their communities. Organizations should be aware of the evidence-based programs that have worked with their population. As well, funding agencies should not overlook and undervalue the best practices being conducted in the field by community experts. Often community-based organizations have tried particular evidence-based curricula that have not worked with the needs of their clients. Organizations must then use their cultural expertise and research to augment or develop new curricula that is based on best-practice models for their clients. Therefore, it is important for organizations and funding agencies to have open dialogues about how best to serve the community.

#### Strengthening Latino Community-Based Organizations

LCF has seen very positive results from the technical assistance provided as demonstrated through annual evaluation surveys. LCF makes investments in a broad range of agencies, from an agency with a budget of just over \$200K to an agency with a budget in excess of \$65 million. Balancing the technical assistance needs of this cohort that runs the gamut in terms of budget and operating capacity is an ongoing challenge for LCF. Yet, what is clear is that organizations have gained valuable capacity through the multi-year funding and technical assistance workshops that have in many cases greatly strengthened organizational services and capacity. Especially among smaller organizations and organizations with less administrative staff, LCF technical assistance has led to enhanced evaluation tools and increased funding opportunities.

LCF technical assistance is unique in that it provides all workshops and materials in English and Spanish, which is often difficult to find in the Bay Area. Focusing on cultural competence and providing the most culturally relevant trainings and convenings to our funded community partners continues to be a priority for LCF. Technical assistance trainings and convenings will continue to offer translation services, provide expert presenters knowledgeable with service provision in the Latino community, and support partner's continued growth—organizational, financial, and staff professional development, while respecting and valuing their current assets and strengths.

## Next Steps

LCF seeks to evolve in the direction of its participants' needs to fulfill our mission to build a better future for California's communities by investing in Latino children and their families. As today's children and families continue to experience additional economic and social challenges, we will fund programs to increase stability and resiliency and mitigate these additional burdens.

In alignment with our strategic plan, LCF is expanding into a new program area, Family Financial Independence (FFI). In 2010, LCF approved a strategic plan that calls for an expansion of current grantmaking program areas. With the overarching goal of increasing economic and educational opportunities for Latino children in California, the new program areas expand on current investments focused on children by supporting programs

that ensure children are raised in financially stable families and live in thriving and sustainable communities.

The Initiative seeks to ensure Latino children are healthy and ready to learn; prevent teen pregnancy to increase long-term educational and employment success for teens; increase learning experiences for children; and provide parents with the skills and resources to fully participate and support their children's learning environment. The FFI program seeks to increase the number of Latino children raised in financially supportive households, thereby increasing long-term educational and employment opportunities, and enhance skills and assets among Latino parents.

Together, these programs comprise a comprehensive approach to accomplish LCF's mission.

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