

Learning Pods: How We Responded, What We Are Learning and What's Next—A Follow-up Conversation

April 27, 2021



Peer Exchange
LEARNING CONVERSATIONS



Panelists



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COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

Learning Extension Centers



Sonja Nelson
Vice President
Resident Initiatives

April 17, 2021

CMHA Subsidized Residents & CCS Students at a Glance

OVER 13,700 HOUSEHOLDS

\$14,692 AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

OVER 32,700 RESIDENTS

OVER 11,000
SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

9,630 CMHA YOUTH ATTEND
COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

19% OF COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOL
STUDENTS ARE CMHA RESIDENTS

The Problem

- CMHA families are disproportionately impacted by the digital divide, with a lack of access to equipment and quality internet service to effectively navigate a virtual learning environment
 - A recent survey of CMHA households found that 36.9% of respondents had difficulty using video conferencing platforms (i.e. Zoom)
 - The same survey found that 62% of residents need digital literacy training
- All of these factors make it difficult for CMHA families to shift to a virtual schooling model
 - Lack of internet access and equipment
 - Lack of digital literacy
 - Multiple children per household
 - High demand placed on single parents with multiple children
 - Additional challenges of living in poverty

The Design: Learning Extension Centers

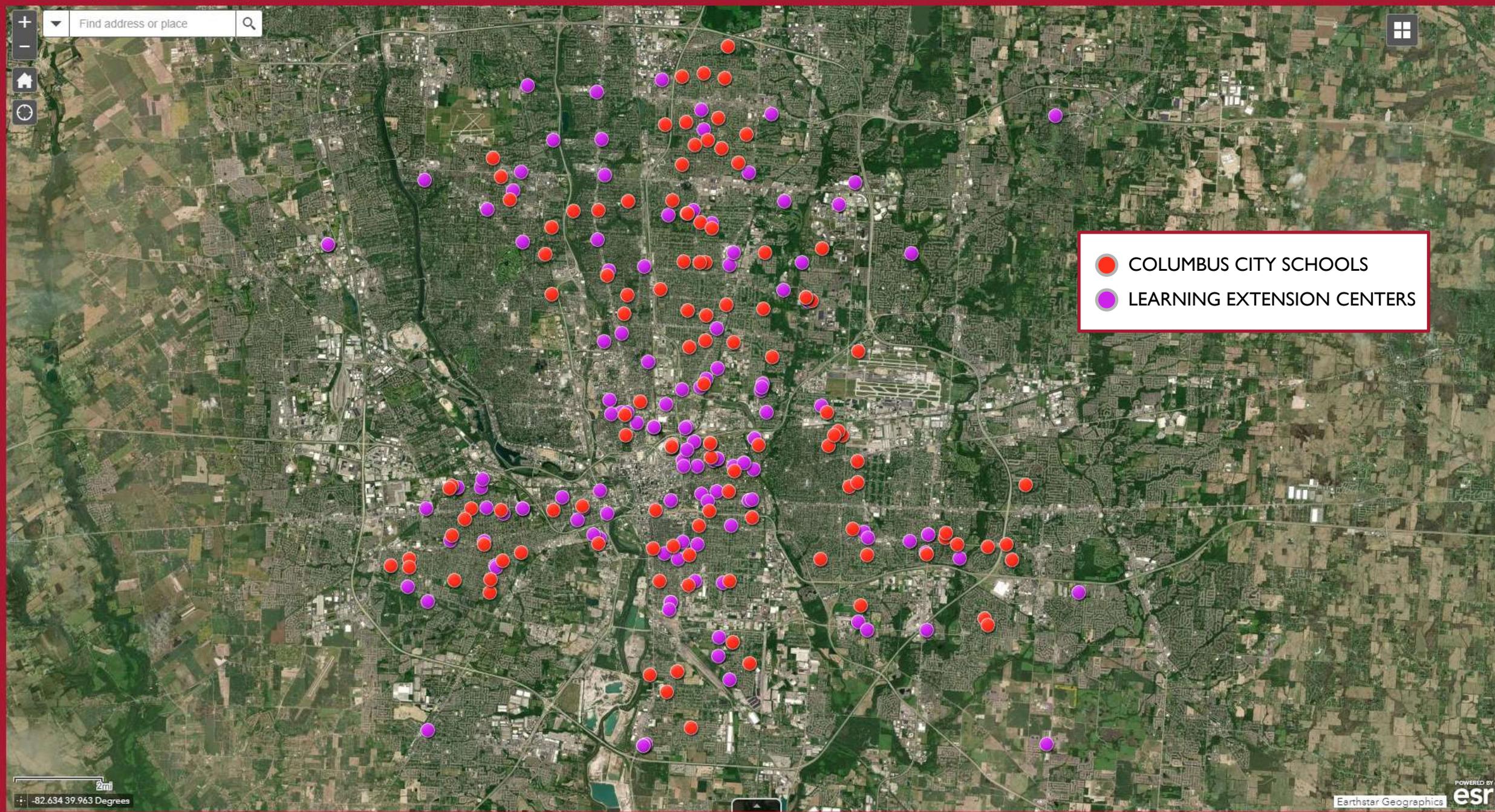
- CMHA is committed to helping our families be successful in a virtual schooling landscape
- Transition community rooms in CMHA-owned communities to Learning Extension Centers (LEC)
 - Provide internet ready spaces
 - Provide free meals to program participants
 - Develop partnerships to run LEC's and provide youth with technical assistance to navigate virtual schooling
 - Provide PPE for LEC participants
 - Provide access to devices including laptops
 - Supplement existing resources that may not provide for households with multiple children
 - Increase virtual attendance for school aged children
 - Low-income youth are more likely to experience episodes of “learning loss” compared to their more affluent peers
 - Decrease pressure on parents to choose between employment and their children's academic success

