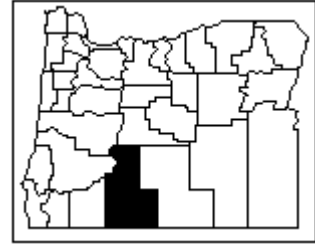


KLAMATH COUNTY

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County improves the lives of children and families primarily through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program, as well as other programs and initiatives, including a State Improvement Grant whereby the agency works in conjunction with local Klamath Indian tribes to address health and mental health issues.



The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County is directed by a County Executive Committee, which includes a County Director, parents of program participants and community representatives. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County serves a total of 128 children annually. Of these, 40 children are classified as migrant children and 88 are classified as seasonal children. In 2005, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County served 106 percent of funded enrollment. As of May 2006, average daily attendance was 92 percent.

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County currently employs a center-based option, serving children from two locations in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and Malin, Oregon. The short-term program runs 20 weeks from the beginning of September through November 15, operating two classrooms, 5 days per week from 8 am to 4 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from March through November operating eight classrooms, 5 days per week from 8 am to 2 pm and from 9:15 am to 3:15 pm.

The service area includes the entirety of Klamath County, as well as the northern portion of California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, an area that includes the towns of Dorris, Newell and Tulelake. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) program center locations in Klamath Falls and Malin, (ii) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County serves the predominantly agricultural areas of Klamath County, and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start Performance Standards. For illustrative purposes, Appendix C5.1 contains a map of the service area, as well as grower's locations and program center locations.

COUNTY SNAPSHOT

▶ QUICK FACTS

- Klamath County has seen 2 percent growth in its population over the past 5 years, with areas such as Malin, Oregon, experiencing more rapid growth over the same period.
- The median household income in Klamath County is 21 percent lower than the state median, with over 1,300 children under the age of 6 living in poverty and 51 percent of public school children eligible for free and reduced lunch.
- As of 2006, there are an estimated 474 unserved, eligible Head Start children in Klamath County with the percentage of unserved, eligible children at 30.8 percent.



- With unemployment at 8.4 percent, Klamath County is seeing growth in wholesale trade, construction, and education and health services.
- While new strawberry nurseries are changing the face of agriculture in Klamath County, potatoes remain the county's primary agricultural output with sales increasing by 27 percent annually while grower work to farm less acreage.
- In 2005, there were an estimated 380 migrant farmworkers (-7.3% between 2002 and 2005) and 462 seasonal farmworkers (-2.1% between 2002 and 2005) in Klamath County with the total number of migrant and seasonal children under the age of 6 estimated at 37 children and 97 children, respectively.

▶ CRITICAL ISSUES

- Immigration

In April of 2006, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were rumored to have visited Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties. Local growers and agri-businesses have come to fear the effects of such raids given the already tight supply of migrant labor. Individual interviews confirm that *growers and farmworkers are increasingly fearful of ICE raids and rumors of raids*, and the effects of such on employment and employment opportunities and, more generally, the economic health and viability of this predominantly agricultural region. It is also noted that this culture of fear may have had the effect of lowering participation in this assessment among growers and farmworkers.

- Water

Following a state of emergency in 2005, water supplies in the Klamath Basin are adequate. Accordingly, the Klamath Potato Grower's Association reports that the challenge comes in effectively managing water supplies in anticipation of future droughts and other events (e.g., protecting salmon downstream) that may jeopardize this resource.

COUNTY PROFILE

▶ GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Klamath County is located in the south central portion of Oregon along the California border spanning 6,135 square miles. The county, named for the Clamitte Indian Tribe, was created in 1882 following the Modoc Indian War. The county seat, Linkville, was changed to its current name, Klamath Falls, in 1893.¹

Klamath Falls is situated 4,105 feet above sea level. Temperatures range from 21 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to well over 82 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The area receives approximately 14 inches of rain annually, including significant snow

¹ Oregon Blue Book, 2006.



during the winter months, and is recognized for its diversity both in terms of the landscape and the abundant waterfowl.²

Created by collapsed volcano thousands of years ago, Klamath County is home to Crater Lake, the deepest lake in the U.S. and the seventh deepest lake in the world at 1,932 feet deep. Klamath County is also home to the largest lake in Oregon, Upper Klamath Lake, spanning 64 square miles and attracting bird watchers from around the country. Additional tourist attractions include the Lava Beds National Monument and Modoc National Forest in nearby northern California.

Unique to Klamath County is its location in the Klamath River Basin, a 5,700 square mile drainage area extending into northern California’s Modoc and Siskiyou Counties. The Klamath Project, as it is known, began in 1903 when the Bureau of Reclamation announced plans to dam the lower end of Upper Klamath Lake, thereby exposing fertile farmland throughout the Klamath Basin and ensuring enough water to irrigate some 200,000 acres.

Accordingly, the issue of water and water rights is an explosive political issue in Klamath County. Residents were reminded of this in 2001 when an irrigation ban was imposed to protect native salmon down stream and in 2005 when Governor Theodore Kulongoski signed Executive Order 05-02 declaring a state of emergency in Klamath County due to drought and low water conditions. However, as of January 2006, the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that summer water flows into Upper Klamath Lake would be approximately 132 percent of normal, thereby replenishing reservoirs and groundwater supplies.³ Such estimates have been confirmed by the Klamath Potato Grower’s Association, which is currently working on collaborative strategies towards effectively managing water supplies.

“Water is the thousand dollar question.”
-Jim Chapman
Klamath County Rancher

► **ECONOMIC PROFILE**

In 2003, the median per capita personal income in Klamath County was \$23,216, which falls below the 50th percentile when compared with all other counties across Oregon. In fact, this figure ranks well below both those for Oregon (\$29,175) and the United States (\$31,487).⁴ Looking at household income,

Figure 5.1 - Employment by Sector

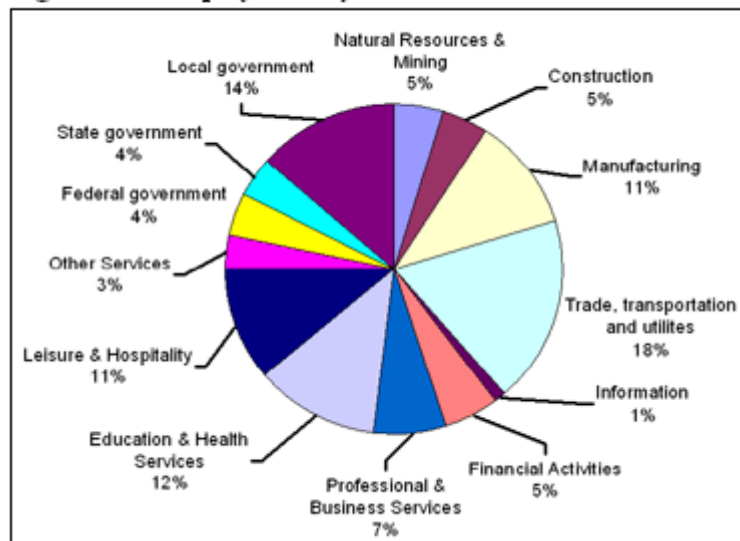


Figure 5.1 – Stephen Williams, *Regional Profile: Industry Employment in Region 11, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

² Oregon Blue Book, 2006.

³ Matthew Preusch, *Surplus Rain, Snow Fills Klamath Basin with Hope*, January 25, 2006, The Oregonian.

