

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2006



Oregon Child Development Coalition

September 2006

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INTRODUCTION

The structure of this document reflects a grassroots approach involving a diversity of participants and contributors. This document is structured according to the *5 Steps to Community Assessment* workbook. It contains not only a statewide assessment, but also individual assessments for each service area. Service areas include:

- Hood River and Wasco Counties
- Jackson County
- Jefferson County
- Klamath County
- Malheur County
- Marion County
- Multnomah and Clackamas Counties
- Polk Counties
- Umatilla County
- Washington County

The rationale for this layout is such that it attends to the inherent diversity of local areas and information. Moreover, each service area will benefit from an assessment containing local information to (i) facilitate greater communication among community partners and key stakeholders, (ii) streamline data collections processes, grant writing and other reporting, and (iii) serve as a tool for orienting new staff to the work of the agency in implementing the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in local communities.

Anticipating concerns about the overabundance of data, it is emphasized that the assessments for individual service areas are roughly 30 pages, a figure that is similar to the length of community assessments obtained from regional Head Start programs that operate in only one or two counties. Thus, emphasis is placed on local information, not the overabundance of data.

The structure of each individual assessment follows a format that examines local geographic, economic and demographic information. A discussion of strengths and needs then follows and includes the following areas:

- Education
- Mental Health and Disabilities
- Health and Nutrition
- Family Services
- Childcare
- Housing and Transportation

At the conclusion of each assessment, a SWOT analysis (i.e., strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) is used to identify those key issues that inform specific observations and recommendations per service area.

Appendices C1.1-C11.2 contain service area maps. Maps with the suffix *x.1* contain general service area information - agency site locations, locations of growers, agri-businesses, and food processors. Maps with the suffix *x.2* contain more specific information on housing and childcare.



METHODOLOGY

The following assessment was directed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Head Start Director and implemented by the agency's Resource Development Specialist under the guidance of an internal Community Assessment Committee composed of key management and program specialists and with input from the Board of Directors and Policy Council. Planning for this process began in the Fall of 2005, with the assessment completed in the Fall of 2006.

It is noted that parent and community participation in this assessment was impaired by concerns and fears surrounding the current immigration debate. It was noted by the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Parent Involvement Coordinators that maintaining parent participation has been difficult in light of rumors of the U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement in local areas. This situation was further exacerbated in more rural areas of the state with agricultural employers issuing statements such as the one below, provided by local produce distributor. In response to a request for an interview, a representative replied:

"I am not sure I trust where you are coming from [with this assessment] because immigration is a really hot topic right now."

Surveys and interview guides are provided in Appendix C0.1. Multiple methods were employed to ensure the diversity of primary and secondary data, including:

- Inventory of secondary data sources, including requests for information from service providers and community partners.
- [Mail and email] surveys of agricultural employers, farm labor contractors, service agencies and community partners
- Focus groups with the agency's Board of Directors, Policy Council, parents of program participants, as well as local, certified childcare providers.
- [Face-to-face and telephone] interviews with the agency's Executive Management team, Program Specialists, County Directors and management Team, as well as representatives from local service agencies and community partners.

It is noted that each of the above methods was carried out using purposeful and, in some cases, snowball sampling techniques. The rationale for doing so is based on the assumption that (i) not all individuals and agencies work and/or are familiar with the population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and (ii) that those that do work and/or are familiar with the population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers do so in varying capacities. In some cases, an agency's mission or an agency mandate may identify migrant and seasonal farmworkers as a target population. In other cases, while services may be provided to migrant and seasonal farmworkers, such services are provided accidentally.

An added benefit to the employed sampling techniques is the ability to identify those contacts who might otherwise be overlooked but, nonetheless, are quite knowledgeable about the population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers. In many cases, such respondents are identified by other respondents. Thus, this assessment process exhibits both flexibility and a *richness* of data that could not have been achieved by other sampling techniques (e.g., random, stratified,



proportionate, etc.). Accordingly, the Oregon Child Development Coalition acknowledges concerns dealing with the ability to make inferences from the results of this assessment to the general population. However, that said, given the changing nature of [demographic, economic, political and social] conditions in local communities, this assessment represents a representative, living document which places value on actual experiences and stories of respondents as much as on facts, figures and statistics.

