

La Casa de Don Pedro

Highlights of Programmatic Achievements Over the Past Three Years: 2016-2019

LA CASA DE DON PEDRO

EMPOWER AND REVITALIZE

La Casa de Don Pedro's values are driven by our **mission to foster self-sufficiency, empowerment, and neighborhood revitalization**, and our **deep-rooted history of shared experiences** with our community of Greater Newark, NJ. Recognizing the community's adversity, we emphasize, celebrate, and nurture **core values of advocacy, responsibility (civic, personal, fiscal), education, home, diversity, and creativity** in a culturally sensitive and caring environment.

Each year La Casa serves more than 50,000, people largely in Greater Newark and Essex County and is the signature organization in the landscape of social services and community development in Newark for all residents, while maintaining its community organizing and social service delivery system as the primary link to the largest Hispanic community in New Jersey.

Early Childhood Education



We are now completing the third year of the roll out of our expansion into Head Start and Early Head Start. Built on a 45 year foundation educating and supporting Newark's youngest learners and a partnership with Newark Public Schools educates 255 preschoolers daily in three NAYEC accredited preschool centers, beginning in September, 2016, La Casa's preschool budget grew by more than \$6M and 100 teachers and staff. We trained our newest teachers and retrofitted, and opened five Head Start centers, expanding our preschool programs to all of Newark's wards.

This spring we launched our prenatal program to 24 pregnant mothers. We now educate 600 preschoolers daily, 18 infants and toddlers, and 24 pregnant mothers, and will be opening two new centers to expand our Early Head Start services later this year.



Youth, Family & Health Services



The two Family Success Centers continue to see a flow of constant, intermittent and casual visitors resulting in some 4,000 interactions. The participants come and are attracted to the broad offering that includes: knitting groups, financial literacy, and the introduction to using a computer, English as Second Language, parenting preparation, community engagement or simply to talk or celebrate a birthday.

Through a partnership with McKinley Elementary School, we sustained our 21st Center Community Learning Center civic engagement after school program for children, coupling that with our existing after school programs at our site and at McKinley School, educating and engaging about 250 elementary school age children daily and 300 children over the summer.



Below is a sampling of some of the Youth, Family & Health Services division's unduplicated participant totals, group counseling or individual counseling.

Activity	Individual Session 2018-2019	Group Session 2018-2019	Past three year unduplicated participants totals
Family Health Services and workshops	148	73	5,685
Parent Ed./Parent Child Activity	95	128	7,785
Employment Related	53	49	963
Housing relocation inquires for rental assistance & Screenings	1,1741	n/a	5,100
Housing relocation and counseling	55	13	273

Life Skills	197	416	3860
Advocacy	69	n/a	n/a
Information referrals and Linkages	872	n/a	n/a
Ryan White HIV/AIDS counseling	976	2	n/a
Activity	Individual Session 2018-2019	Group Session 2018-2019	Past three year unduplicated participants totals
HOPWA – Housing Opportunities for People Living with HIV/AIDS	79	2	21
HIV/STI Prevention & Testing	673	6	n/a
Domestic Violence Screenings	150	n/a	n/a
Domestic Violence Counseling	11	3	n/a
After School Enrichment	185	11	555
Healthy Living Initiative	156	48	1,134
Vegetable distributions	250	n/a	1,325

Adult Education, Workforce Development and Immigration



We provided more than 600 Immigration Legal Services, including screenings, consultations, and the completion and submission of petitions and applications each year for the past three years.

- Across our ESL Programming 91% of our students demonstrated scale score gains on standardized pre and post-tests. 82% made Educational Functioning Level gains as defined by the National Reporting System on the same standardized testing. We have increased the number of students participating in ESL due to a partnership with the Newark Public Library, now educating almost 500 people over a 12 month period.
- The USCIS Citizenship Program had a 95% Naturalization Exam pass rate with 168 participants passing the exam.
- We had an 84% High School Equivalency pass test rate for our Opportunity Youth Network program, of 25 students enrolled this past year.
- In 2018 we helped place 131 individuals in employment. This year we have officially been identified as a Newark 2020 Hub for employment, a Newark city-wide initiative

with the goal to increase the percentage of Newarkers working in Newark to 20% by 2020.

- We have sustained and built out our Out of School Youth Program through partnerships with the City of Newark, Essex County, the Opportunity Youth Network, and now LEAD Charter School. Our pass test rate for those students last year was 84% out of the 25 students enrolled.
- We continue to educate students enrolled in Welfare to Work. In 2018 we supported 171 students, and 66% of those who completed the program made educational gains or were placed in employment.
- We are strengthening our employment training opportunities with partnerships with the Home Health Aide sector and Per Scholas to implement a cyber bridge tech training educational program.
- We tested 368 people for high school equivalency in 2018 and continue to see the demand as a testing site in both English and Spanish.

Community & Economic Development

Over 1,000 people have been counseled through our HUD approved Housing Counseling program with:

- 43 new homeowners created in the last 24 months.
- 33 delinquent mortgages brought current with \$825,000 in assistance to prevent foreclosures in the last 24 months.
- 22 mortgages totaling over \$3,000,000 in principal balances modified over the past 24 months.
- 300 attended a First Time Home Buyer workshop and/or received one on one counseling in the last 24 months.
- 250 have attended a Financial Capability workshop and/or received one on one counseling in the last 24 months.
- 4 affordable homes were built and sold to Moderate income households in East Orange. We are hitting the ground on at least two new affordable homeownership two-family homes in Newark's Lower Broadway neighborhood in 2019.
- Several Community Forums in our Lower Broadway target neighborhood helped engage residents to address and raise awareness of issues such as education, crime, foreclosure, and transportation.
- We conducted a Community Survey in our Lower Broadway target neighborhood to determine resident satisfaction, block conditions, and building assessments.
- We continued to develop community leaders through the recruitment of neighborhood residents for programs such as the NeighborWorks America



Community Leadership Institute, LISC's Newark Resident Leadership Academy, and the Newark Department of Public Safety's Citizen/Clergy Academy.

- We promoted "Get Out the Vote" for the recent school board and national elections with distribution of 3,000 door hangers and 500 posters for each election.



Home Energy Assistance Programs, Energy Conservation, and Healthy Homes

- Each year over the past three years, on average 14,750 households received energy assistance benefits which include LIHEAP, USF, emergency repairs, and cooling benefits.
- Weatherized 746 homes with a variety of energy conservation improvements over the past three years. The average investment per home was over \$6,000, investing more than \$3.6 million over a three year period.
- We improved the threat of lead contamination in drinking water by distributing quality water filters to 256 Low Income Essex County Residents.
- We removed lead contaminants in 54 low income Essex County residents' homes, including 42 that were remediated and 12 that were abated over the past 2 ½ years.