⁴ *Oregon Per Capita Personal Income: 1986-2004*, November 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

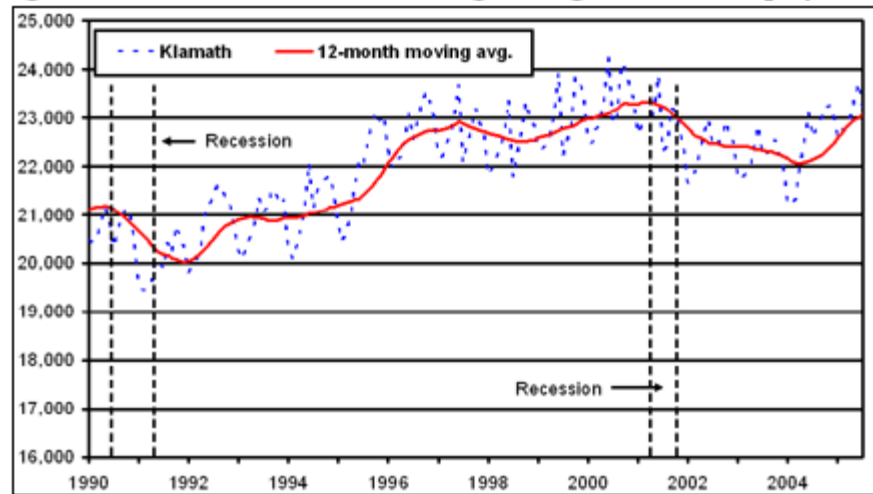


figures from the U.S. Census Bureau show that 55 percent of households in Klamath County earn less than \$35,000 per year.⁵ In context, this means that that a family of four living in Klamath County falls on average \$2,582 short of what is needed to meet necessary estimated expenses, including rent, food, childcare, transportation, insurance and taxes.⁶

Since the recession in the early 1980s, Klamath County has seen periods of both economic growth and decline. Industries currently reporting steady job growth in Klamath County include wholesale trade, construction, and education and health services, with average job growth around 14 percent in February of 2006.⁷ Overall, the economy in Klamath County appears to be rebounding after several large employers - Regence BlueCross BlueShield, Sykes Enterprises, and Klamath First Bancorp - closed down and left the area. Having recently attracted a call center for National Electronic Warranty Corporation, as well as a booming construction and retail trade, Klamath County has already recovered three out of four jobs that were lost during the recession.⁸

However, despite periods of economic recovery, the unemployment rate in Klamath County remains at 8.4 percent as of March 2006, nearly 38 percent higher than the state unemployment rate of 6.1 percent and nearly double the national unemployment rate of 4.8 percent.⁹ Additionally, it is noted that the current unemployment rate is significantly lower than it was two years ago when it reached 12.6 percent in the first quarter; however, since 2005, the employment rate has continued to climb once again.

Figure 5.2 - Raw and 12-Month Moving Average Nonfarm Employment



Not surprisingly, 21 percent of employers in Klamath County have identified employee turnover as a significant problem.¹⁰ This problem is further compounded by the seasonality of agricultural work in the area. On average, agricultural operations in Klamath County employ some 1,450 farmworkers per month.¹¹ Monthly agricultural employment estimates are shown in Figure 5.3 for both the general population of farmworkers (FWs), as well as for migrant and seasonal

Figure 5.2 – Stephen Williams, *Regional Profile: Industry Employment in Region 11*, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

⁵ DP-3: *Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics*, 2000, United States Census Bureau.

⁶ Economic Policy Institute, 2005

⁷ Steven C. Williams, *Central Oregon Labor Trends*. April 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

⁸ Steven C. Williams, *Central Oregon Labor Trends*. April 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

Steven C. Williams, *Klamath County Bouncing Back*, December 21, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

⁹ *Oregon Labor Force and Unemployment by Area*, April 20, 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

¹⁰ *Portrait of the Workforce: An Oregon Employer Perspective*, 2002, Oregon Employment Department.

¹¹ *2005 Oregon Agricultural Employment Estimates*, 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

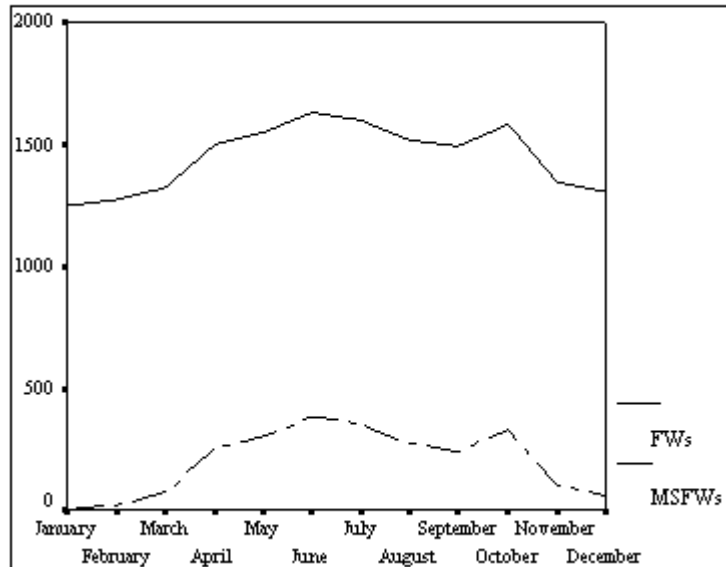


farmworkers (MSFWs).¹² The early summer months - May, June and July - are spent preparing fields for planting potatoes. As of May 2006, the Klamath Potato Growers Association reported that 25 percent of the potato crop had been planted. Other crops in the area include wheat, barley, hay, alfalfa and horseradish; however, with the exception of horseradish, most growers do not require the labor of migrant and seasonal farmworkers for these commodities.

The additional labor peak during the month of October is likely due to the growing number of strawberry nurseries in the area. Strawberry nurseries are quickly changing the face of agriculture in the Klamath Basin - an area that includes both Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties. An interview with a representative from the Siskiyou Department of Agriculture revealed that in Tulelake, California, alone, there are over 2,000 acres of strawberries worth an estimated \$38 million.

The rationale for growing strawberry starters in this area is such that the elevation is high enough and the growing season short enough that there is little competition both nationally and internationally. Strawberry starters require 350-400 chilling hours below specific benchmarks of 45 degrees and 30 degrees Fahrenheit. During the months of August and September when temperatures can drop below these benchmarks, the strawberry plants become dormant, storing their nutrients in their roots. The harvest, then, takes place during the months of September and October, when migrant farmworkers arrive to harvest and trim strawberry starters.

Figure 5.3 - Agricultural Employment by Month



These strawberry starters are then shipped to southern California strawberry growers where they are sold for \$10-18 per plant. Once in the ground in southern California, these starters quickly begin bearing fruit given the warm temperatures.

Due to the high profit margin, large strawberry nurseries in northern California are seeking to expand in and around Tulelake, California, area given recent efforts involving seasonal monitoring of temperature swings in the area over the past several years. Relative to other areas in the Klamath Basin, it is arguably the case that Tulelake offers the most ideal conditions for the expansion of strawberry nurseries.¹³

The Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture estimates that there are currently less than 1,500 acres of strawberries in Klamath County. However, such estimates are unable to be confirmed by crop estimates from the Oregon Agricultural Information Network, which currently lacks data on

¹² Oregon Agricultural Employment Estimates, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

¹³ MacDoel, California, also offers ideal growing conditions; however growers report a lack of available land.



strawberry nurseries in Klamath County. What is confirmed, however, is that potatoes remain the livelihood for many growers in Klamath County. Table 5.1 displays total harvested acreage, production and sales for crops typically utilizing the labor of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in 2004 and 2005.

Of interest is that the total

Table 5.1 - Selected Crop Outputs¹⁴

Klamath County	2004			2005		
	Acres	Production (in 000 CWT)	Sales (in \$000s)	Acres	Production (in 000 CWT)	Sales (in \$000s)
Potatoes	6000	3,060	\$10,174	4600	2,208	\$12,917

number of harvested acres has declined by 23 percent over the past year. Likewise, production fell also by 28 percent over the one-year period. However, several recent news articles have pointed to the fact that reductions in acreage and production may in fact be a strategic move to regulate sales in the industry.¹⁵ This line of argument is clearly supported by sales figures in 2005, which increased by 27 percent from the previous year. According to the United Potato Growers Association of Klamath County, with nearby markets in central and southern California, the 35 or so potato growers in the area are trying to hold steady at around 4,500 acres in 2006 so as to keep both demand and prices high. Thus far, this strategy appears to be working, as prices per CWT rose by \$3.00 between 2004 and 2005.