In general, the Oregon Child Development Coalition observed the following schedule in the completion of this document:

10/2005 - 12/2005

- Plan and develop community assessment processes and procedures to include:
 - Detailed methodology
 - Detailed data collections framework per TAC12/AED guidelines
 - Formation of community assessment committee consisting of management and staff
 - Detailed template for final report per TAC12/AED guidelines
 - Instrument design and testing
 - Develop scheduling document outlining visits to county sites.
- Review methodology and action timeline with agency management and staff to include:
 - Board of Directors
 - Policy Council representatives
 - Executive Management Team
 - Lead Specialists
 - County Directors
- Methodology approved by key decision making bodies.
- Ongoing collection of national, state and local data.

01/2006 - 05/2006

- Ongoing meetings with community assessment committee.
- Continued instrument development and testing.
- Identification and support of local and state institutions in fulfillment of mapping requirements:
 - Center Locations
 - Recruitment and services areas
 - Locations of growers, processors and agribusinesses
 - Locations of migrant housing complexes, mobile home parks and farm labor camps.
 - Locations of other partners and services providers
- Surveys
 - Growers, processors and agribusinesses (direct mail)
 - Licensed farm labor contractors (direct mail)
- OCDC Focus Groups and Interviews
 - Focus Group: Board of Directors (in person, semi-structured format)
 - Focus Group: Parent Policy Council representatives (in person, semi-structured format)
 - Interviews: Executive Management Team members (face-to-face, semi-structured format)
 - Interviews: [Lead] Specialists (face-to-face, semi-structured format)
- Community Focus Group



- Childcare Providers (in person, semi-structured format)
- *Continues into summer; overlaps with visits to county sites
- Submit data requests to state agencies and statewide organizations to include (but not limited to):
 - Childcare Resource and Referral
 - Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education
 - Migrant Education
 - Oregon Employment Department
 - Oregon Legal Services
 - Oregon 211
 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
 - Oregon Human Development Corporation
- Ongoing collection of national, state and local data

05/2006 - 08/2006

- Ongoing meetings with community assessment committee.
- Continued instrument development and testing.
- Community Interviews
 - Educational institutions and agencies (e.g. Head Start programs)
 - Medical and dental providers
 - Mental health and disabilities providers
 - Family and social service providers
 - Childcare providers
 - Housing and transportation providers
- Conduct county site visits
 - OCDC Focus Groups and Interviews
 - Focus Group: County Executive Committee (in person, semi-structured format)
 - Focus Group: Parents (in person, semi-structured format)
 - Interviews: County Directors (face-to-face, semi-structured format)
 - Interviews: County Management Team members (face-to-face, semi-structured format)
 - Complete focus groups of childcare providers.
 - Additional follow-up with growers, processors and agribusinesses.
 - Additional follow-up with community partners and key informants.
- Ongoing collection of national, state and local data.

08/2006 - 09/2006

- Ongoing meetings with community assessment committee.
- Recording, coding, cleaning and analysis of data.
- Initial draft of community assessment completed.
- Individual follow-ups to ensure accuracy and reliability.
- Subsequent drafts of community assessment.
- Final version of community assessment approved by key governing bodies:
 - Board of Directors
 - Parent Policy Council
 - Executive Management Team



- Inclusion of final version of community assessment in Federal grant application.
- Dissemination of final version to include:
 - Hard and electronic copies posted and available.
- Evaluate methodology and document recommendations to inform future efforts.



