

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2021
JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021



FAMILIES
FIRST

LETTER FROM SUE

Dear Families First Community,

For all nonprofit leaders, this year has been a call to action on several fronts. In addition to focusing our efforts on supporting families disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, Families First continued to innovate and find ways to advance racial equity and social justice.

Over the past fiscal year (July 2020 – June 2021), we expanded our Parent Leadership work across Greater Boston. Putting parents at the center of the work recognizes the importance and value of authentic family engagement as a powerful way to drive change. The latest Parent Leader Fellows [see page 7] contributed mightily to various agencies and local coalitions in Greater Boston.

This report demonstrates Families First's efforts to ensure that Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging continue to be an integral part of what we do and who we are. This work highlighted the need to revamp human resources practices, to institute learning sessions for staff, and to embrace diversity at all levels of the organization. Our goal is to create a culture that fosters acceptance and community for all.

Lastly, I am excited for growth. Our high-impact programs will continue supporting families and partnering with parent leaders both locally and statewide. In fact, a plan to launch programming in Western Massachusetts in 2022 is already underway. This is further evidence of Families First's commitment to scale up; next year, we will reach more families on the road to ensuring that all children's earliest years are full of potential and promise.

Thank you for being a part of our community of supporters.



Sue Covitz
Executive Director



Sue Covitz
Executive Director



POWER OF PARENTING HIGHLIGHTS

307

PARENTS ENGAGED, BENEFITING OVER 600 CHILDREN

In our virtual Power of Parenting program, parents build strong, stable, and responsive relationships with their children, social support systems, and stress-management and self-care practices.

38%

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

In FY21, Families First offered 22 Power of Parenting programs—our highest number of programs ever and a 38% increase from last year!

PROGRAM IMPACT

Families First outcomes are based on the PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK,* which includes:

Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
Social & Emotional Competence of Children
Parental Resilience & Family Functioning

Social Connections
Concrete Support in Times of Need

As a result of our Power of Parenting program, parents reported improvement in areas related to the Protective Factors and parenting stress—an additional metric added in FY21. Last year, **96%** of parents improved in at least one area, **79%** improved in two, and **61%** improved in three areas.

*framework developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy

“The past year had many challenges for guardians and their children. [Families First's Leadership Fellows] stepped up as leaders in their community to empower and advocate for these families. The energy and knowledge that they brought to conversations and trainings was unparalleled. We thank them greatly for guiding parents, teaching us, and creating a sense of community for isolated parents.”

Rosie M. Batista
Director, Every Child Shines

PARENT LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Through our Parent Leadership program—which officially launched in FY21— we worked on a broader scale to elevate parents from the community to take the lead on projects at local agencies that impact families and children.

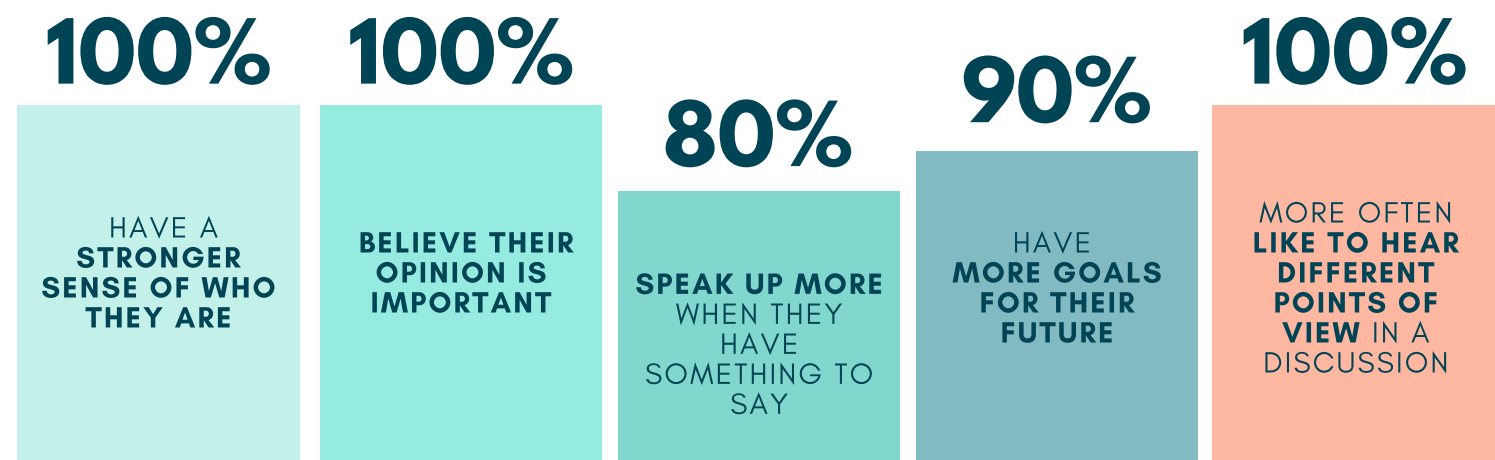
In our first year, we worked with **thirteen** Leadership Fellows who delivered projects with the potential to benefit thousands of additional families. Examples of past and current community impact partners include:

- Boston Opportunity Agenda
- Boston Public Schools Universal Pre-K (UPK) Program
- Every Child Shines
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health Young Children's Council



PROGRAM IMPACT

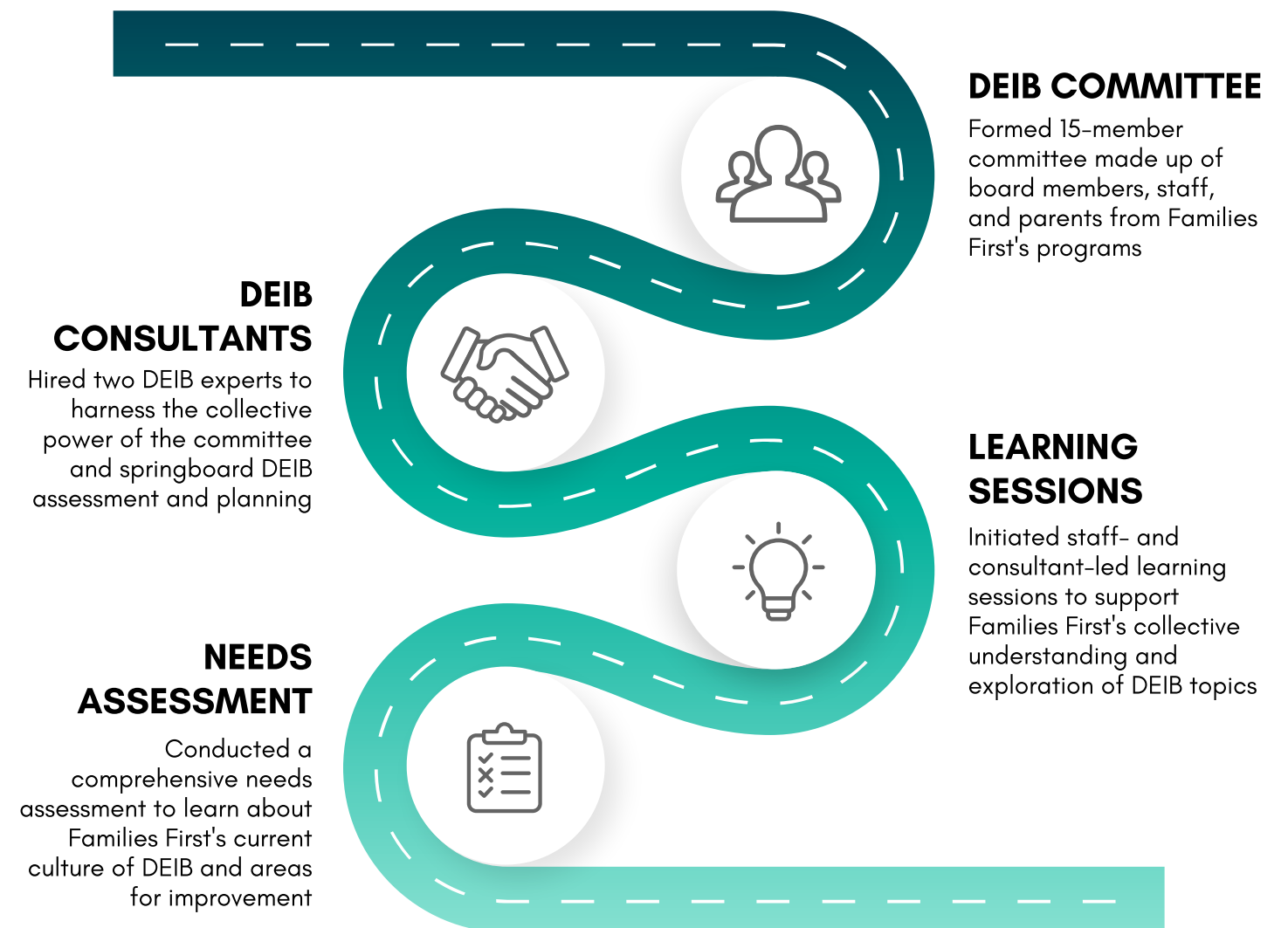
As a result of the program, Leadership Fellows reported the following outcomes:





DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

OUR ROADMAP



Families First is continuing its journey to improve DEIB and has identified key areas for concentration for the next fiscal year.