To migrant and seasonal farmworkers, the stabilizing of potato outputs means limited employment opportunities and growth in the area, with 66 percent of growers surveyed reporting that they expect to stabilize the number of employees in 2006 relative to 2005 by not planting organic potatoes which require hand weeding.¹⁶ In fact, a survey of local growers and a focus group with program participants revealed that working in potatoes is increasingly viewed as seasonal work with the potential for 9 to 12 months of employment.¹⁷ Thus, as potato growers work to stabilize acreage, working in potatoes may offer stable employment, but not for a large number of employees. Accordingly, it is not surprising that the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Klamath County has declined in recent years.

In 2002, Alice C. Larson estimated the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Klamath County.¹⁸ These estimates, as well as 2005 estimates computed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition, are shown in Table 5.2. Between 2002 and 2005, the number of migrant

Table 5.2 - Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

	2002	2005
Klamath County		
MFWs	410	380
SFWs	472	462
Total	862	842
Modoc County (CA)		
MFWs	394	366
SFWs	457	448
Total	851	814
Siskiyou County (CA)		
MFWs	1,573	1,463
SFWs	1,825	1,789
Total	3,398	3,252

¹⁴ Oregon Agricultural Information Network, 2006.

¹⁵ Holly Owens, *Potato Market Looks Promising*, April 13, 2006, Klamath Herald and News.

¹⁶ *Agricultural Employer's Survey*, 2006, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

Farm Contractors Survey, 2006, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

¹⁷ *Agricultural Employer's Survey*, 2006, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

¹⁸ Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002*, Larson Assistance Services.

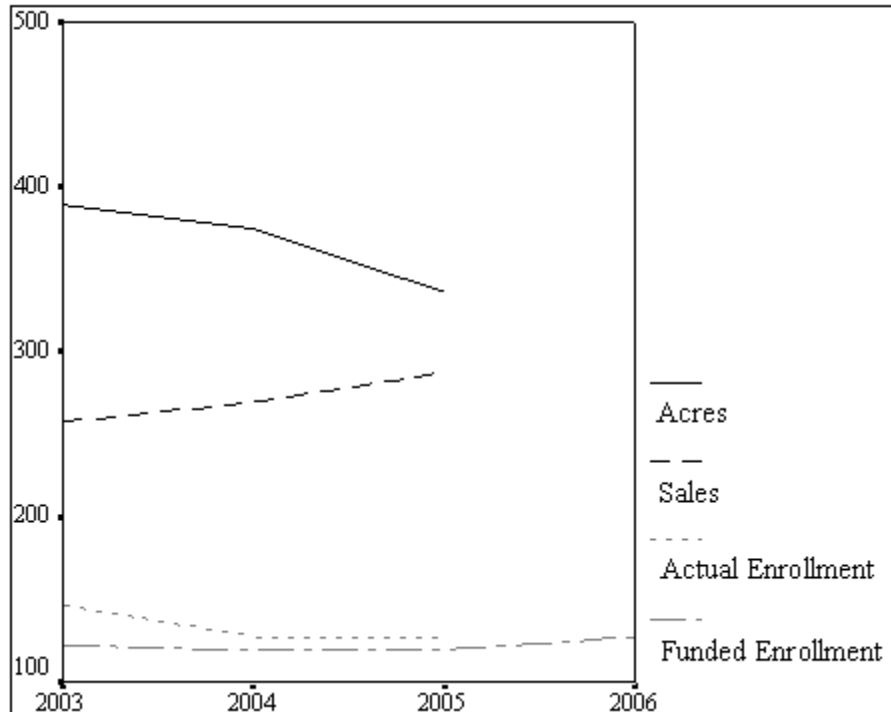


farmworkers in Klamath County declined by 7 percent, whereas the number of seasonal farmworkers declined by only 2 percent. These figures suggest a general decline in the number of migrant farmworkers in the area, with one possible explanation being that many migrant families are transitioning in to more steady employment in both agricultural and non-agricultural industries, including tree planting, construction and manufacturing.¹⁹ Such considerations may help to explain the explosive population growth in the Malin area as will be discussed in the following sections.

The above findings are also of importance in program planning for the Oregon Child Development Coalition.

Figure 5.4 provides information on harvested acres, total sales, and enrollment counts for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County.²⁰ It is important to note that Figure 5.4 does, in fact, confirm that growers in Klamath County are farming less acreage over time while seeing regular gains in sales annually. Figure 5.4 also confirms that with declining acres, actual enrollment in the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head

Figure 5.4 - Crop Outputs by OCDC Enrollment



Start program has stabilized in recent years. Thus, adequate enrollment planning for the Oregon Child Development Coalition must attend to the issue of declining acreage despite the fact that sales continue to increase over time.

► DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The 2000 Census reported the population of Klamath County to be 63,775 persons. From this, the Population Research Center at Portland State University estimated the population of Klamath County to be 64,800 as of July 1, 2005, demonstrating 2 percent growth in the population over the five-year period. Table 5.3 displays these estimates for each of the major cities and towns in Klamath County, as well as in nearby northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

¹⁹ *Agricultural Employer's Survey*, 2006, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

²⁰ Note, the scale in Figure 5.4 has been adjusted. Harvested acres are in 000s and total sales are in \$00,000s.

Additionally, crop outputs reflect the set of all crops in the Klamath County area, not just those typically employing migrant and seasonal farmworkers.



Note the slow - and, in one case, negative - growth in each of the locations listed with the exception of Malin, a small agricultural town located approximately 30 miles from Klamath Falls and 8 miles from the California border. Researchers with the Oregon Employment Department have noted that the region's slow growth is most likely due to structural changes in the local economy over the past two decades from a predominantly lumber and wood products base, averaging around one percent growth per year throughout the 1990s.²² The report further specifies that net migration is five times as large as the area's natural population increase, prompting the city of Klamath Falls to begin gathering resident input on growth strategies.²³

Table 5.3 - Population²¹

	Year		
	2000	2005	Percent Change
Klamath County	63,775	65,055	2.0
Bonanza	415	425	2.4
Klamath Falls	19,460	20,400	4.8
Malin	640	800	25.0
Merrill	897	915	2.0
Modoc County (CA)	9,449	9,702	2.7
Newell, CA	---	---	---
Siskiyou County (CA)	44,301	45,452	2.6
Dorris, CA	886	892	0.6
Tulelake, CA	1,020	1,013	-0.6

Table 5.4 - Population by Age²⁴

	Age						
	0-4	5-9	10-17	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Klamath County	4,052	4,674	7,840	9,241	17,879	11,222	9,892
Modoc County, CA	389	544	1,076	1,533	2,283	2,106	1,896
Siskiyou County, CA	2,152	2,347	5,153	6,419	10,251	11,083	8,877

The population of Klamath County is also growing younger. Table 5.4 displays the age distribution for Klamath County, with 26 percent of Klamath County's population under the age of 18. Across all age groups, these figures are on average one-half of one percent higher than the statewide average. However, the number individuals between the ages of 18 to 39 is on average one percent lower than the state average, suggesting that many young adults are leaving Klamath County to attend college and find employment.²⁵ A similar trend is noted in California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, where approximately 20 percent of the population is under the age of 18.

²¹ 2004 Oregon Population Report, March 2005, Population Research Center, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University.

E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2006, with 2000 Benchmark, May 2006. Department of Finance, State of California.

²² Steven C. Williams, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 11*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

²³ *City Wants Input on KF Growth*, April 21, 2006, Klamath Herald and News.

²⁴ 2004 Oregon Population Report, March 2005, Population Research Center, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University.

²⁵ Steven C. Williams, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 11*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.