ESTIMATING HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN: TWO APPROACHES

Throughout this assessment, two estimates are employed for estimating the number of Head Start eligible children. The *first* approach is used to identify the number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 year old children within the general low-income population and employs the following equation.

$$E_{2005} = C_{2005} * P_{2005}$$

where:

E_{2005} = Eligible, Head Start children in 2005

C_{2005} = Number of 3 and 4 year old children in 2005.

P_{2005} = Poverty rate in 2005.

Thus, the result - the estimated number of 3 and 4 year old Head Start eligible children - applies to the number of eligible children as a subset of the general population.

The *second* approach in the narrative is based on an entirely different method and used to estimate the number of Migrant Seasonal Head Start eligible children under the age of 6, employing the following equation.¹

$$P_{2005} = \frac{(P_{2002} * C_{2005})}{C_{2002}}$$

where:

P_{2005} = Target population in 2005

C_{2005} = Harvested acres or total crop sales for selected agricultural commodities in 2005

P_{2002} = Target population in 2002²

C_{2002} = Harvested acres or total crop sales for selected agricultural commodities in 2002

Using Alice Larson's 2002 estimates for the population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their dependents are employed as a base, and coupled with agricultural data from the Oregon Agricultural Information Network, one is able to estimate the number of eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in 2005.

¹ This equation is also used to estimate the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in 2002.

² See Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002*, Larson Assistance Services.



The rationale for employing different methodologies for estimating the number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 years olds and the number of Migrant Seasonal Head Start eligible children under the age of 6 is based on the assumption that population counts from the U.S. Census Bureau do not adequately capture the population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers given their migratory status and their legal status.

The question that will naturally arise is, what is the relationship between the estimated number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 years olds and the number of Migrant Seasonal Head Start eligible *seasonal* children under the age of 6?

For starters, the results are *not* mutually exclusive. But, that said, it is difficult to identify exactly how the two estimates may overlap. The key is to remember that the estimated number of Migrant Seasonal Head Start eligible children is for the set of children under the age of six. This is the reason that estimates for the number of Migrant Seasonal Head Start children under the age of 6 are broken down by age group (e.g., <1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in the narrative. Thus, examples in the examples - in Malheur County for instance - show that the set of eligible 3 and 4 year old Migrant Seasonal Head Start children will always be *less than* the set of all eligible Head Start children given the requirement that Migrant Seasonal Head Start children have parents working in agriculture, as shown in the table below.

Counties in OCDC Service Areas	Head Start Eligible Ages 3-4	Migrant Seasonal Head Start Eligible Ages 3-4, Seasonal only
Hood River & Wasco	134/ 124	20/ 24
Jackson	949	94
Jefferson	161	91
Klamath	474	41
Malheur	282	94
Marion	2,104	210
Multnomah & Clackamas	3,059/ 940	138/ 56
Polk	274	32
Umatilla	456	42
Washington	1,478	66
Oregon	16,088	6,208



KEY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are provided to meet the requirements set forth by the Head Start Performance Standards, 45 CFR 1305, thereby providing a tool for the Oregon Child Development Coalition of Oregon to (i) evaluate the program philosophy, and migrant and seasonal objectives, (ii) determine the most needed component services, (iii) specify the recruitment area(s) and related limitations, (iv) determine appropriate locations for centers, and (v) further establish recruitment and selection criteria for children and families. Note, these service area recommendations follow from the above SWOT analysis and are intended to compliment those recommendations provided in the state level assessment.

Observations and Recommendations: OCDC in Oregon

Observation: Interviews with a number of respondents throughout Oregon reveal that there is an opportunity for the agency to build relationships with the local business community and key community stakeholders to raise awareness and support about the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.

Recommendation: Continue to develop agency informational materials to use in educating community partners, including include local and statewide statistics, local site phone numbers, types of services offered, numbers served, local economic trends, hours of service, the distinction between migrant and seasonal families, and future program goals. The development of a contacts/donor database would help facilitate this process, as would continued trainings on how to be an effective community partner.

Observations and Recommendations: Education

Observation: The need for Migrant Seasonal Head Start Services in Oregon currently exceeds capacity.