“Families First's programs give parents an outlet to connect with other parents, share experiences, learn about your child's development, gain parenting and self-care strategies, and grow both individually and as a community.”

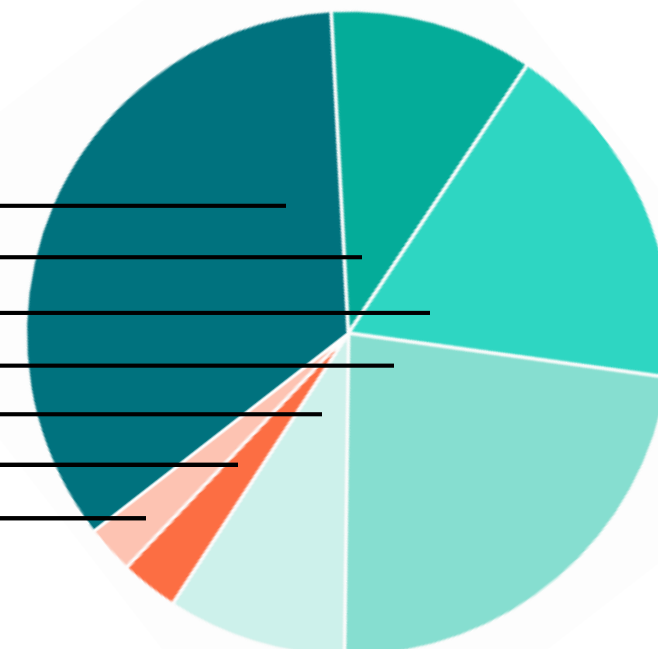
Families First Program Graduate

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

JULY 2020 — JUNE 2021

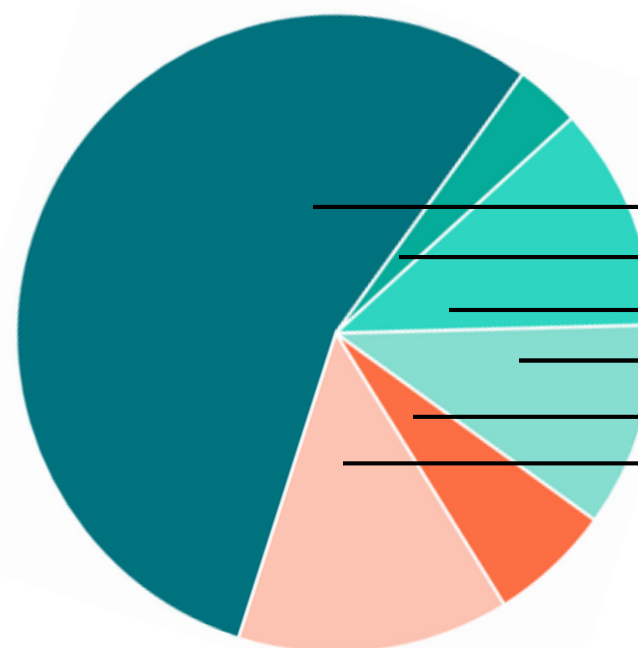
Revenue & Support \$1,459,876

- Foundation grants
- Government grants
- Individual contributions
- Corporate contributions
- Program revenue
- Investment income
- In-Kind donations



Expenses \$1,454,290

- Staff salaries
- Parenting Educator wages
- Payroll taxes & benefits
- Rent
- Parent stipends & incentives
- All other expenses





THANK YOU!

FAMILIES FIRST TEAM

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Carolina Abad | Stacey Ellsworth | Marissa Lehrman | Shirley Porcena |
| Rosemary Adorno | Mariana Figueroa | Qin Li | Laura Quiñones |
| Pam Bailey | Wendy Friedman | Amylark Lorwood | Eva Ramirez |
| Shawne Blake | Shanelle Garland | Yesenia Menendez | Magda Rodriguez |
| Jill Brevik | Seth Goldberg | Dr. Maureen O'Brien | Rodolfo Saldarriaga-Huallpa |
| Yvette Cheeks | Beth Greenawalt | Karen Osborne | Ashlan Speck |
| Sue Covitz | Mikeya Kirksey | Valeria Payton | Jehimy Torres |
| Carol Darcy | Courtney Kramer | Irma Peralta | Daphne Walker |

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THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS AND SPECIAL THANKS TO:

