



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

2017 Community Report



Working Towards Self-Reliance

Success stories of Employment

In this Report:

Our Mission	3
Partnerships	4
ELARC's Goal in Employment	5
Peter Alvarado	6-7
Jessica Marrero	8-9
Robert Moat	10
Hei Jin Kim - Sunny	11
Jared Kozak	12-13
Employment committee	14-15
Resources & Information	16-17
2017 Demographics & Fiscal Report	18-19
Management & Contact Information	20



**Eastern Los Angeles
Regional Center
is committed to serving
individuals with developmental
disabilities and their families by
promoting partnerships which
empower them to achieve
meaningful and
fulfilling lifestyles in their
communities.**

Board of Directors: The Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center Board of Directors is committed to ensuring that the mission of the agency is carried out. The Board is made up of volunteers from our community, parents, consumers, professionals, and others with specific skills and knowledge who provide guidance and leaderships for the agency.

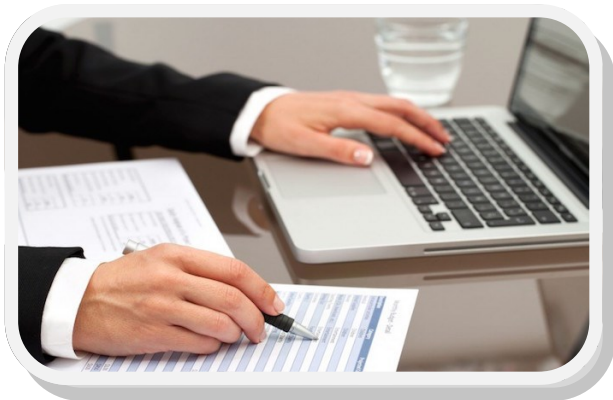
Consumer Advisory Committee: The ELARC Consumer Advisory Committee exists to advocate, advise, empower, lead, plan, inform, and educate so that consumers may understand their rights under the Lanterman Act and achieve their goals.

Vendor Advisory Committee: The Vendor Advisory Committee provides recommendations, guidance, and technical assistance to ELARC's Board of Directors. They meet to review and discuss both agency and state issues that impact service providers in our community.

It is ELARC's commitment to encourage and support employment and career goals of individuals with developmental disabilities.

ELARC is committed to providing all consumers with current information on laws and programs in the area of employment. It is a very exciting time as new and expanded employment programs have created more exploration, training, and placement opportunities for consumers who choose employment as a goal.

We hope these stories will inspire you. We also hope this report will serve as motivation and encouragement for those thinking about stepping into the employment world!



Peter has been working at Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor since 2015. He really enjoys it and loves to tell his story so that others may experience the same benefits that come from working. "I wanted to work because I want to be more independent. My parents are not going to be here forever. I would like to buy a car. I would also like to buy a house someday. I would like a better future for the rest of my life." About 4 years ago he began talking to his close family and friends about finding work. He contacted his Service Coordinator and was connected with a Community Integration Training program. This program provided him with the confidence he needed to go out and apply. He applied to Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor on his own and got the job! His duties include making sure that the customers are happy, providing them with any help they need, checking to make sure bathrooms and tables are clean, and any other duties as assigned by his manager. Peter states that he no longer needs a job coach. "I had a job coach for about 2 months, but I do my job very well now, so I don't need one anymore. I know that if I need one in the future, I can request a job coach."



Before working at the ice cream shop Peter volunteered at the YMCA's front desk. He learned a lot while volunteering. "You have to learn how to work with different personalities. You have to learn about teamwork." He was asked what the biggest change was going from the YMCA to Farrell's Ice Cream. "To be honest, getting a paycheck. Getting paid for work is very important because I want to save for different things. I can't rely on Social Security forever. Also, I enjoy interacting and developing relationships with co-workers. I love helping with customers and interacting with them. You get to meet new people all the time. I enjoy in making sure that co-workers and customers are happy. What's important is having a personal connection with someone."