The Solution: Learning Extension Centers

- Learning Extension Centers (LECs)- community, faith based, and other public sites that provide physical space within the facility to allow workstations for students.
- Over 150 LEC's in the district
- FREE
- Supports and Resources Provided:
 - A safe supervised educationally conducive environment that has broadband for students to be able to virtually interface with their teachers or participate in the CCS Digital Academy.
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for every student
 - Volunteers to assist with tutoring and lunch at many of the sites
 - Health and wellness checks via nationwide Children's Hospital
 - College and Career guidance via our higher education access partners from IKIC
- CMHA has 5 LECs serving Columbus City School students, 8 in total
 - Presented by 4 community organizations – Dream Center, After School All Stars, Reaching the Nations International (RTNI), Serving Our Neighbors Ministries (SON Ministries)
- CMHA provided over \$476,000 to establish LECs across the county with the capacity to serve 244 youth!



Find address or place



-  COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS
-  LEARNING EXTENSION CENTERS

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-82.634 39.963 Degrees

The Digital Divide

- **Broadband Access**
 - LEC's provide free Wi-Fi access to participants who may not otherwise be able to afford internet access.
 - Plan to provide free and/or reduced cost internet access for all households in CMHA's affordable housing portfolio.
- **Device Access**
 - The partnership provides students with free laptops and hotspots to connect to the internet.
- **Digital Literacy**
 - Currently renovating computer labs at 8 CMHA communities to create digital learning centers.

2020 Outcomes

- Learning Extension Centers
 - Nearly **150** youth participated across **8** CMHA communities. More than **7,300** meals distributed.
- Summer Programs
 - Over **\$90,000** of funding was provided to implement **3** in person summer camps and one virtual camp. **50** youth were served in person and over **400** youth were served virtually.
- After School Programs
 - CMHA is partnering with After School All Stars to present after school programming at **4** CMHA communities, investing over **\$60,000**.
- Emergency Food Distributions
 - Over five months, CMHA, Children’s Hunger Alliance, and various community partners distributed over **25,000** meals to youth and their families.
- Choice Neighborhood Initiatives
 - CMHA allocated over **\$300,000** of CMHA Choice funds to cover the expense of a Columbus City Schools liaison and Education Service Coordinator.

Looking Ahead

- Continue to promote Digital Equity across CMHA households
- Continue to provide free or reduced internet service to all CMHA residents
- Continue to increase access to devices
- Transition LEC's to traditional Afterschool Programming to continue providing academic supports, as well as youth development opportunities
- Transform CMHA rooms into digital learning environments
 - Provide free, onsite digital literacy training
 - Provide free, onsite workforce develop training
 - Focus on equipping youth for post graduation
 - applying for post-secondary education (i.e. FAFSA)
 - Exploring career opportunities (particularly in STEM fields)
 - Provide access to telehealth services
 - Continue to learn/partner with CMHA residents through regular surveying and community conversations

Questions

For more information or to connect with CMHA's Resident Initiatives department, please contact RISECenter@cmhanet.com.

Questions & Discussion

Video

The Oakland REACH's Virtual Family Hub: A Powerful Movement for Racial Equity



Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars:

LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE WEBINAR

The Fall K-3 Classroom: What the Data Imply About Composition, Challenges and Opportunities

Co-Sponsored by EdWeek

Tuesday, April 27, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

PEER EXCHANGE LEARNING CONVERSATION WEBINAR

Radical Collaboration: Peer Partnership for Greater Local Impact

Tuesday, May 4, 12:30 p.m. ET/9:30 a.m. PT

LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE WEBINAR

Technology to Accelerate Learning: Tech-Enabled Solutions to Address Learning Loss

Co-Sponsored by Overdeck Family Foundation

Tuesday, May 4, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

CRUCIBLE OF PRACTICE WEBINAR

Big Lift Inspiring Summers: Literacy, Learning and FUN!

Tuesday, May 11, 12:30 p.m. ET/9:30 a.m. PT

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