



children's defense fund Leave No Child Behind®

WINTER 2020

CDF Freedom Schools® Program Overview

The CDF Freedom Schools® program provides summer and after-school enrichment through a research-based and multicultural curriculum that supports children and families through several essential components: high-quality literacy and character-building activities, parent/family involvement, civic engagement, and social action, intergenerational servant leadership development, nutrition, and health. In partnership with community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, schools, colleges, universities, juvenile detention centers, and municipalities, the CDF Freedom Schools program boosts student motivation to read, generates positive attitudes towards learning, and connects children and families to needed resources in their communities. The model incorporates the totality of CDF's mission by fostering environments that support children and young adults to excel and believe in their abilities to make a difference in themselves and their families, communities, country, and the world with hope, education, and action.

Impacting the Lives of Children and Families During COVID-19

As a direct response to COVID-19, we pivoted with our partners to change their plans for in-person programming. Programmatic changes included:

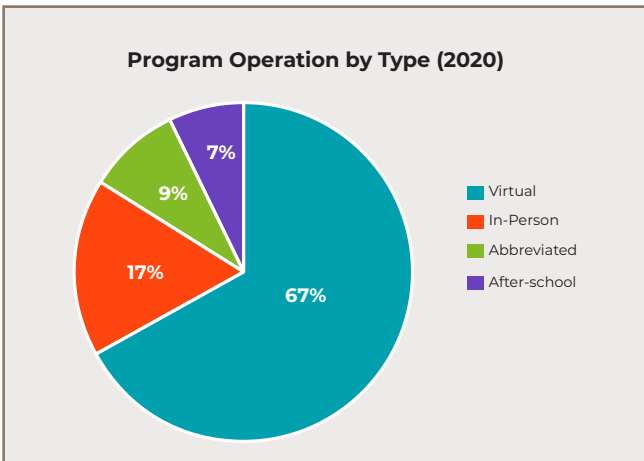
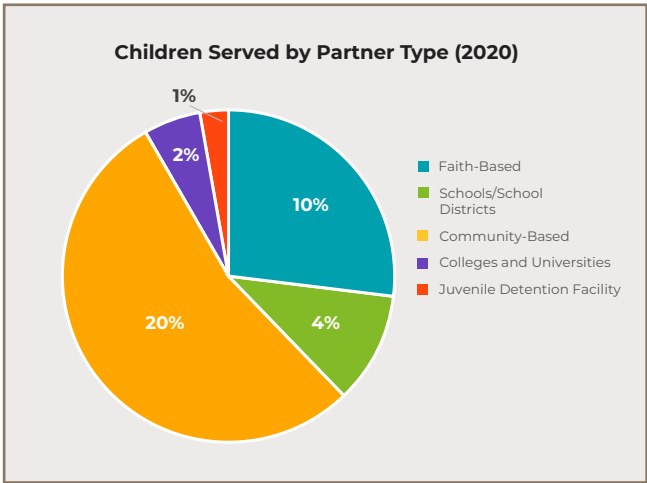
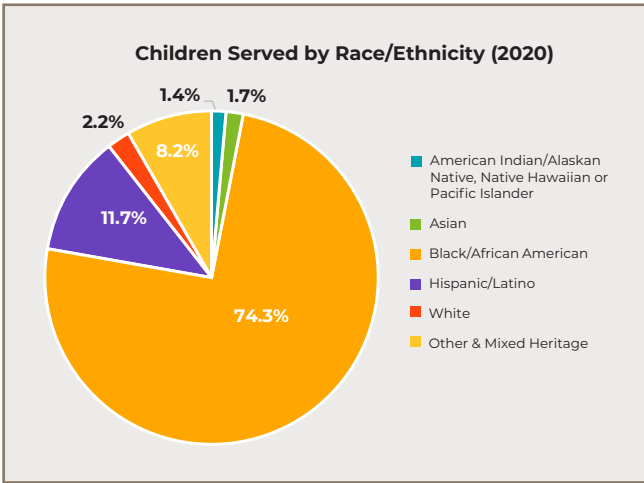
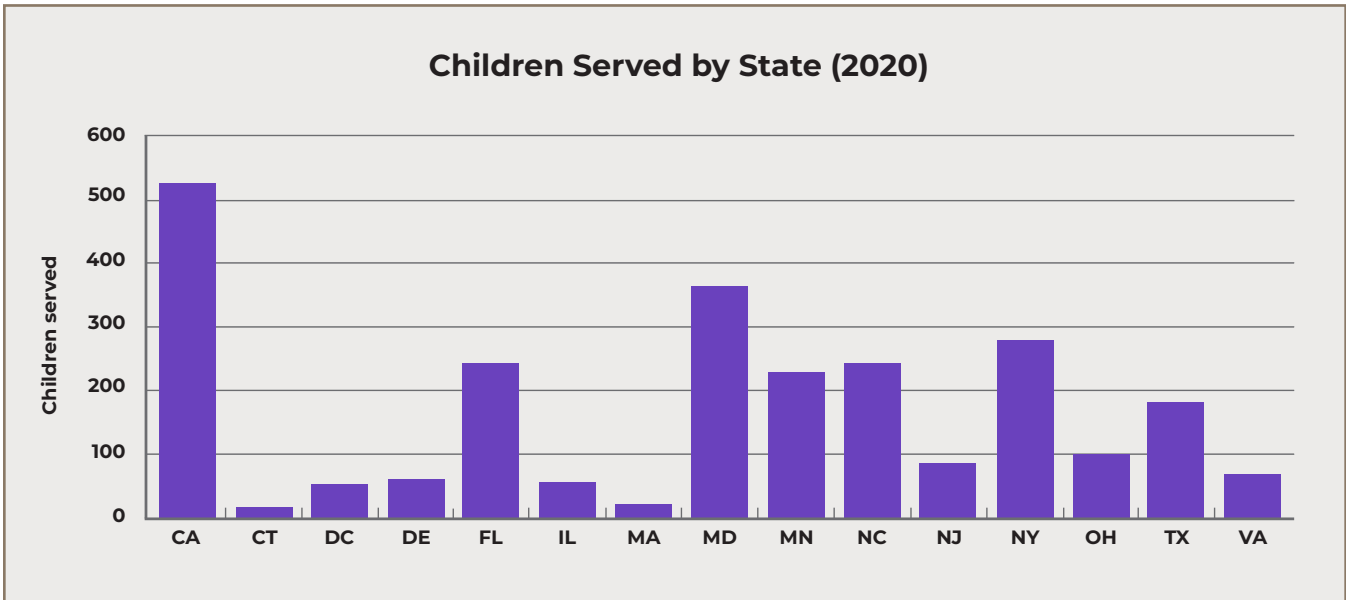
- Converting the **June Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute** to a virtual platform.
- Providing enhanced technical and programmatic support to partners operating **in-person, virtual, and hybrid sites**.
- **Conducting virtual site visits** and **offering additional opportunities** for partners to participate in program impact assessments.
- **Creating "distribution days"** to get curriculum books and school supplies to children and families served virtually.
- **Tailoring program schedules and length of the program day to the needs of each community.**



Our ability to deliver training for in-person delivery of the CDF Freedom Schools program model **as well as** develop and deliver a virtual training model was exemplary. In summer 2020, we were able to serve:

Over **2,500** scholars served
Train nearly **400** program staff
at **61** sites in **31** cities and **15** states

Program Impact



The 2020* national assessment conducted at 107 CDF Freedom Schools® sites found:

77% of scholars avoided summer learning losses.

98% of parents expressed a desire to engage in social action with their children.

97% of parents saw increased reading confidence in their children.

CDF Freedom Schools scholars positively rated each of the 5 Social Emotional Learning core competencies as outlined by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL).

*Multi-year assessment show that on average, scholars gain 8 months in their reading abilities after participating in a CDF Freedom Schools program.

For more information on our data, impact, and research from the field please visit our website at <https://www.childrensdefense.org/programs/cdf-freedom-schools/our-impact/>