Peter also believes that education is very important. He received a certificate for office work at Whittier College and he is now enrolled in Rio Hondo College part time. When asked what his long term goals are he stated, “My goal 2 to 3 years from now is that I would like to be in accounting. That’s what I’m going to school for. Maybe someday I could work for government jobs or in movie production; the accounting part of the job.” What would Peter say to those that are afraid of working or not ready for that step? “Don’t be afraid of working. Don’t rely on SSI forever. I want to have more income. I don’t want that type of economy for me. I want to make more than I could ever get with SSI. Don’t be afraid about losing your benefits. There are ways to keep your benefits. There are programs like Ticket to Work. Department of Rehabilitation can help you; the Regional Center can help you. You can’t let the fear stop you. You have to say ‘I can do it.’ You have to move forward. Negatives need to turn to positives. The more training you get and the more education you have, the better. You also have to save money because you never know what will happen in the future. Connect with programs that will help you succeed.” Aside from his work goals, Peter would also like to become a mentor someday. To that we say, Peter, you are well on your way!



With best friend and co-worker



Jessica works at Hope Café & Catering. She started in July and is working part time. She really enjoys her job and stated that her favorite task is pouring salsa and salad dressings in small cups. “I also enjoy making different types of burritos and wrapping them. I label them and put them in boxes.”

Before finding this job, she attended the work center through Ability First. While being there she had a few tasks and different jobs. She worked in a warehouse putting markers in order and in boxes. Her case manager at Ability First shared that Jessica was exceling at her job through the work center. She met with a job developer and began to work towards her goal of being competitively employed. They worked on interview skills and perfecting her resume.



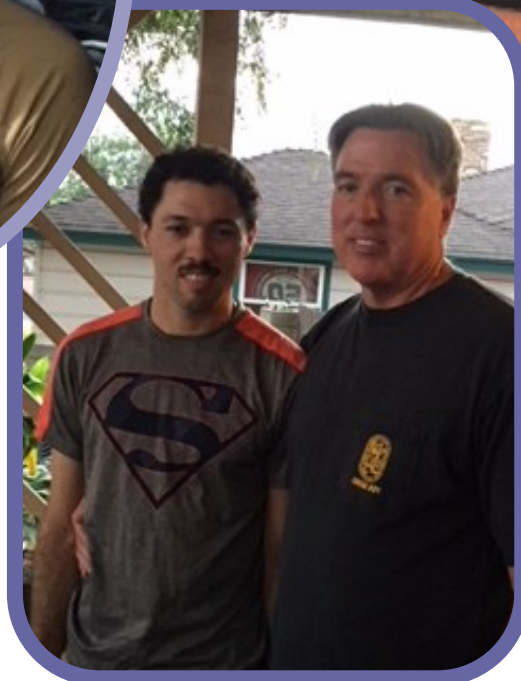


Above: Jessica with her boss, Chef Tony Lancaster, and his wife, Ann Lancaster.

When Jessica first began with the catering company it was an internship position, but she did so well that they decided to hire her. What made Jessica want to work? “I wanted to get to know people, meet new friends. I want money too, to help pay for rent.” To those out there who are not sure if they should work or not, she tells them “If you’re interested in a job, maybe you should go there and interview if you really want it. Get out of your comfort zone.”

The job at Hope Café & Catering is a perfect fit for Jessica, as her future goal is to become a chef. “I took cooking classes in high school and in college. At Taft College I worked in the cafeteria; serving food and washing dishes. Cooking and baking are my favorite hobbies.” Jessica has a great circle of support. She knows she can count on her mother, her case manager at Ability First, and her Service Coordinator in order to achieve all her goals.

Robert states that before he started working, he did not do much. “I became really tired of just sitting at home and not doing anything.” So he decided he wanted to work. He spoke to his Service Coordinator during a meeting and he expressed wanting to find a job. His Service Coordinator connected him with Lincoln Training Center, who in turn connected Robert with an enclave with Wetset Logistics. They work with packaging and light janitorial work. Robert now works full time and enjoys it very much. When asked what his favorite part about working was, he stated “I enjoy all aspects. I don’t like one thing more than another. I just really enjoy working.” His circle of support is his family and they are very proud of him. His mother shares, “I am very proud of the work that he is doing. He is a hard worker and he delights in doing things that he feels are contributing to society.”



Robert with his father



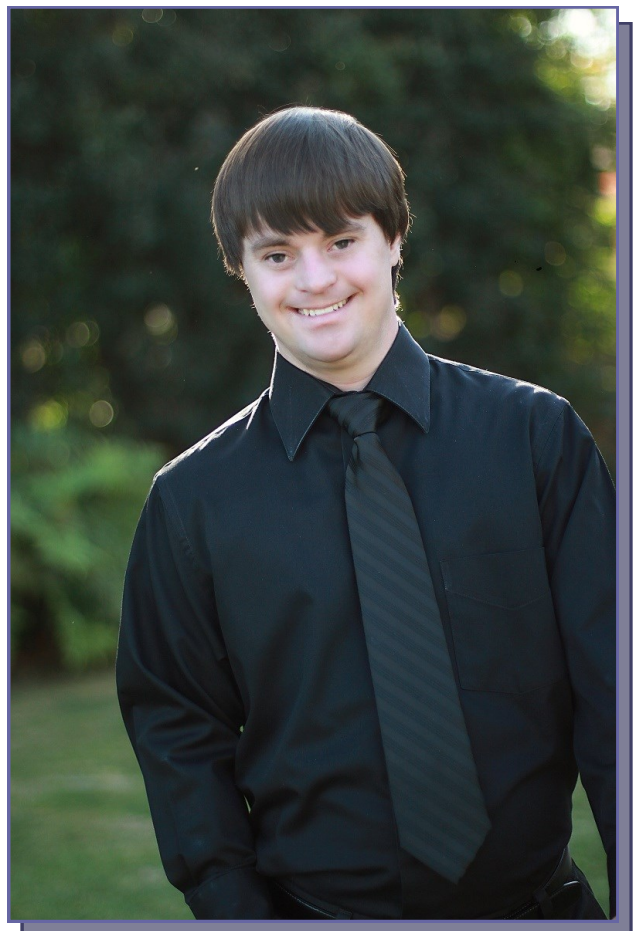
Hei Jin Kim, known by everyone as Sunny, has been working at Goldstein's Bagel Bakery for the past 26 years! She found this job through a city program back in 1990. "I do cleaning, but if they need me to do something else, I'll do something else." Sunny decided she needed to work in order to live independently. "I moved to a group home and I didn't want to live there anymore. I wanted to live on my own. You need money to do that. When you don't have money, you get scared, especially when you have to take care of yourself. When you have a disability it's hard. It's just learning to work with what you have. And you have to just do it."

She wants others to know that they can do it as well. "Just do it for yourself. There are times when you'll say you can't do it. You'll doubt yourself, it's ok. But do it because you want to do it. People will tell you can't do this, you can't do that, but you can do it. When I fall down I can get up. You can achieve it. Believe in yourself." She shares some tips as well. "Work part time if you don't want to lose all benefits. Show them what you're made of, just be yourself. Don't be scared. Be presentable. Think, 'is my hygiene good? Do I have nice clothes on?' Your appearance is going to mean a lot. They'll take a chance on you." Her favorite part about working is learning about others and having other people, especially those who do not have a disability, learn about her. She has learned certain life skills like getting to work on time, getting work tasks done, obtaining a checking account, paying bills, etc. "What I have learned is that even though you have a disability, you could also have some normalcy. It might be extra hard for you to get things done, but you have to get it done." What are her goals? "I'd like to continue to work and retire when I turn 65."

Jared has been working at Lascari's Italian Restaurant for the past six years. He started working there while in the Transition Program through his School District. He was working at several places during that time, but when he turned 22, he graduated from the program and in August of that year all jobs stopped. Lascari's called him that September and wanted to hire him as a permanent employee. Jared states, "I was very happy that Lascari's wanted to hire me. I was surprised." He has been there since and he loves it. "I love my job very much. It does get busy sometimes, but my favorite part about the job is meeting a lot of new people. My other favorite part is the food. It's the best! They also have gelato and it's the best!" He works as a host at the front counter and that involves taking people's names, seating them, greeting them at the door, rolling tableware and napkins, cleaning menus, cleaning doors and windows, and setting up the tables. Jared works two days a week. They have offered him more hours in the past, but Jared is busy with other jobs. He is an actor!