Oregon Housing and Community Services reports that the number of individuals living in poverty in Klamath County increased by 11 percent between 1990 and 2000, with the Oregon Department of Education reporting the poverty rate to be 28.1 percent as of January 2006.²⁶ Further, these two sources also estimate over 1,300 children under the age of 6 to be living in poverty each year, including nearly 474 children between the ages of 3 and 4. These figures are important to note for the reason that poverty is often associated with health problems and access to health care, the need for food stamps and temporary assistance to needy families (TANF), and housing and shelter counts.²⁷

During the 2004-2005 school year, 51 percent (n=5,414) of students in Klamath County were eligible for free or reduced lunch. As displayed in Table 5.5, relative to the previous academic year, this represents a nearly 7 percent decrease in the number of students receiving free or reduced lunch over the one year period. This decline was felt in both school districts, more so in the Klamath Falls City Schools.

Table 5.5 - Free & Reduced Lunch Count²⁸

Klamath County	Academic Year	
	2003-2004	2004-2005
Klamath Falls City School District	2,373 (59.7%)	2,191 (54.0%)
Klamath County School District	3,427 (52.2%)	3,223 (49.4%)
<i>Klamath County Total</i>	<i>5,800</i> <i>(55.0%)</i>	<i>5,414</i> <i>(51.1%)</i>

► **DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED 3-4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN²⁹**

The Oregon Department of Education estimates there to be 1,688 children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Klamath County in 2006.³⁰ To estimate the total number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 year old children, the Oregon Department of Education multiplied the total number of children by the poverty rate for Klamath County, 28.1 percent in 2006. Thus, ***the total number of eligible Head Start children in Klamath County is 474 children***, as displayed in Table 5.6.

From this, the number of Head Start children currently being served in Klamath County by Head Start programs is subtracted. Klamath Family Head Start serves 338 children in Klamath County between 3 and 4 years of age. Thus, considering the number of eligible Head Start children currently being served, ***the total number of unserved, eligible Head Start children is 136 children*** as shown in Table 5.7. Thus, 71 percent of eligible Head Start children are currently being served in Klamath County.

Table 5.6 - Estimated Number of Eligible Children

Klamath County	
Total Children	1,688
Percent in Poverty	28.1
<i>Eligible</i>	<i>474</i>

²⁶ *Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten*, 2006, Oregon Department of Education.

²⁷ *County Comparisons: Incidence and Distribution of Poverty*, 2004, Oregon Health and Community Services.

²⁸ *Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch*, 2003-2004 & 2004-2005, Oregon Department of Education.

²⁹ Note, estimates in this section are presented to highlight the need for Head Start services in the general low-income population. In a later section, additional estimates will be provided which estimate the number of unserved, eligible children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

³⁰ *Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten*, 2006, Oregon Department of Education.



In the sections that follow, the Oregon Child Development Coalition will further refine the estimate in Table 5.7 to provide estimates for the number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

Table 5.7 - Estimated Number of Unserved, Eligible Children

Klamath County	
Eligible	474
Served	338
Unserved, Eligible	136

RACIAL & ETHNIC COMPOSITION

▶ **POPULATION & ANCESTRY**

Table 5.8 displays the racial and ethnic composition of the population in Klamath County. It is noted that figures for individual cities and towns are taken from the 2000 U.S. Census, as more current figures for these areas are not available.

While Bonanza and Klamath Falls show a majority white population, it is noteworthy that the same is not the case in Malin and Merrill. In these areas, and especially in Malin, the Hispanic population has grown to the extent that the majority of residents will soon be of Hispanic origin. Thus, one can infer that such changes will also be accompanied by a greater percentage of the population who are monolingual or bilingual Spanish speakers, or speak indigenous languages such as Mixteco or Trique.

Table 5.8 - Population by Race, 2000-2005³¹

Klamath County	One Race						Two or More Races	Hispanic
	White	Black	Native Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Some Other Race	---	---
2000	59,142 (91.3%)	476 (0.7%)	2,821 (4.4%)	598 (0.9%)	101 (0.2%)	2,200 (3.4%)	1,631 (2.5%)	5,500 (8.5%)
Bonanza	355	2	4	1	3	23	27	54
Klamath Falls	16,566	198	864	256	26	807	745	1,814
Malin	404	4	14	---	4	198	14	345
Merrill	656	1	9	2	---	172	57	300
2005	55,695 (87.3%)	404 (0.6%)	2,672 (4.2%)	512 (0.8%)	79 (0.1%)	2,200 (3.4%)	2,213 (3.5%)	4,961 (7.8%)

Of the population in Klamath County, 95 percent were born in the United States, with 91 percent of the population as monolingual English speakers.³² Of those born outside of the United States (n=3,085), 2.9 percent are currently not U.S. citizens, with 1.8 percent having entered the United States between 1990 and 2000, and 60 percent of those born outside of the U.S coming from

³¹ *Fact Sheet, 2000-2005, American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau.*
Note, 2005 data from the U.S. Census Bureau is not available for all counties in Oregon.

³² *DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics, 2000, United States Census Bureau.*



Latin America. Accordingly, aside from English and relative to other languages, 6.1 percent of the population identified as primary Spanish speakers (n=3,614).³³ Of these, more than one-half self-identified as able to speak English less than “very well.”

► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**³⁴

In 2005, 80 children were enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program on the basis of public assistance or income eligibility. Further, the number of over-income children enrolled in 2005 decreased by 8 families from the previous year. Table 5.9 displays the age distribution for children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. Overall, program participants were of Hispanic or Latino origin, which includes persons of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South and Central American or other Spanish culture or origin. In 2004, the total number of primary Spanish speaking program participants was 119, with an additional 2 program participants as primary English speakers and 7 program participants as primary indigenous language speakers. Indigenous languages are typically spoken by those program participants from the Oaxaca region of Mexico and include the dialects of Mixteco and Trique.

Table 5.9 - Enrolled of Children by Age

Age	Number of Children
<1	6
1	17
2	26
3	23
4	21
5	35
Total	118

► **DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED MIGRANT CHILDREN**³⁵

The Oregon Child Development Coalition has developed a method for estimating the number of children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Klamath County using Alice C. Larson’s 2002 estimates of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and family members as a base and agricultural information from the Oregon Agricultural Information Network through Oregon State University.³⁶ The estimates in Table 5.10 suggest that there were 37 migrant children and 97 seasonal children in Klamath County in 2005.

To estimate the number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children, the number of children currently being served in Klamath County by the Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Migrant Seasonal Head Start program is subtracted from the estimates in Table 5.10. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County serves 128 Head Start eligible children through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program, 40 of which are migrant children and 88 of which are seasonal children. Thus, the total number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Klamath County is 9 children and is broken down in Table 5.11. Overall, roughly **93 percent of eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children are currently being served in Klamath County.**

³³ DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics, 2000, United States Census Bureau.

³⁴ Data is taken from the Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

³⁵ See Appendix C1.3

³⁶ Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



To these estimates we must also add the number of children in northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties. However, we should first note that, due to the size of these two counties, the Oregon Child Development

Table 5.10 - Estimated Migrant and Seasonal Children

Klamath County		
Age	Number Migrant Children	Number Seasonal Children
<1	12	3
1	5	5
2	5	10
3	5	19
4	5	22
5	5	38
Total³⁷	37	97

Coalition in Klamath County is limited to serving those children and families who reside in or near towns along the Oregon-California border. Accordingly, of the total number of estimated children in these two counties, only a small fraction of these fall in the service and recruitment areas of the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County

Table 5.11 - Unserved, Eligible MHS Children in Klamath County

Klamath County		
	Number Migrant Children	Number Seasonal Children
Eligible	~37	~97
Served	40	88
Unserved, Eligible	~0	~9

In Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, the Oregon Child Development

Coalition estimates there to be 96 children of migrant farmworkers and 561 children of seasonal farmworkers. The Modoc County Department of Education currently operates an Early Head Start program serving 104 children in Modoc and Siskiyou Counties. Thus, if we assume that 15 percent of the total number of migrant and seasonal children live in or near towns along the Oregon-California border, *the total number of unserved, eligible children in the northern California portion of the Oregon Child Development Coalition's service area is 51 children*, 9 of which are estimated to be children of migrant farmworkers.³⁸ Further, considering that Early Head Start serves children under the age of three, the percentage of unserved, eligible pre-kindergarteners is likely greater than that for infants.

