



November 2018 Featured Agency of the Month Drew Child Development Corporation



Born out of the ashes of the Watts Uprising, **Drew Child Development Corporation**, a private, nonprofit organization, has been a cornerstone of the Watts Willowbrook area since 1987. Over the years Drew CDC has provided services to the underserved population of Service Planning Area 6 (SPA 6),

with the greatest activity in the Watts-Willowbrook, Compton, and South Los Angeles areas. These communities are areas that have routinely carried the burden of social, racial and economic disparity and injustice. Drew CDC was created in response to these challenges, and has since dedicated its time and effort to build the community connections and the high level of trust needed to deliver on its mission.

Drew CDC is an organization dedicated to the education and well-being of at-risk children in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Services for children and families were initially administered by the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, but in 1987, the Drew Child Development Corporation was established as a separate organization to more specifically target the needs of children and families. The agency administers a comprehensive array of services to 10,300 children and their families annually.

Program Services

Each year, Drew CDC serves 10,300 children and their families by preparing children for school by providing a safe and stable environment for them to learn through our early childhood centers, promoting the mental health of young children and their families through in-house and linked programs and therapies, and strengthening the family unit by promoting family resiliency and preservation.

- **Early Childhood Education Six Centers, Endless Opportunities:**
The Education Division's six Early Childhood Education (ECE) Centers services are structured to provide culturally sensitive and, developmentally appropriate activities that promote children's cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. In 2016, Drew CDC implemented Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) into the Creative Curriculum currently being used. Staff has been trained by the foremost STEM Early Childhood Educator, Dr. Susan Wood, Director of the Children's Center at Caltech. STEM is based on the Constructivist Learning Theory which is a philosophy in which learning is an active process and learners construct new ideas or concepts based upon their current/past knowledge. The learner selects and transforms information, constructs hypotheses, and makes decisions, relying on a cognitive structure. The cognitive structure (i.e. schema, mental models) provides meaning and organization to experiences and allows the child to go beyond the information given.
- **Subsidized Child Care Affordable and Accessible:**
Subsidized Child Care Affordable and Accessible High quality child care is the foundation for a great educational future. We believe that a family's income should not be a barrier to good child care. Through Drew CDC's Subsidized Child Care Program, we help families access affordable, quality care which is administered by the California Department of Social Services and the California Department of Education. Servicing children through age 12 (and up to 21 years for children with exceptional needs or severe disabilities).
- **Mental Health and Child Welfare Healthy Families and Healthy Communities:**
Drew CDC's Mental Health and Child Welfare Programs are comprised of two distinct, but inter-

related programs: Mental Health and Wraparound. Together, these three programs provide clients with highly trained professionals focused on achieving and maintaining overall family functioning and optimal mental health. Regardless of the point of entry, consumers have access to any of our three programs (depending on their specific needs).

- **Child Care Bridge Program:** Drew CDC has been selected to provide trauma-informed care training to the cohort of Trauma Informed Care Advisors throughout Los Angeles County. The training includes, but is not limited to, infant and toddler development, the effects of trauma on healthy childhood development and research-based, trauma-informed best care practices. Child care providers will also receive coaching to assist them in applying trauma-informed best practices with children in foster care.

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