Working at Lascari's Italian Restaurant



Jared is the voice of “CJ” on the “Loud House,” an animated show on Nickelodeon. He has also appeared on episodes of A&E’s “Born This Way.” His managers at Lascari’s Restaurant are very accommodating in giving him the time off that he needs for his acting jobs. Jared is also attending Fullerton College. He is currently taking acting classes, a communication class, and a reading and writing class. In addition to everything he is doing, Jared has also started a candle business. He has partnered with two of his lifelong friends and started “Something Extra Candle Productions.” Jared explains, “We started last year after we took a candle making class. We got our own business cards, brochure, and we just got our business license. We also have our own bank account.” They sold their candles for the first time at the Down Syndrome Buddy walk in Anaheim at the end of October and it turned out to be a big success. He states, “Everyone loved our candles. We sold so many.” You can find their candles on their Facebook page.



When asked how he feels about working, going to school, and having his own business, he states, “I feel that I’m accomplishing a lot. I am more independent now.” What would Jared say to anyone out there who is afraid of working or not sure if they want to work?

“I would say, just be yourself. Do not be too nervous. The managers and the owners are very nice. If you do or do not get the job, you do not need to worry about anything. If you don’t do well, you may not come back, but you still have to try. Don’t be afraid to try.”



Jared and his best friends selling their homemade candles at the Buddy Walk in Anaheim.

Check out Jared’s story on our YouTube channel!



The Employment Committee at ELARC is responsible for providing clarification and guidance to agency staff on all federal, state, and local Employment legislation, rules, and practices specific to individuals with ID/DD. By doing so, the agency promotes the dissemination of comprehensive, accurate, current, and meaningful employment opportunities for our consumers in a myriad of employment education & training programs offered through a variety of partnerships. The committee membership includes ELARC agency staff from both the consumer and community services divisions.





Employment Committee liaison, Manuel Aguilar, is a Service Coordinator with ELARC. His main role in the committee is assuring that information is posted on the ELARC website as well as any updates. His role is a link between the committee and any needed public information.




How can you start on this journey as well? Here are some information and resources to get you on your way.

Talk to your Service Coordinator and have them go over our Employment Handbook with you.



This handbook is available in: English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean.

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Person Centered Employment Questionnaire

1) Things that are important to me:

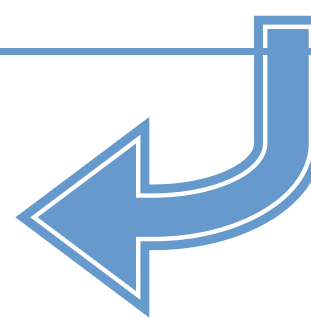
2) How can I best be supported?

3) What are some skills/what am I good at?

4) What kind of job/work do I want to do?

5) What kind of work environment works best for me?

Some things to consider before looking for a job. This form can help you clarify and identify your employment goals. Find this form on our website or ask your Service Coordinator for a copy.

