

# Early Learning Fact Sheets

## Contents

<b>Preschool Promise</b> .....	2
<b>Oregon Prekindergarten</b> .....	3
<b>Child Care Resource &amp; Referral System</b> .....	4
<b>Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education</b> .....	5
<b>Early Learning Hubs</b> .....	6
<b>Relief Nurseries</b> .....	7
<b>Spark – Quality Improvement System</b> .....	8
<b>Healthy Families Oregon</b> .....	9
<b>Kindergarten Readiness Partnership &amp; Innovation Program</b> .....	10
<b>Child Care Licensing</b> .....	11

# Preschool Promise

## Program Details

**Program Description:** A high-quality state preschool program serving 3- and 4- year old children living in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line.

**Purpose of Program/Activity:** Preschool Promise serves low-income children in high-quality preschool settings to support their learning and development. High-quality preschool will ensure children enter kindergarten ready to succeed and intends to close the opportunity gap associated with socioeconomic status, as well as race/ethnicity and zip code.

**How is Program/Activity Provided:** Preschool Promise is funded by Early Learning Hub region through a competitive process. It is delivered through local contractors, including licensed family child care providers and child care centers, as well as K-12. Each Hub coordinates enrollment and provides supports to programs. Preschool Promise is currently funded in nine Hubs<sup>1</sup> across the state.

**Coordination with Other Programs:** Preschool Promise coordinates closely with other preschool programs across the state, including Oregon Prekindergarten/Head Start and Early Childhood Special Education to recruit and enroll families and to connect families to appropriate preschool services. Preschool Promise Providers also coordinate with K-12 schools to ensure successful kindergarten transitions through activities like shared professional development and communication between teachers/administrators.

## Children and Families Served

**Target Group and Eligibility Requirements:** Families with children ages 3 to 5 with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$50,200 for a family of four). Enrollment is targeted toward children furthest from opportunity, including low-income children of color and dual language learners, and children with developmental delays and disabilities.

## **Number of Children/Families Eligible:**

Approximately 40,000

## **Number of Children/Families Served:** 1,300

## Financing and Staffing

**Funding for Program or Activity:** \$35,729,707 per biennia of General Fund dollars

**Cost Per Child:** \$11,500

**Number of State FTEs:** 2 (1 GF, 1 Grant-funded)

## Program/Activity Issues and Challenges

- The reach of Preschool Promise is too small, both in number of children served, and in geographical reach across the state
- The supply of early childhood education programs in the state is low, and the pool of programs ready to implement Preschool Promise is even smaller (programs are required to be rated 4- and 5-star in our Spark quality improvement system), necessitating more robust quality improvement supports and supply-building efforts
- Quality programs face major challenges in expanding or improving facilities to serve additional children
- State and local infrastructure to implement quality programs is insufficient, including staff support, as well as supports like coaching and professional development, and data systems to track short- and long-term outcomes

## Outcome Measures

- Quality of classrooms/teaching practices in Preschool Promise classrooms
- Kindergarten readiness of children receiving Preschool Promise
- Third grade proficiency of students receiving Preschool Promise

---

<sup>1</sup> The nine Hubs with Preschool Promise include: Clackamas Early Learning Hub, Early Learning Multnomah, Early Learning Washington County, Eastern Oregon Community Based Services Hub, Lane Early Learning Alliance, Marion &

# Oregon Prekindergarten

## Program Details

**Program Description:** A high-quality state preschool program, based on the federal Head Start program, designed to improve school readiness of children living in families facing the most significant economic hardship.

**Purpose of Program/Activity:** Oregon Prekindergarten (OPK) builds on the federal investment in Head Start to serve children and families living in poverty through high-quality early care and education and family support services. OPK seeks to ensure children are ready for kindergarten and families have the tools to ensure their children's lifelong success.

**How is Program/Activity Provided:** OPK grants are awarded largely to federal Head Start grantees and other programs that demonstrate ability to meet federal Head Start Performance Standards. These programs meet Head Start Performance Standards, which require that programs offer high-quality care/education and support family and child needs through comprehensive services, such as dental care, connections to adult education, and nutrition services. Each OPK/Head Start provider serves a designated service area of the state.

**Coordination with Other Programs:** In addition to coordinating with federal Head Start, OPK providers work closely with other preschool providers, K-12 schools, home visiting programs, and medical services within their community to coordinate services.

## Children and Families Served

**Target Group and Eligibility Requirements:** Families with children ages 3 to 5 with incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$25,100 for a family of four), families receiving TANF, children in foster care, homeless children,

children receiving SSI, and children with developmental delays and disabilities.

