

Promesas de Esperanza

A Provider Success Story from Maricopa County



Promesas de Esperanza

- Opened 2022
- ADHS Licensed Child Care Center
- For ages 0-12 years
- Glendale, Maricopa County
- Created 19 new child care slots
- \$225,000 Grant

promesaschildcare.com

“We really try to create an atmosphere that feels like family. The community is happy and families feel their kids are getting the highest quality care.” — Summer Palacios

Summer Palacios loves almost everything about her job running a child care center—except for paperwork. “I work long days, but they never feel that long,” shared Summer. “I love playing with the kids, and my staff is great.”

Summer is no stranger to hard work. Growing up in foster care, she volunteered at a nearby child care center to keep busy until she was old enough to work there. After earning her teaching degree, she taught for 16 years. During the pandemic, Summer returned to her first passion, opening Promesas de Esperanza child care center in September 2022. Promesas de Esperanza cares for 70 children in the heart of Glendale, caring for children 6 weeks to 12 years old.

A \$225,000 grant helped Summer accelerate improvements to Promesas de Esperanza. “We did so much with the grant,” glowed Summer. Some of the most dramatic changes happened outside, where a colorful mural now surrounds an updated playground. Children can swing, ride tricycles around a painted bike path, and play on new playground equipment. Canopies provide cool shade and sun protection for the children, while new soft surfacing appropriate for children six months and older allows crawling infants to play outside.

Inside, Summer reworked the existing space to add new classrooms. A classroom for three-year-olds has a new changing station, so they remain with their peers and accommodating special needs

children. A new transition classroom for babies 12-23 months, allows them to practice walking, sitting in a highchair, and lying on a mat safely without interference from older toddlers.

Summer purchased new front and back doors and fire sprinklers to improve safety. She also used funding to install shades and add reflective mirroring to the windows, increasing natural light while maintaining privacy.

With the facility improvements, they enrolled 19 infants and toddlers off the waitlist. As there is still not enough licensed child care for children needing care, Summer plans to enclose a multi-purpose room to create even more space for infants and toddlers.

To celebrate the changes made to the center, Promesas de Esperanza hosted an open house where families and community members enjoyed music, shaved ice, balloon animals, and face painting. Promesas de Esperanza organized community resources for the event, including free clothing, hygiene products, and applications for state child care assistance.

Commitment to children and families are at the heart of Promesas de Esperanza’s values—and embedded in its very name. Promesas de Esperanza means “promises of hope,” reflecting both the promise in children if we invest in them and the name of Summer’s daughter, Esperanza.



Before



After



New Changing Station



New Transition Classroom

Arizona Child Care Infrastructure Grant

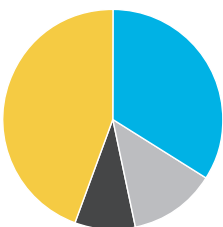
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is one of the country's largest community development organizations, helping forge vibrant, resilient communities across America. In 2022-23, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) and First Things First (FTF) awarded \$65 million to LISC Phoenix for child care infrastructure grants, training, and technical assistance. This funding came from the Child Care Stabilization Grants appropriated in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. Child care providers received nearly \$60 million to rapidly improve and expand their facilities increasing access to high-quality early childhood learning environments statewide.

The need was substantial: Arizona providers submitted 969 applications requesting more than \$176 million in funding in just two weeks. Providers from 14 of Arizona's 15 counties applied.

Equity was a focus: Child care providers located in low-to-moderate income areas with limited access to child care were the first priority. Additional priorities included providers caring for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children who receive child care assistance through the ADES, as well as providers with waitlists and those open nights and weekends.

Ultimately, 478 sites received grants with an average award of \$124,750.

Statewide

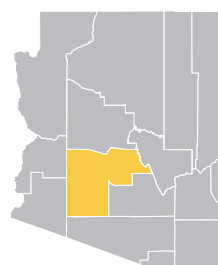


Grants Awarded by Provider Type

- 323 ADHS Licensed Centers received \$52,615,115
- 88 ADHS Certified Group Homes received \$4,312,397
- 63 ADES Certified Family Child Care Homes received \$1,600,000
- 4 Tribal Providers received \$1,103,048

Total: \$59,630,560

Maricopa County



Highlights

- 475 applications requesting \$99,495,890
- 207 grants awarded totaling \$31,105,945
- 1,205 new child care slots created
- 89% of grantees increased quality of outdoor play space
- 1 in 5 grantees increased care for infants and toddlers
- 45% of grantees removed hazards in outdoor activity spaces