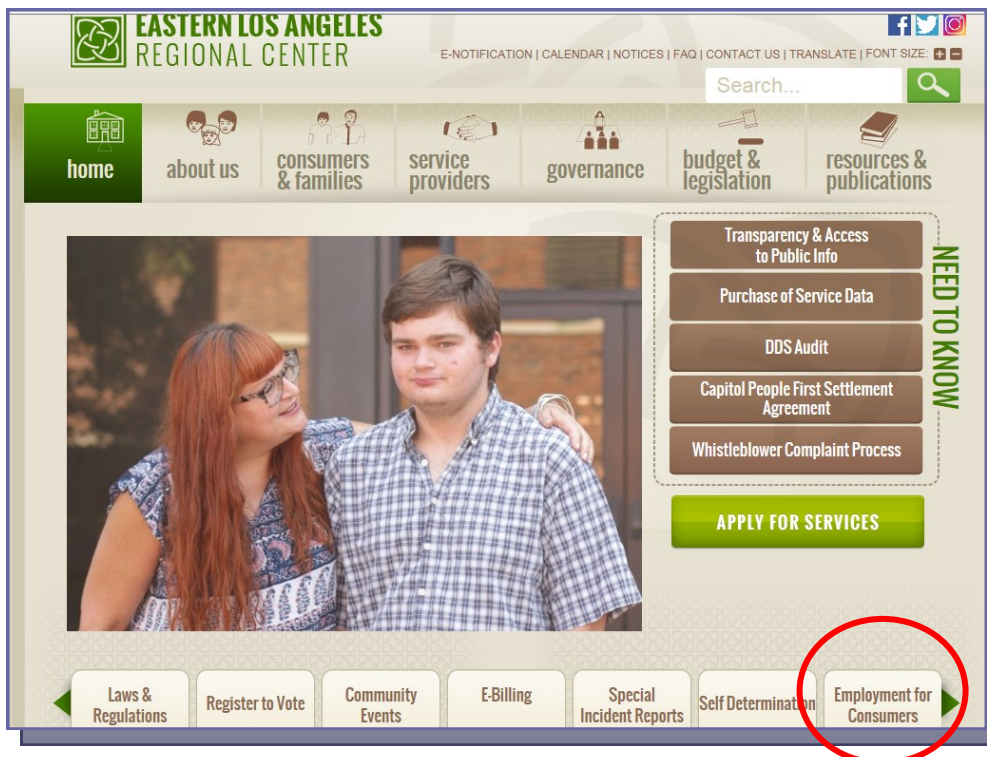
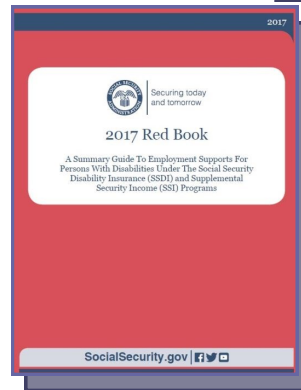


Afraid of losing benefits if working or need some assistance understanding work incentives? Here are some resources:

Work Incentives Planning Assistance Program (WIPA): Community Work Incentives Coordinator-Nina Schultz, Verdugo Jobs Center, 1255 South Central Ave., Glendale, CA 91204. (818) 937-8020. fschultz@ci.glendale.ca.us

Visit our website or talk to your Service Coordinator to find out more about:

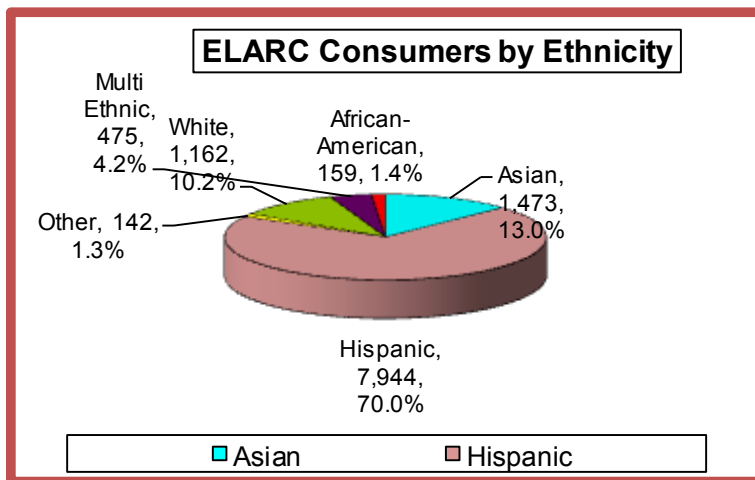
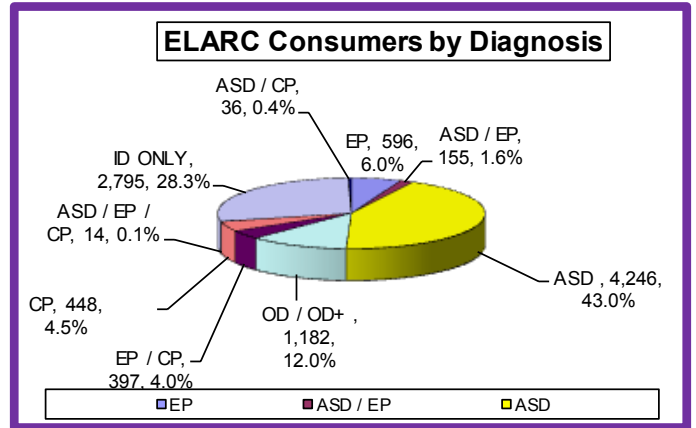
- Work Incentives
- Disability Benefits 101 Planning Tool
- Social Security Office and PASS Plan/Red Book
- Ticket to Work
- World Institute on Disability
- Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)