Recommendation: Currently, an estimated 49 percent of all eligible migrant children in Oregon are receiving Migrant Seasonal Head Start services. Data on the Hispanic population show that that Hispanics tend to be younger than the general population, with estimates revealing that Hispanics and Blacks under the age of 5 will outnumber non-Hispanic Whites by 2050. Thus, the agency should continue efforts to secure Migrant Seasonal Head Start expansion dollars, as well as private funds from state and local sources to ensure that eligible children in need receive Migrant Seasonal Head Start services.

Observation: There is a need for the continued building of partnerships with local school districts to not only ensure effective transitions processes, but also as a means to build the capacity of education providers to more effectively respond to the needs of migrant families.

Recommendation: Conduct a statewide inventory of school districts to identify current, underdeveloped or non-existent transitions partners, ensuring the collection of [bilingual]



contacts and other relevant information for those districts in each service area that are near program center locations and/or in agricultural areas.

Observations and Recommendations: Mental Health and Disabilities

Observation: There is a need to continue efforts designed to promote the integration of services and schedules with local Early Intervention programs to ensure the availability of services during the summer months.

Recommendation: Continue to collaborate with the Oregon Department of Education on a state interagency agreement, which outlines specific services that will be provided to Migrant Seasonal Head Start children and families in light of considerations of (i) language and culture, (ii) communication and families' migration patterns, (iii) evaluation and follow-up.

Observation: There is a need to continue efforts designed to raise community awareness about the mental health needs of children [enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program], as well as to recruit bilingual, bicultural mental health providers.

Recommendation: Partner with county mental health programs, larger providers and other state and national early childhood mental health groups to address the current shortage of providers by building local support and securing funding for such efforts.

Observations and Recommendations: Health and Nutrition

Observation: There is a need for local [pediatric] dental services throughout the state of Oregon.

Recommendation: Continue to explore the availability of services and resources covered by the Oregon Health Plan. Moreover, in light of the fact that the reimbursement rate for the Oregon Health Plan is inadequate, thereby resulting in assigned dental plans with few providers, continue to explore blended funding opportunities at the state and local levels with multiple partners.

Observations and Recommendations: Family Services

Observation: Oregon has recently been designated as a "New Hispanic State" by the U.S. Census Bureau given the 200 percent growth and 200,000 person increase in the Hispanic population between 1980 and 2000. Additionally, nearly 80 percent of children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in 2005 were primary Spanish speakers. Thus, there is a need to ensure the resources and personnel necessary to continue to accommodate children and families in their primary language.

Recommendation: Continue to identify additional resources for translation and interpretation services for non-English speaking families, as well as to assist with the development of



information and resources around promoting agency and community initiatives, such as greater fatherhood involvement, in families' primary language.

Observations and Recommendations: Childcare

Observation: There are 17 childcare slots in Oregon for every 100 children, 8 slots short of the state benchmark of 25 slots per 100 children. What is more is that number of Spanish speaking childcare providers in some counties (e.g., Klamath County) is less than adequate. Those counties in which the Oregon Child Development Coalition has a presence *and* which are currently experiencing a childcare shortage include Clackamas County, Jackson County, Malheur County, Marion County and Polk County.

Recommendation: Continue explore opportunities with the Child Care Resource and Referral Network and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to collaborate on joint trainings, CDA courses, and referrals. Also, explore the development of a business plan that would target local businesses, encouraging them to develop employee-sponsored childcare.

Observations and Recommendations: Transportation and Housing

Observation: In general, families living in farmworker housing and farm labor camps do not have easy access to public transportation services. In some cases, this is due to the nonexistence of such services. In other cases, this population is going overlooked by local transportation providers.

Recommendation: Continue to create opportunities for transportation providers, housing developers and growers to gain access to families served by the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program for the purposes of sharing and receiving information, as well as planning. Doing so will also build the knowledge of Migrant Seasonal Head Start parents, exposing them to processes and services that they may not have been aware of in the past.