**Number of Children/Families Eligible:** Approximately 20,000

**Number of Children/Families Served:** 8,100 through OPK, an additional 4,400 funded through federal Head Start (12,500 total)

## Financing and Staffing

**Funding for Program or Activity:** \$158,123,362 per biennia of General Fund dollars

**Cost Per Child:** \$9,100 (in half-day programming)

**Number of State FTEs:** 2.5

## Program/Activity Issues and Challenges

- OPK classrooms are largely half-day, which does not meet the needs of young children's development/learning and of working parents
- OPK begins at age three, rather than at birth/pre-natal, with a small amount of Early Head Start funded by state
- Educators, though required to possess Bachelor's degrees, earn only an average of \$35,000 annually and have a 27% annual turnover rate
- Transportation support is not currently provided by the state, meaning families who struggle economically must find their own means of transportation
- State infrastructure to monitor and support the quality of programs is lacking, including staffing and funding to support professional learning supports

## Outcome Measures

- Quality of classrooms/teaching practices in OPK classrooms
- Kindergarten readiness of children attending OPK
- Third grade proficiency of children attending OPK

# Child Care Resource & Referral System

## Program Details

**Program Description:** A network of 13 regional entities that support the needs of child care and other early care and education providers across the state through training, technical assistance, and other supports. The CCR&R system also includes the Oregon Center for Career Development (OCCD) at Portland State, including the Oregon Registry Online, as well as 211 child care referral services, and Focused Child Care Networks.

**Purpose of Program/Activity:** The CCR&R system seeks to improve the quality of environments for children through training, technical assistance through Quality Improvement Specialists, and other professional learning and quality improvement supports to license-exempt and licensed programs, and help new programs become licensed. In addition, the referral component of the systems exists to assist parents in finding care for their child.

**How is Program/Activity Provided:** The primary delivery of CCR&R services through 13 local entities, while referral services for parents are primarily delivered through 211, and data collection and analysis occurs through OCCD

**Coordination with Other Programs:** The CCR&R system coordinates with child care programs, K-12 districts, the licensing program and supports the implementation of Spark, the state's Quality Rating and Improvement System

## Children and Families Served

**Target Group and Eligibility Requirements:** CCR&R services are available to all early care and education programs, including licensed child care centers, homes, K-12 settings, and license-exempt providers

**Number of Children/Families Eligible:** N/A

**Number of Children/Families Served:** N/A

## Financing and Staffing

**Funding for Program or Activity:** \$8,571,432 Federal Dollars; (\$1,500,000 of total for 211 family referral services)

**Cost Per Child:** N/A

**Number of State FTEs:** 4

## Program/Activity Issues and Challenges

- CCR&Rs are not funded to the level necessary to offer robust professional learning opportunities, instead primarily focusing on basic health and safety training
- Quality Improvement Specialists (QISs) were primarily funded by federal grant dollars and were not sustained, leaving CCR&Rs without adequate staffing to serve programs
- There is an insufficient supply of child care programs in the state, making referral services to families necessary

## Outcome Measures

- Participation in trainings by type
- Movement on Oregon Registry steps
- Number of programs improving in quality (as measured by Spark)
- Parents ability to find quality child care

# Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education

## Program Details

**Program Description:** Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE), established by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provide early intervention services for children age 1 to 3 and special education services for children ages 3 to 5.

**Purpose of Program/Activity:** EI/ECSE exist to address developmental delays and disabilities early, in order to ensure children enter school ready to succeed.

**How is Program/Activity Provided:** Children are identified through developmental screenings administered by their health or early childhood education provider. If a delay or disability is identified, children are entitled to services to address their Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). The Oregon Department of Education delivers EI/ECSE contracts with local agencies to provide a statewide system of free services for young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.

**Coordination with Other Programs:** EI/ECSE coordinates with health providers and other entities providing services needed to identify and serve children with developmental delays or disabilities. In addition, EI/ECSE coordinates with child care, Early/Head Start, and preschool programs to ensure children receive services within these environments.