You can find all this information and much more on our employment webpage. Visit us at www.elarc.org and click on “Employment for Consumers.”

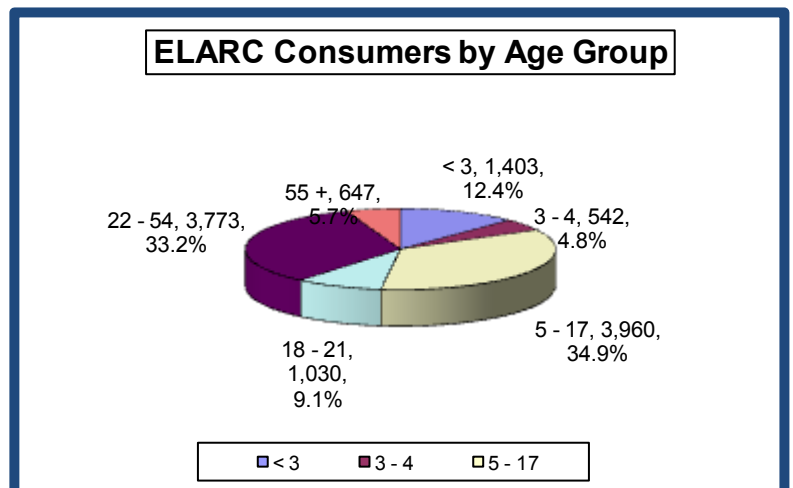


Diagnosis			
Epilepsy	EP	596	6.0%
ASD & Epilepsy	ASD / EP	155	1.6%
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	ASD	4,246	43.0%
Other Developmental Disorder	OD / OD+	1,182	12.0%
Epilepsy & Cerebral Palsy	EP / CP	397	4.0%
Cerebral Palsy	CP	448	4.5%
ASD & Epilepsy & Cerebral Palsy	ASD / EP / CP	14	0.1%
Intellectual Disability Only	ID ONLY	2,795	28.3%
ASD & Cerebral Palsy	ASD / CP	36	0.4%
Total		9,869	100.0%



