



Collaborative for Colchester's Children

HEALTHY, HAPPY & SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

Annual Report July 2019– June 2020

Notable News!

- Provided 9 subsidized school-day preschool spaces and 22 part-day spaces through School Readiness
- Reached 92 families with our programs even with Covid-19 interruption of programming!
- Provided 128 sessions of programming to families
- 34 new families participated in our programs or workshops
- Delivered OEC provided PPE to childcare programs
- Provided Circle of Security® with support from Dime Bank of \$1855
- Colchester Lions Grant of \$600 helped support Play and Learn Groups
- OEC grants \$15,786 to support our Council work!

C3 Responds to Changing Conditions

We were all taken by surprise when what seemed like a distant concern became a part of our everyday lives. C3 was in the middle of a few programs and just about to begin new classes when we were all advised to stay at home. Our response was varied and we pivoted to keep moving forward in our efforts to strengthen our early childhood community and empower families during such a challenging time.

While we had to interrupt our PEP groups and did not begin a new session of Joyful Noises or parent workshops in person, we did continue to offer some programming for families. Our Village Parent Support group moved to a virtual evening group via Zoom and Joyful Noises circle times were offered two times per week via Facebook Live throughout the Spring. We continued to reach out to families via Facebook with resources for financial and mental health supports.

Cindy Praisner from C3 and Teresa

Messervy from TVCCA coordinated the delivery of Personal Protective Equipment and cleaning supplies provided by the CT Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to our home and center-based providers. Additionally, C3 disseminated information and participated in weekly update meetings to ensure that our providers had the most accurate information to support their programs and their personal safety.

Our Strengthening Local Early Childhood Council grant had just been approved by the Office of Early Childhood when life shut-down. Many of the proposed strategies could no longer be implemented so we amended our plan and shifted our funds to support online learning for over 75 members of our community that work with our children in our schools, childcare centers and homes, library, and town departments. We spent time working with a marketing consultant to design a new logo and marketing materials. Though we have kept busy, we miss our families!

The Power of Partnerships

When Covid-19 became local news and the public schools moved to distance learning in March of 2020, childcare programs in the State were asked to remain open to serve the children of essential workers. Most of our Colchester center and home-based providers remained open while a few closed temporarily and then reopened for care. These providers have worked diligently, adapted quickly, and provided quality and safe childcare in the midst of an ever-changing procedural landscape. Group

sizes were limited and families suddenly needed care for school-age children. Safety guidelines were instituted and new practices were implemented overnight. Our community programs communicated with each other, shifted their own enrollments, and worked hard to find openings for families searching for spaces for their children. All of this while working long hours under uncertain conditions. C3 is proud of our early care community and continues to do our best to support them. Thank you to each of our Superheroes!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Laurie Buyniski
C3 Co-Chair

Beth Tiezzi
C3 Co-Chair

Staff

Cindy Praisner
Coordinator

Dawn LePage
Assistant to Coordinator

Our Vision is a Colchester where:

Children are Healthy

Healthy children are part of a caring, supportive network that meets their physical and emotional needs within an environment that enriches their development.

For healthy children, we work to ensure:

- Women of childbearing age and those already pregnant will have good health.
- Colchester babies will be born healthy.
- Infants and young children will be physically active, have good nutrition, and healthy sleep habits.
- All children will have access to quality health and dental services.
- All relationships within our community will be physically, intellectually, and emotionally safe for children and adults.

Primary Actions:

- Regular social media messages about nutrition, sleep habits, screen use, and exercise
- Provided opportunities for social-emotional skill development for adults and children
- Worked to align the community's approach to mental health and behavioral challenges

Children are Happy

Happy children have loving, nurturing relationships within strong, empowered families that are able to meet life's challenges.

For happy children, we work to ensure:

- Families will have the five protective factors in place as defined by the Strengthening Families Model, i.e. Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Support in Times of Need, and support for Children's Social and Emotional Development.
- Families with young children will be decision-makers and leaders in our community.

Primary Actions:

- Offered Play and Learn groups for children and caregivers
- Hosted parent workshop series on Flip-It®, Circle of Security®, and People Empowering People™ (PEP)
- Provided opportunities for family voice through our Parent Council and parent representatives on our Leadership Work Group and School Readiness Council

Children are Successful

Successful children participate in high-quality, affordable, early learning experiences and are supported through their first years of school.