## Children and Families Served

**Target Group and Eligibility Requirements:** Children age 0-5 years who meet qualifying standards for developmental delay or disability

**Number of Children/Families Eligible:** 26,220

**Number of Children/Families Served:** 26,220 (all eligible children must be served by law)

## Financing and Staffing

**Funding for Program or Activity:** \$208,575,476 total (General Funds \$175,014,948 and Federal Funds \$33,560,528)

**Cost Per Child:** Varies, average of approx. \$7,500 under current funding levels

**Number of State FTEs:** 10

## Program/Activity Issues and Challenges

- Coordinated developmental screenings through Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) led to an increase in identified children, resulting in higher caseloads but no additional dollars for children
- Children do not receive adequate service levels
- Children with less severe developmental delays and disabilities do not qualify for services

## Outcome Measures

- Progress toward IFSP goals
- Federally mandated reporting around family and child outcomes

# Early Learning Hubs

## Program Details

**Program Description:** Early Learning Hubs serve 16 regions across the state Early Learning Hubs in order to make supports more available, more accessible, and more effective for children and families, particularly those who are historically overrepresented in the opportunity gap and underrepresented in services.

**Purpose of Program/Activity:** Hubs are directed by statute to accomplish three specific goals: (1) create an early childhood system that is aligned, coordinated, and family-centered; (2) ensure that children arrive at school ready to succeed; and (3) ensure that Oregon's young children live in families that are healthy, stable, and attached. Hubs achieve these goals by aligning and coordinating early learning services to the needs of families within their community and to administer key programs that will ensure young children and their families are successful.

**How is Program/Activity Provided:** The 16 Early Learning Hubs each are administered by a local organization, a.k.a. a backbone. Each Hub is staffed by at least one director, with variable staff functions, sizes, and structures across the state. Hubs coordinate a variety of services, including Kindergarten Partnership Initiative (KPI) dollars, Family Child Care Networks, and Preschool Promise.

**Coordination with Other Programs:** The primary function of Hubs is coordination, and Hubs bring together key health, human services, and K-12 services with early care and education services to facilitate shared learning, partnerships, and services.

## Children and Families Served

**Target Group and Eligibility Requirements:** n/a

**Number of Children/Families Eligible:** n/a

**Number of Children/Families Served:** n/a

## Financing and Staffing

**Funding for Program or Activity:** \$17,767,728

**Cost Per Child:** n/a

**Number of State FTEs:** 2

## Program/Activity Issues and Challenges

- Hubs do not receive funding levels in order to ensure adequate core staffing, which threatens Hubs' ability to serve as adequate conveners and coordinators

## Outcome Measures

All Hubs are monitored on a variety of metrics each year, and each biennium a full evaluation occurs to determine their efficacy in:

- 1) Creating an aligned, coordinated and family-centered system of early learning services;
- 2) Increasing coordination and collaboration among entities involved in, and providers of services related to, early learning services, education and health and human services;
- 3) Increasing focus on outcomes; and
- 4) Improving outcomes, including but not limited to outcomes associated with school readiness, for populations defined by statute or rule as being at-risk.

# Relief Nurseries

## Program Details

**Program Description:** Relief Nurseries support families in crisis, i.e., those most at-risk for abuse and neglect, through therapeutic preschool services and parenting supports.

**Purpose of Program/Activity:** Relief Nurseries seek to intervene in and prevent child abuse and neglect for young children through a therapeutic preschool model.

**How is Program/Activity Provided:** Relief Nurseries are administered by organizations across the state and include services that occur in-home and through individualized classroom experiences. Relief Nurseries maintain low child to adult ratios. Mental health and special education services are integrated into the Relief Nursery classroom.

**Coordination with Other Programs:** Relief Nurseries coordinate with DHS Child Welfare programs, early care and education programs, including through administering Preschool Promise programs and through close partnerships with Head Start programs within their communities. Relief Nurseries also coordinate with home visiting services in order to coordinate appropriate service delivery to programs.

## Children and Families Served

**Target Group and Eligibility Requirements:** Families with children 6 weeks old to kindergarten entry who are at high risk for abuse and neglect

**Number of Children/Families Eligible:** 36,397

**Number of Children/Families Served:** 3,319

## Financing and Staffing

**Funding for Program or Activity:** \$10,991,750, including \$8,918,200 in General Funds

**Cost Per Child:** Approx. \$7,500

**Number of State FTEs:** 0.5

## Program/Activity Issues and Challenges

- Relief Nurseries do not reach enough children that could benefit across the state
- We must do work to harmonize funding of relief nurseries with other preschool programs to ensure that children receive both integrated preschool services and therapeutic preschools

## Outcome Measures

Relief Nurseries are measured on a variety of outcomes, including:

- Reduction in family risk factors associated with abuse and neglect
- Prevention of foster care or other formal DHS involvement for families participating in the program
- Increase families ability to support literacy practices at home

# Spark – Quality Improvement System

## Program Details

**Program Description:** Spark is Oregon’s Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS), which serves as a framework of standards that begin with licensing standards and define a progressive set of standards for all early care and education and school age programs to reach higher quality

**Purpose of Program/Activity:** Spark exists to support child care and other early care and education programs in reaching high-quality standards. Spark focuses on the quality improvement process, providing human and financial resources to complete improvement process, and, ultimately, lead to better environments for children and families.