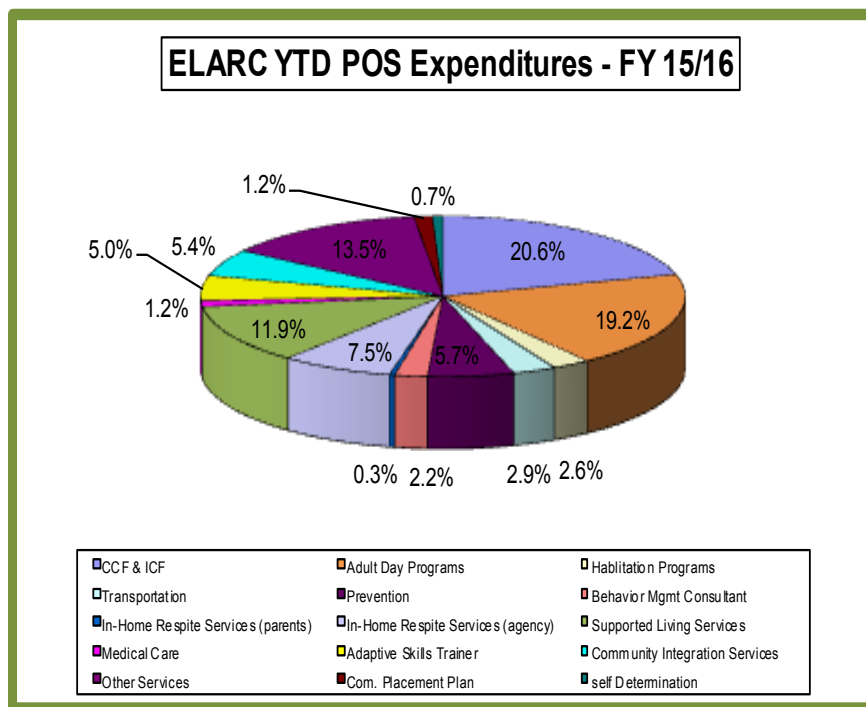
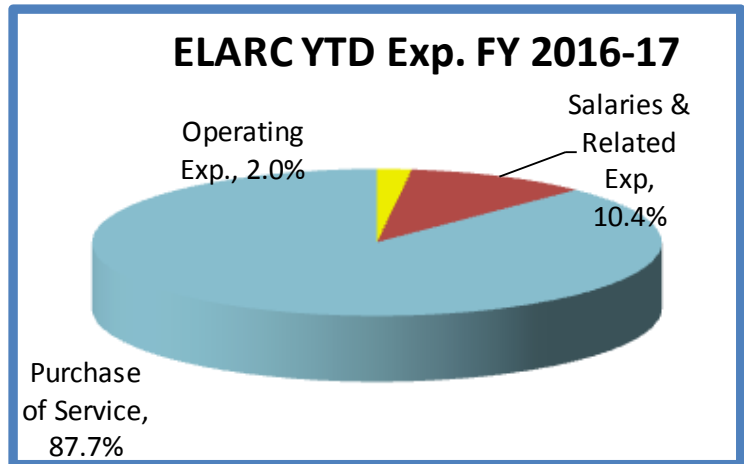
Ethnicity		
Asian	1,473	13.0%
Hispanic	7,944	70.0%
Other	142	1.3%
White	1,162	10.2%
Multi Ethnic	475	4.2%
African-American	159	1.4%
Total	11,355	100.0%

Ages	Cases	Percentage
< 3	1,403	12.4%
3 - 4	542	4.8%
5 - 17	3,960	34.9%
18 - 21	1,030	9.1%
22 - 54	3,773	33.2%
55 +	647	5.7%
Total		11,355
		100.0%



Total Overall Expenditures - FY 2016/17 - As of 12/26/2017

Operating Exp.	4,216,778	2.0%
Salaries & Related Exp	22,292,852	10.4%
Purchase of Service	188,769,395	87.7%
TOTAL	215,279,025	100.0%



YTD POS Expenditures - FY 2015/16	Paid Amount	Percentage
CCF & ICF	38,897,675	20.6%
Adult Day Programs	36,335,257	19.2%
Habilitation Programs	4,829,276	2.6%
Transportation	5,405,780	2.9%
Prevention	10,836,573	5.7%
Behavior Mgmt Consultant	4,095,594	2.2%
In-Home Respite Services (parents)	642,605	0.3%
In-Home Respite Services (agency)	14,121,297	7.5%
Supported Living Services	22,437,826	11.9%
Medical Care	2,288,777	1.2%
Adaptive Skills Trainer	9,492,191	5.0%
Community Integration Services	10,257,683	5.4%
Other Services	25,502,212	13.5%
Com. Placement Plan	2,316,589	1.2%
self Determination	1,310,060	0.7%
Total	188,769,395	100.0%

Management Team:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director

Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services

Patricia Alvarez, Chief of Administrative Services

Carmen Vasquez, Manager of Early Start Services

Elin Nozaki, Manager of Assessment & Special Services

Frances Jacobs, Manager of Community Services

Jesse Valdez, Manager of Federal Programs

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