For successful children, we work to ensure:

- All children, from birth to age five, will participate in high-quality, affordable, early learning opportunities and services necessary to enhance individual school readiness.
- All School Readiness program sites will be of high-quality and meet program requirements.
- Families will have the knowledge and skills to support their child's development and success in school.
- Our Colchester community will understand and partner with the educational system.

Primary Actions:

- Hosted professional development opportunities for all early care and education providers in the Colchester community including online learning
- Coordinated the provision of the School Readiness program that provides subsidized school-day spaces and part-day spaces to community children
- Monitored School Readiness program classrooms for quality and compliance

Our Collaborative is Effective and Strong

A fiscally stable and organizationally effective Collaborative is needed to ensure that our early childhood efforts will continue into future generations.

For an effective and strong Collaborative, we work to ensure:

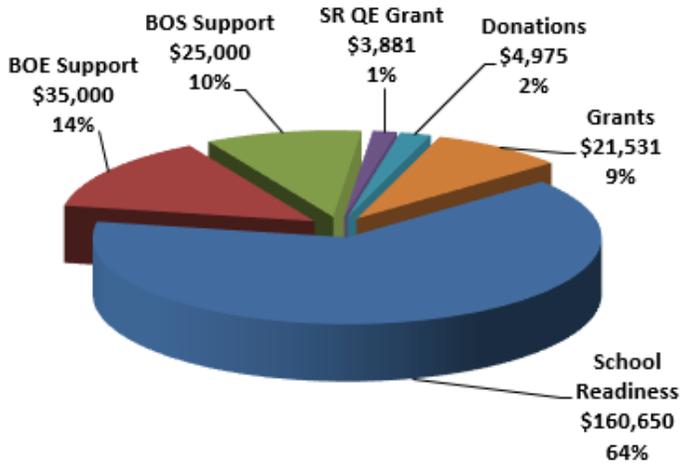
- The Collaborative for Colchester's Children will have an infrastructure that promotes, adequately funds and is accountable for its early childhood efforts.
- C3 will effectively and efficiently implement our strategies to achieve our mission.

Primary Actions:

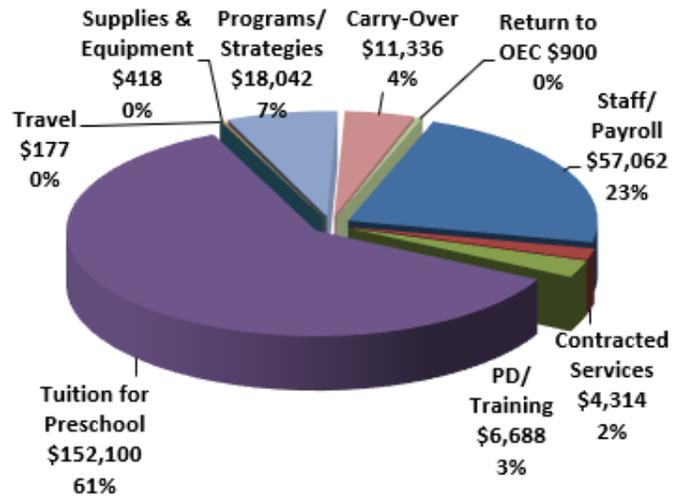
- Employed two part-time staff and maintained oversight of program facilitators
- Implemented Plan through our Leadership Workgroup and School Readiness Council
- Hosted an Annual Meeting to share progress with the community
- Reached out to the community through our website and Facebook page
- Presented updates of C3's work to the Boards of Education, Selectmen, and Finance
- Continued to seek out grant opportunities and support fundraising efforts for our work

Financial Information for 2019-2020

Monetary Revenues Total: \$251,037



Expenses Total: \$251,037



Thank you to our supporters and partners!



CASTLE

Colchester Board of Education

Colchester Board of Selectmen

Colchester Lions Charities

Colchester Youth & Social Services

Cragin Memorial Library

Dime Bank Foundation, Inc

Liberty Bank Foundation

TVCCA

UCFS

Backus Hospital

Donations Received in 2019-2020:

- Puzzle Fundraiser \$790
- Ron Goldstein paid for PEP training \$200
- Anonymous Gifts \$500
- Anonymous Gift \$50
- Brittany Manville Variety Show \$654

We need you! Contact Cindy Praisner at cpraisner@colchesterct.org to find out how you can help!

Visit our website at: www.ColchesterC3.org

Like us on facebook!



Collaborative for Colchester's Children

315 Halls Hill Rd Colchester, CT 06415

860.537.0717