**How is Program/Activity Provided:** Spark is administered through an external contractor, Teaching Research Institute (TRI) at Western Oregon University. TRI works with programs to complete portfolios to reflect on and assess current program practices, assigns programs ratings, and connects programs to supports. CCR&Rs support programs engaging in Spark through Quality Improvement Specialists

**Coordination with Other Programs:** Spark coordinates with the DHS Employment Related Daycare (ERDC) program to guide families in ERDC toward programs that meet quality standards and to provide higher reimbursement rates/lower family co-pays based on Spark rating. Spark coordinates with the ELD’s licensing program to ensure coordinated review of standards. Spark serves as a basis of quality for Preschool Promise and Oregon Prekindergarten programs and is a fundamental part of supports for those programs.

## Children and Families Served

**Target Group and Eligibility Requirements:** Spark is open to all licensed child care programs, and is working toward more inclusive supports for license-exempt programs.

**Number of Children/Families Eligible:** n/a

**Number of Children/Families Served:** n/a

## Financing and Staffing

**Funding for Program or Activity:** \$5,268,075 in Federal Funds and \$315,000 GF

**Cost Per Child:** n/a

**Number of State FTEs:** 1

## Program/Activity Issues and Challenges

- Spark does not have sufficient resources to help programs improve upon quality, especially those programs at the beginning of the continuum of quality and programs seeking to engage in a continuous quality improvement in order to get licensed
- Spark is not adequately supported at the regional level due to the cuts to Quality Improvement Specialist positions across the state

## Outcome Measures

- Number of programs engaged in Spark
- Number of programs improving on Spark standards
- Number of programs rated in the highest levels of quality

# Healthy Families Oregon

## Program Details

**Program Description:** Healthy Families Oregon (HFO) is an accredited multi-site state system with Healthy Families America and Oregon's largest child abuse prevention program. It is a free family support and parent education home visiting program. HFO is voluntary and focuses on strengthening the parent-child relationship to assure healthy child growth and development.

**Purpose of Program/Activity:** Healthy Families Oregon promotes and supports positive parenting and healthy growth and development for all Oregon families expecting or parenting newborns that need and accept extra support. Healthy Families Oregon promotes positive parent-child relationships, supports healthy childhood growth and development and enhances family functioning.

**How is Program/Activity Provided:** Healthy Families Oregon is provided through contractors within Early Learning Hub regions selected via a competitive process. It is delivered by local home visitors for each local contract. HFO provides parenting education and support from a home visitor, who visits as often as weekly in the first six months after a child's birth and as needed through the first three years. The home visitor focuses on building a family's protective factors and reduce risks such as untreated disorders, unresolved trauma, and substance abuse.

**Coordination with Other Programs:** Healthy Families Oregon partners with local programs and agencies to connect families to wrap-around services, such as WIC, TANF, Early Intervention and other community resources.

## Children and Families Served

**Target Group and Eligibility Requirements:** Vulnerable families expecting a child or newborn under 3 months old. Families determined to be at high risk for adverse childhood outcomes through the use of a standardized research-based screening tool are offered intensive home visiting services based on eligibility criteria.

**Number of Children/Families Eligible:**  
Approximately 30,000

**Number of Children/Families Served:** 3,237

## Financing and Staffing

**Funding for Program or Activity:** \$24 million per biennia of General Fund dollars

**Cost Per Child:** \$8,160 (average) per year

**Number of State FTEs:** 2 (GF)

## Program/Activity Issues and Challenges

- Staff turnover due to low pay impact workload as well as relationships with at-risk families.
- The reach of Healthy Families Oregon is too small and limited by the risk factors. Only 11% of the estimated eligible population received services and only 46% of families interested in services qualified to receive them.

## Outcome Measures

The Healthy Families America model for home visiting has been proven to reduce child abuse and neglect, which is directly linked to Safety and Healthy People outcomes in the 10-Year Plan. Maltreatment rates in the state have fallen steadily since implementation of the research-based standards of this program. Oregon collects the following outcomes on its programs:

- Percentage of screenings prenatally or within 2 weeks of birth
- Percentage of children with primary care provider
- Up to date immunizations
- Reading to child 3x per week
- Positive parent-child interaction
- Reduced parent stress
- Rate of maltreatment
- Kindergarten readiness of children and families receiving Healthy Families Oregon services

# Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation Program

## Program Details

**Program Description:** The Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI) program supports prenatal to third-grade alignment at the local level through all 16 Early Learning Hubs by supporting local innovative approaches for linking early learning and kindergarten.

**Purpose of Program/Activity:** KPI supports successful transitions of children from early care and education programs into kindergarten and beyond. KPI seeks to support local communities in to implement innovative approaches in the following areas:

- Supporting kindergarten readiness skills and smooth transitions to kindergarten;
- Increasing family engagement in children's learning and connecting families and schools;
- Providing professional development to early learning and/or elementary school professionals to improve knowledge and skills; and/or
- Increasing alignment, connection, and collaboration in the prenatal to Grade 3 (P-3) system.

**How is Program/Activity Provided:** Hubs administer KPI in concert with local partners. KPI supports a diverse array of activities, from kindergarten transition programs to professional learning for administrators across different types of early care and education programs.

**Coordination with Other Programs:** KPI investments are leveraged to work in coordination with investments such as Preschool Promise and Head Start. KPI funds require Hubs to work with K-12 partners to identify needs related to and ensure successful transitions into kindergarten

## Children and Families Served

**Target Group and Eligibility Requirements:** Available in all communities and targeted toward partnerships with school that serve families and children that are economically disadvantaged, children of color, and dual language learners

**Number of Children/Families Eligible:** n/a

**Number of Children/Families Served:** n/a

## Financing and Staffing

**Funding for Program or Activity:** \$9,065,952 in GF

**Cost Per Child:** n/a

**Number of State FTEs:** 1

## Program/Activity Issues and Challenges

- State-level infrastructure does not allow adequate provision of technical assistance to communities on how to expend resources
- Evaluation by Portland State University recommends that the state adopt a unified vision for family engagement to inform communities work toward a vision
- Current funding does not reach all children who need most support in kindergarten transition, including ability to support adequate levels of shared professional development

## Outcome Measures

- Increased Kindergarten readiness of children participating in programs
- Improved family engagement for families participating in program
- Increased knowledge and skills of early learning/elementary school educators

# Child Care Licensing

## Program Details

**Program Description:** The Early Learning Division Office of Child Care (OCC) is responsible for ensuring the health and safety of children ages birth to 12 in over 4,200 licensed child care facilities and over 2,700 regulated subsidy providers (i.e., providers exempt from licensing, but serving families that receive Employment Related Daycare subsidies). OCC has a responsibility for the over 120,000 children are currently enrolled in licensed and regulated subsidy child care settings. OCC supports programs to meet and maintain compliance with licensing standards, conducts background checks, as well as responds to complaints and concerns received.

**Purpose of Program/Activity:** Child Care Licensing regulates child care facilities and enforces standards to protect the health and safety of children in child care settings. In addition to the regulatory framework, quality programs and services are supported by OCC through quality supports and technical assistance for licensed child care providers to ensure the quality and quantity of child care. High-quality child care environments will ensure children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

**How is Program/Activity Provided:** Licensing specialists of diverse geography and sociocultural and linguistic backgrounds inspect child care programs, assist providers in moving up in the professional development registry, and provide technical assistance to improve quality, health and safety.

**Coordination with Other Programs:** The Office of Child Care works closely with local law enforcement agencies and the Department of Human Services, particularly when investigating reports of abuse and neglect.

## Children and Families Served

**Target Group and Eligibility Requirements:** All children in licensed or regulated subsidy settings.

**Number of Children/Families Eligible:** Estimated 593,000 children 12 and under in Oregon

**Number of Children Served:** Approximately 120,000

## Financing and Staffing

**Funding for Program or Activity:** For 2017-19, the budget for the Office of Child Care includes \$6,060,890 General Fund and \$20,560,686 in federal funding largely Child Care Development Block Grant resources. There is also over \$5.0 million in Other Fund resources of which fees charged for background checks make up a large portion.

**Cost Per Child:** n/a

**Number of State FTEs:** 116

## Program/Activity Issues and Challenges

- Current staffing caseload is 1:138, while national best practice standards recommend a 1:50 caseload. This limits the amount of interaction between licensors and programs, limiting the amount of both support and monitoring to programs.
- New licensing regulations and directives has increased workload of Legal and Compliance Unit beyond current capacity
- Limited capacity to provide support to programs, including technical assistance to programs to achieve licensing and increase the supply of licensed programs

## Outcome Measures

- Number of programs receiving and maintain license
- Kindergarten readiness of children in high-quality licensed child care settings
- Third grade proficiency of students in high-quality licensed child care settings