Results of the above analysis indicate that the Oregon Child Development Coalition is adequately serving the migrant population in Klamath County, a population that continues to decline each year. Overall, (i) there continues to be a decline in the number of eligible, migrant children in the area, (ii) that, aside from capacity issues, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County could serve more seasonal children and (iii) that there continues to be a slow decline in the number of eligible, seasonal children in the area.

³⁷ Totals vary due to rounding.

³⁸ Estimates for the total number of [unserved, eligible] children in Modoc and Siskiyou Counties are computed using a method similar to that for estimating the total number of [unserved, eligible] children in Klamath County. Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: California*, 2000, Larson Assistance Services.



STRENGTHS & NEEDS

In the section that follows, each program and related service area is discussed. External data from secondary sources and community organizations are used at the beginning of each subsection to construct a framework for specific strengths and needs. Internal data is then used at the close of each section to demonstrate that program management, staff and parents of program participants actively participated in the construction and development of this document.

► EDUCATION

Adult Education

The median level of education in Klamath County is a high school graduate or high school equivalency, with only 16 percent of the total population having earned a bachelor's degree or higher.³⁹ This reinforces our earlier discussion of changing population demographics - namely, that many high school graduates choose to leave Klamath County to pursue college degrees and employment. Data from the Oregon Department of Education show total public school enrollment in Klamath County to be approximately 10,589 students annually, 23 percent of which are non-white.⁴⁰ Across all high schools in Klamath County, the total number of high school dropouts is 118 students with a 13.4 percent high school dropout rate over the past four years.⁴¹ The Oregon Department of Education also reports that 2 students dropped out of high school during the 2003-2004 school year specifically because they did not speak English well enough, while another 16 students dropped out citing a lack of adequate parental support in pursuing their high school degree.

Data on the educational attainment of parents of program participants from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that 90 percent of parents served have less than a high school degree. Further, of all families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County, none are enrolled in either job training or school, suggesting that seasonal agricultural work and low wages require that both parents work to make ends meet.⁴²

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing education services to children and families in Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties. In the area of adult education:

- The Klamath Adult Learning Center located in Klamath Falls provides ESL and GED classes to adult learners. In 2005, they served 184 ESL learners and 526 students working towards high school completion or their GED, and are looking to partner with Klamath Community College to rent space and increase capacity.
- The Oregon Human Development Corporation and Work Connections provide skill-training opportunities, with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County partnering to provide classroom space.

³⁹ DP-2: *Profile of Selected Social Characteristics*, 2000, United States Census Bureau.

⁴⁰ Oregon Department of Education, 2004-2005.

⁴¹ Oregon Department of Education, 2003.

⁴² *Program Information Report*, 2004, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



- The Resource Center and the Tulelake Family Center provide information and referral services to families throughout the Klamath Basin. The Tulelake Family Center averages approximately 10 calls per week and also provides adult education opportunities through the local high school.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest educational needs of children and families in the Klamath County area. Of greatest importance was continued education and training around the acquisition of language and job readiness skills, especially in the outlying areas of Malin and Merrill. Other respondents indicated that, in some cases, families need assistance with more basic skills such as filling out forms for programs and assistance. These respondents also indicated that the community would benefit from joint training opportunities with the Oregon Child Development Coalition focusing on culturally and linguistically relevant topics.

In an interview with the Education Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County, it was revealed opportunities exist for continuing to educate the community about the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program and eligibility requirements. Specifically, many growers and ranchers are under the assumption that Migrant Seasonal Head Start is for Hispanic families only. Thus, it was noted that community education is needed to help the agency position itself as one dedicated to early childhood education for all farmworking children and families. It was also noted that the ability to increase partnerships with educational and non-educational entities is a vital step in beginning this process.

Early Childhood Education

In the area of early childhood education, other Head Start programs in the Klamath County and northern California area include Klamath Family Head Start and the Modoc County Department of Education's Early Head Start program.⁴³ The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County has an interagency agreement and is currently partnering with Klamath Family Head Start to share space in a new building, and is working with Klamath Falls Community Housing on this proposal. In an interview with the Head Start Director of Klamath Family Head Start, it was noted that this project was initiated to address the need for a central, adequate space for children, as well as a space for adult ESL classes. Accordingly, Klamath Family Head Start and the Oregon Child Development Coalition are addressing issues of communication, shared decision-making and shared fiscal control as this project gets underway in 2006.

An interview with the Early Head Start Director with the Modoc County Department of Education revealed partnership opportunities with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County. Specifically, the need for a formal interagency agreement to facilitate transitions, as well as joint training and Policy Council activities were suggested to facilitate collaborative efforts. It was also noted that such collaborations are increasingly necessary to counter a recent 1 percent budget cut for Head Start programs across the U.S.

⁴³ Enrollment information is included in the previous section entitled, *Data Analysis: Eligible, Unserved Migrant Children*.



Other programs that serve the migrant population include Migrant Education. Seasonal and age-specific enrollment counts are displayed in Table 5.12 for both Klamath Falls City School District and the Klamath County School District. These figures attest to the fact that a greater number of migrant families live and work in the rural areas outside of Klamath Falls.

Table 5.12 - Migrant Education Enrollment⁴⁴

Klamath County	2004-2005	
	Klamath Falls City School District	Klamath County School District
Regular Enrollment	260	460
Summer Enrollment	63	99
Total Enrollment	323	559
<1 year old	3	
1	5	
2	10	
3	19	
4	22	
5	5	
Total Enrollment	64	

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- Klamath Family Head Start (Region X Head Start) and the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County have developed an interagency agreement to join strategies in such areas as recruitment, transitions, health, disabilities, training and technical assistance.
- Klamath Community College provides student interns to the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County to provide support and assist in the classroom.
- The Klamath Public Library offers Youth Services Story Times and a Story Van during the school year, as well as a summer reading program, with transportation assistance provided by Basin Transit Service.
- The Tulelake Family Center operates a 12-month Even Start program serving 30-35 families; however, during an interview with representatives from the agency, it was noted that the grant for this program may not be renewed.
- In past years, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County has been involved with the Klamath Early Literacy Partnership, providing a story-van and literacy workshops.

A focus group with parents of program participants revealed that parents view the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program as a quality education program and are most pleased with this feature. Parents are looking for more opportunities for involvement, especially in the classroom. To address this, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County is exploring the development of a volunteer program which would include defining specific roles and responsibilities for parent volunteers in a number of areas.

► **MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES**

⁴⁴ Oregon's Migrant Education Regional Programs, 2004-2005, Oregon Department of Education.



Access to care is limited by Klamath County's geographic isolation. The Health Resources and Safety Administration has identified Klamath County as a mental health professional shortage area due in large part to its geographic isolation.⁴⁵ Related to this, service providers - mental health and otherwise - emphasized the increasing use of methamphetamines among Klamath County residents over the past few years which currently ranks as the second most used illicit drug in Klamath County behind marijuana.⁴⁶ Accordingly, the Oregon Department of Corrections reports 323 persons incarcerated for drugs as of January of 2006, nearly 11 times the same figure for neighboring Lake County.

Mental health disorders affect approximately 1 in 10 children in Oregon, with 30 percent of these children experiencing co-occurring disorders requiring dual diagnoses. The Office of Mental Health Services with the Oregon Department of Human Services estimates there to be approximately 1,153 children with some sort of mental health issue in Klamath County under the age of 18, of which 115 are estimated to suffer from co-occurring disorders.⁴⁷ Overall, approximately 1,700 adults and 700 children receive some form of community based mental health care in Klamath County each year.

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that 4 children in Klamath County were provided mental health services in 2005, with 3 of these children also receiving referrals for additional services. On average, mental health professionals spent 13 hours per month on-site. Likewise, ***10 children were determined to have a disability, roughly 10 percent of enrolled seasonal children and zero percent of enrolled migrant children in 2005.*** Of these 10 children, each was determined eligible to receive special education and related services. Primary disabilities included speech or language impairments and non-categorical developmental delays.⁴⁸

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing services - both in the areas of mental health and disabilities - to children in Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County shares an interagency agreement with Klamath County Early Intervention.
- The Klamath Youth Development Corporation provides a contracted mental health consultant to provide on-site services approximately 7-8 hours per week.
- Modoc County Special Education provides screenings, assessments and referrals to identified children and families living in the area.
- The Scottish Rite Clinic provides free, year-round speech and language services with both bilingual staff members and a speech and language consultant, currently contracted through Early Intervention and serving children both at the clinic and in the home.

⁴⁵ *Oregon Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA): Mental Health Designations as of 2/28/06*, 2006, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Professionals.

⁴⁶ *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

⁴⁷ *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

⁴⁸ *Program Information Report*, 2004 & 2005, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County is collaborating with local Klamath Indian tribes on a State Improvement Grant which provides additional staff and utilizes a wraparound model to improve children’s mental health.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest mental health and disabilities needs of children and families in the Klamath County area. Primary needs identified include the need to increase capacity to address co-occurring disorders. Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Program Information Report show that mental health professionals spent an average of 13 hours per month on site in 2005, an increase of 5 hours per month from the previous year.⁴⁹ In all, 4 children were provided individual mental health evaluations, 3 of which were also provided with referrals. In all 4 cases were professional mental health services directly provided to parents (e.g., counseling or consulting on how to work with a child’s mental health issues at home, behavior management, etc.).

A focus group and interview with parents of program participants and the Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County revealed that trainings are being developed for educating parents on a number of topics related to mental health and disabilities. A survey of program participants conducted in 2005 revealed that parents would like to see the development of a parent training program to provide information and tools aimed at addresses “stigma” issues around mental health and disabilities. Such trainings are especially important as parents noted that mental health providers could improve on initiating better follow up with parents to ensure that additional referrals and services are secured.

► HEALTH & NUTRITION

In August of 2005, the Oregon Office of Rural Health released a report identifying healthcare shortages and underservice in east Klamath County, including the area near Merrill, Oregon, an area currently served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition.⁵⁰ Of notable interest is that within Klamath Falls and Merrill the population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers was specifically highlighted as an underserved group.

In 2005, there were 118 doctors in Klamath County, or just shy of 2 doctors for every 1,000 residents.⁵¹ In Klamath County, approximately 18.3 percent of the population is without any form of health insurance, an estimate that somewhat less than figures provided from the Oregon Health and Sciences University, which received 2,014 visits from Klamath County residents in 2004, 49 percent were only partially or not reimbursable.⁵²

In the preceding section, impediments to children’s mental health were discussed. One such impediment includes low birth weight. Over the past several years, the number of live births with

⁴⁹ *Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005*, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

⁵⁰ *Oregon Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/MUP)*, 2005, Oregon Office of Rural Health.

⁵¹ *Active and Practicing Physicians in Oregon by Geographic Region and per 100,000 Population*, 2005, Oregon Public Health Services, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁵² *2004 Percentage Without Health Insurance by Region*, 2004, Oregon Office of Rural Health.

Many Basin Residents Lack Health Insurance, April 27, 2006, Klamath Herald and News.

OHSU and Klamath County Statistics, 2004, Oregon Health and Sciences University.



low-birth rate has declined. In 2004, the rate of low birth was 59.7 (n=44), whereas in 2002 and 2003, the rate of low birth had been as high as 72.8 (n=55) and 73.0 (n=61) respectively.⁵³ A similar trend is noted for live births with *very* low birthweight, with the rate of very low birth dropping to 6.8 (n=5) in 2004 from 15.9 (n=12) in 2002.⁵⁴

The decreasing rate of low-births may in part be due to efforts focusing on prenatal care. In 2004, 3.7 percent live births in Klamath County were also identified as lacking adequate prenatal care.⁵⁵ Since 2001, this figure represents a 26 percent decline in the number of live births with inadequate prenatal care and is lower than the percentage reported statewide (5.8 percent). However, it is also noted that the percent of live births with inadequate prenatal care among Hispanics (8.7 percent statewide) is generally higher than that of non-Hispanics.⁵⁶ Thus, the decline in the percent of live births with inadequate prenatal care must be interpreted cautiously.

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing health and dental services to children and families in Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

- The Oregon State WIC program serves 2,779 children under the age 5 and 1,177 pregnant women annually, with 74 percent of those served in Klamath County at or below the poverty level.⁵⁷
- The Oregon Health and Sciences University requires that first and second year medical students participate in weekly preceptorship programs, placing 5 students in Klamath County in 2004. For third year medical students, Klamath Falls is the site of two rural community health clerkships in family medicine and six in pediatrics. Additional efforts are underway to recruit medical students from the Klamath County.⁵⁸
- The Oregon Institute of Technology's Dental Hygiene Department currently offers \$6 screenings to the surrounding community, charging only for the price of supplies and utilizing dental students to perform the exams. In addition, an interview with the Oregon Institute of Technology found that the Dental Hygiene Department plans to develop a restorative dental care program in the next year. Such a program would provide Klamath County residents with low cost restorative care that is typically unavailable to those with limited income or without insurance.
- Klamath Falls' Merle West Medical Center serves many residents in the Klamath Basin, including those who live in the Tulelake-Butte Valley area.
- Klamath Open Door Clinic provides medical screenings, physicals and dental checkups in Bly, Chiloquin, Klamath Falls and Malin. The clinic sees approximately 10,000 patients annually, an estimated 20 percent of which are primary Spanish speakers. In 2005, the clinic saw nearly 1,000 children under the age of 5. The clinic currently has a 2-3 week waiting list for medical appointments and is not accepting new dental patients.

⁵³ *Live Births with Low Birthweight by County, Oregon Residents, 2001-2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁵⁴ *Live Births with Very Low Birthweight by County, Oregon Residents, 2001-2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁵⁵ *Prenatal Care by Mother's County of Residents, Oregon Residents, 2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁵⁶ *Prenatal Care by Mother's Race and Ethnicity, Oregon Residents, 2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁵⁷ *2005 WIC Facts, 2005*, Oregon WIC Program, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁵⁸ *OHSU and Klamath County Statistics, 2004*, Oregon Health and Sciences University.



- The Merrill Clinic is a local, rural community clinic serving residents residing in and around this area.
- The Tulelake Health Center serves children and families in and around this area, offering free health screenings as part of their women's health events.
- Butte Valley Clinic provides health services to families in Tulelake and Newell, California.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest medical and dental needs of children and families in the Klamath County area. Primary needs identified were (i) the lack of nutritional information to families in Klamath County, particularly for pregnant mothers and those for whom English is a second language, (ii) the need to continue legislative efforts around insuring the uninsured and underinsured⁵⁹, (iii) greater transportation resources to assist families in getting to [dental] appointments perhaps through shared transportation efforts between the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County and Klamath Family Head Start. Additionally, the need for joint trainings and partnerships was noted with an emphasis on bilingual and bicultural relevancy.

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information report show that 94 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Klamath County in 2005 with health insurance, up by 13 percent from 2004.⁶⁰ Those with health insurance were covered by Medicaid. For those without health insurance (n=8 during 2005), the Oregon Child Development Coalition worked with families to reduce the number of children without health insurance by 40 percent following enrollment. Most children (n=67) receive services through a migrant community health center with common health conditions including anemia, vision problems, asthma and obesity.

In 2005, following dental screenings, 35 children were identified as needing continued dental treatment and care, an increase of 25 percent from the previous year. An interview with the Health Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County revealed that there is some concern over local clinics in the area lacking the capacity to accommodate new patients. However, interviews with representatives from local service agencies revealed that those clinics with an existing interagency agreement with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County intended to accommodate referrals received from the agency. That said, there remains a shortage of pediatric dentists in the area, a shortage that the Oregon Institute of Technology's Dental Hygiene Department is attempting to address through the creation and development of a restorative care program designed to serve between 48-120 clients.

A focus group with parents of program participants revealed that the majority of parents feel that the Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program has equipped them with the knowledge, skills and tools to locate and secure health resources for their families. It was also confirmed the families are in fact utilizing the services provided by the above agencies, including the Open Door Clinic, the Merrill Clinic and the Tulelake Health Center.

⁵⁹ Related to this point, nearly 50 percent of patients seen by Klamath Open Door Clinic lack any form of medical coverage.

⁶⁰ *Program Information Report*, 2004 & 2005, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



► FAMILY SERVICES

Each year, over 30 percent of Klamath County residents receive services from the Oregon Department of Human Services.⁶¹ In 2004, the Oregon Department of Human Services released figures estimating the number of child abuse victims in Klamath County to be 410, over a 7 percent increase from the previous year.⁶² These figures amount to approximately 25 child abuse victims per 1,000 children. Additionally, shelter counts in Region 5 - an area which includes Klamath County - show that 196 children under the age of 6 spent one or more nights in shelter in 2005, with the total number of actual *child nights* equal to 7,673.⁶³ These regional figures are the second highest compared to all regions in Oregon, with over 20 percent of those receiving shelter services for 30 days or more. Additionally, during the 2004-2005 school year, the Klamath Falls City School District reported 207 homeless students, while the Klamath Falls County School District report 282 homeless students during the same time period.

In 2005, the Oregon Food Bank hosted a focus group in Klamath County focusing on food insecurity. During this focus group it was noted that some families travel nearly 40 miles to access fresh produce and quality foods. Participants also voiced concern over proposed cuts to food stamps and Medicaid, as each month approximately 10,475 individuals in Klamath County receive food stamps, with 462 receiving TANF cash assistance.⁶⁴

“Fresh produce is rare, and transporting food is very difficult in the heat.”

*-Focus group participant
OR Food Bank Voices Project*

Average annual assistance in Klamath County is \$2,579.⁶⁵ Figure 5.5 displays the above figures over time. Note, however, that these trends that are not consistent with recent 2006 figures from the Oregon Department of Human Services which indicate that the number of households receiving food stamps has increased by 2 percent and the number of TANF cases has decreased by approximately 9 percent between May of 2005 and May of 2006.⁶⁶ Further, it is noted that declines in the number of TANF cases may actually reflect DHS budget cuts rather than diminishing family needs.

⁶¹ *Report on Poverty*, 2004, Oregon Housing and Community Services.

⁶² *The State of Children in Oregon's Child Protective System*, 2004, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁶³ *Summary of Services Provided by Domestic and Sexual Violence Service Programs Funded by DHS*, 2005, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁶⁴ *Voices*, 2005-2006, Oregon Food Bank.

⁶⁵ *Report on Poverty*, 2004, Oregon Housing and Community Services.

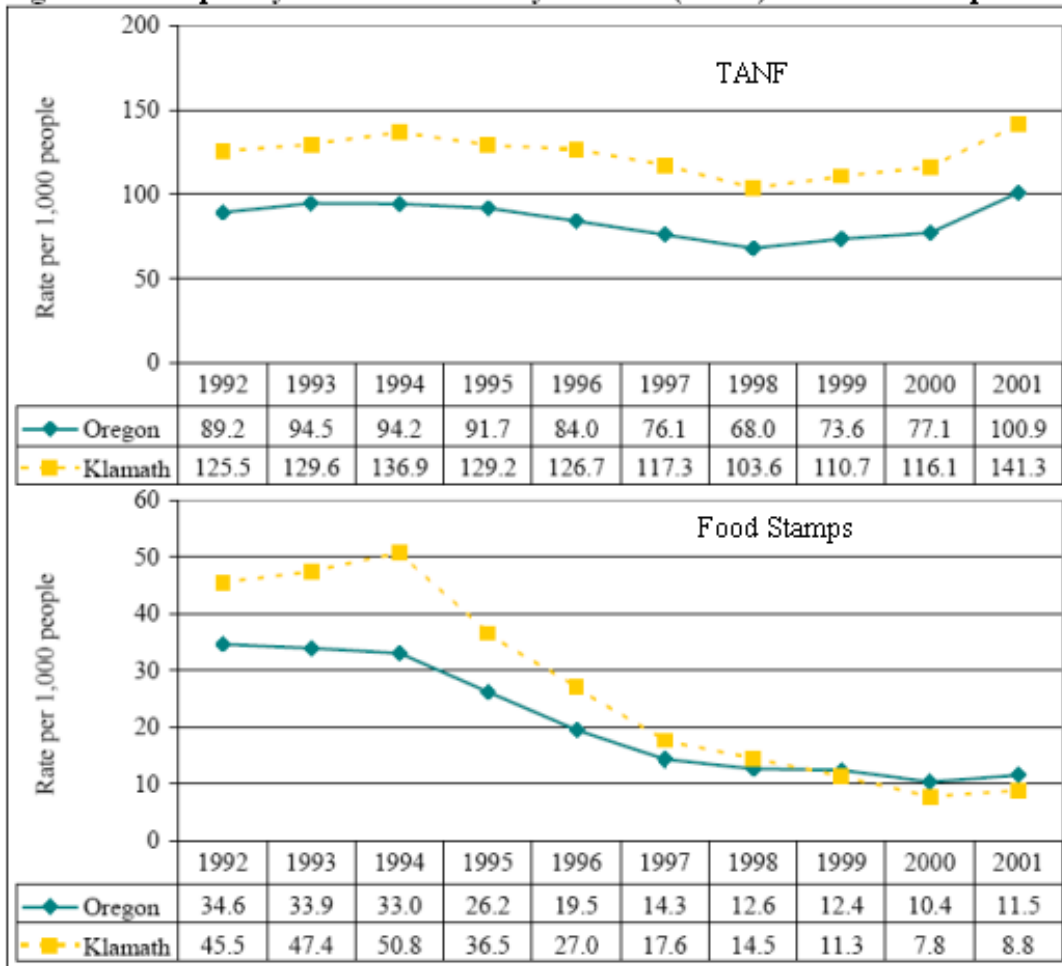
⁶⁶ *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Oregon TANF Caseload Flash, May 2006, Oregon Department of Human Services.

Oregon Food Stamp Caseload Flash, May 2006, Oregon Department of Human Services.



Figure 5.5 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Food Stamps



The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing family and social services to children and families in Klamath County and northern California’s Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County has developed an interagency agreement with the local Child Care Resource and Referral provider to facilitate referrals.
- The Oregon Department of Human Services has offices in Klamath County providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Shelter services in Klamath County are provided by the Klamath Crisis Center.
- The Klamath and Lake Counties Food Bank boasts 17 food pantries, 3 emergency meal programs and 10 supplemental programs. Each month, 13,059 food boxes are distributed, serving some 3,129 individuals.⁶⁷

Figure 5.5 – *Klamath County Data Book*, 2002, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁶⁷ *Regional Food Banks at a Glance*, 2005, Oregon Food Bank.



- The Mexican Consulate provides information and updates on immigration laws, as Oregon Law Center does not provide services in Klamath County, including legal aid and translation of leases and contracts.
- The Klamath Crisis Center provides one caseworker to spend one day per week at the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Malin location.
- Ongoing product support is provided by local merchandisers, including Wal-Mart, Fred Meyer, Bi-Mart, Home Depot, Staples, and Albertsons.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest family services needs of children and families in the Klamath County area. It was noted that families - especially primary Spanish speaking families - experience barriers when attempting to access services. Often families receive little assistance in navigating the variety of services available, including help with filling out forms and follow-up. This problem is further complicated by the fact that social service organizations do not share data systems, requiring families to fill out multiple sets of lengthy forms, often in a secondary language.

Fifteen percent (n=14) of all 94 families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County in 2005 identified as single parent families. In 81 percent of these families was the parent or guardian employed; whereas, of the total number of two-parent families, 62 percent had both partners in the workforce.⁶⁸ In 2005, 18 families received benefits under the TANF program, an increase of 17 percent from the previous year. In addition, the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program responded to a range of family needs, the most common being transportation, emergency and crisis intervention, and ESL needs.

A focus group and interviews with parents of program participants and the Family Service Manager and Parent Involvement Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County revealed that opportunities exist for the agency to increase its visibility in the community. Maintaining and continuing to build relationships with local growers was identified as a priority in order to provide information around ensuring family supports, pesticide education, first aid and CPR training. Additionally, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County is seeing greater fatherhood involvement; however, with the current immigration debate, future efforts must include working with families and their contacts to ensure the dissemination of information on labor rights, documentation and other training information. It was noted that these issues could be addressed in the context of existing program trainings (e.g., a culturally and linguistically appropriate child abuse training recently developed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition).

► **CHILDCARE**

The Oregon Childcare Research Partnership lists a total of 207 certified childcare providers in Klamath County, with approximately 2,054 childcare slots. These figures translate into 18 childcare slots for every 100 children, 7 slots short of the state benchmark of 25 childcare slots per 100 children.⁶⁹

⁶⁸ *Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005*, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

⁶⁹ *Estimated Supply of Childcare in Oregon as of July 1, 2004*, April 26, 2005, Oregon Childcare Research Partnership.



Depending on family type, the Oregon Childcare Research Partnership found that up to 40 percent of some families with children under the age of 13 use some form of paid childcare in Klamath County, with 26 percent of all children enrolled in some form of paid childcare. In addition, the report found that families use on average nearly 48 hours of paid childcare per week.

Childcare costs in Region C - an area that includes most of Klamath County - are the lowest in the state, with the median hourly and monthly costs listed in Table 5.13. Researchers

Table 5.13 - Childcare Costs by Type of Care

	Family Childcare		Certified Family Childcare		Center Based Childcare	
	Hourly	Monthly	Hourly	Monthly	Hourly	Monthly
Infant	\$1.85	\$345	\$1.85	\$318	\$2.12	\$392
Toddler	\$1.60	\$318	\$1.85	\$318	\$2.12	\$392
Pre K	\$1.60	\$254	\$1.91	\$306	\$1.80	\$291

from Oregon State University found a statistically significant difference in childcare costs between Region C and other regions of the state of Oregon, suggesting a unique childcare market in Klamath County due to its rural location.⁷⁰ Further, this research suggests that the childcare subsidy rate provided by the Oregon Department of Human Services is adequate to purchase only one-fifth of market rate childcare slots in Klamath County.

The following is a breakdown of some of the agencies providing childcare and related services to children in Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

- Childcare Resource and Referral in Klamath County makes approximately 800 referrals annually. Approximately 10 percent of the requests for information are from primary Spanish speaking callers.
- Seventeen (17) certified childcare centers operate throughout Klamath County in Bly, Bonanza, Klamath Falls, Malin and Merrill. Additional childcare centers operate in Newell and Tulelake, California, including Tule Tots, a recent cooperative startup in Tulelake.
- The YMCA Child Development Center operates a childcare center for migrant families in Newell, California. The center has capacity to serve 8 infants, 12 toddlers and 24 pre-kindergarteners with an average annual waiting list of 12 children. In the next year or two, the center expects a renovation which will increase capacity; however, services will be suspended for approximately one year during this time.
- Fifty-three (53) family childcare homes operate throughout Klamath County, with 46 of these homes located in Klamath Falls. Additionally, Childcare Resource and Referral reports that there are approximately 75-100 exempt childcare providers in Klamath County.

⁷⁰ 2004 Oregon Childcare Market Rate Study, August 2004, Oregon State University Family Policy Program, Oregon Childcare Research Partnership.



Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest childcare needs of children and families in the Klamath County area. Center-based childcare providers noted that the state of Oregon's reimbursement rate - currently ranging from \$1.93 to \$2.27 per hour depending on the age of the child - is inadequate to cover costs. Consequently, services are rationed. Thus, it is not surprising that center-based childcare providers cited difficulties building and maintaining the capacity to promote greater fatherhood involvement, as well as provide cultural sensitivity trainings for parents and staff.

"I would like to see a children's campus."

*-Director
Center based childcare center*

From these interviews, it was learned that large, center-based childcare providers in the area are looking for ways to partner with local Head Start agencies to ensure both the comprehensiveness and continuity of services, with one agency in particular having already raised nearly \$200,000 towards increasing direct service capacity. During a focus group with center-based childcare providers it was also learned that providers feel they could benefit from the expertise of the Oregon Child Development Coalition in the area of bilingual and bicultural competency.

In 2004, 128 children in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program received childcare in the home of a relative or acquainted adult.⁷¹ Individual interviews with county management team members for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County revealed that childcare is an issue currently crossing all service areas. Although parents did in fact vote on the program weeks and hours as specified earlier, it is noted that a handful of parents are still unable to locate childcare providers who are able to accommodate a work schedule that begins as early as 5 am in the morning.

A focus group with parents of program participants confirmed the findings discussed above and revealed that parents are having difficulty managing additional childcare needs. To address these, the Oregon Child Development Coalition has applied for a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to build capacity in the areas of program development and community engagement to ensure that families' childcare needs are met, a process that will begin with a targeted childcare needs assessment in 2007.

▶ **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

Transitioning from a discussion of childcare to one of transportation and housing, Appendix C5.2 contains a map which displays the locations of childcare providers relative to farmworker housing complexes, manufactured home parks and farm labor camps for illustrative purposes.

"Buses are moving classrooms."

*-Transportation Coordinator
OCDC of Klamath County*

On average, travel time to the nearest hospital in Klamath County is approximately 42 minutes.⁷² Such statistics are common in Klamath County where medical and dental services are limited to Klamath Falls and other small towns. In addition, high gas prices over the past year have contributed to limited transportation options for families, as well as for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County in transporting children to and from site locations.

⁷¹ *Program Information Report*, 2004, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

⁷² *2005-2006 Areas of Unmet Medical Need in Rural Oregon*, 2006, Oregon Health and Sciences University.



The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing transportation services in Klamath County and in northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

- Basin Transit Services provides transportation services in the Klamath Falls area, providing some 300,000 rides annually. They also provide Dial-a-Ride services, providing 20,000 rides annually. They make bus maintenance and washing services available to school districts and Head Start programs in the area. Basin Transit Services has also partnered with the Klamath County Public Library on a Read and Ride Library Initiative whereby riders earn free rides to and from the library for reading books.
- Operated by the Modoc Transportation Authority, the Sage Stage is a Dial-A-Ride service between such northern California cities of Alturas, Redding, Susanville, Tulelake and such Oregon cities as Klamath Falls. Commuters must reserve a spot at least one day in advance.
- With the assistance of ACTS of Oregon, there is a local community coalition that provides car seat education and technical assistance for families in the area.
- Additionally, families in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program living within a specified distance from program centers have elected to self-transport, thereby ensuring that bus services can reach those most in need of transportation services.

Representatives from the above providers were surveyed to determine the greatest transportation needs of children and families in the Klamath County area. Basin Transit Services noted that capacity is currently an issue and that they are looking at financing options to address this. Respondents also indicated that they are looking for venues to do more public relations and outreach and would welcome the opportunity to speak to Head Start participants and participate in educational events for children and parents.

An interview with the Transportation Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County revealed that the agency is continuing to work within the one-hour framework per the Head Start Performance Standards. Opportunities exist in the area of continuing to recruit qualified drivers. Additionally, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County continues to work with parents to develop routes, stops, and pick-up and drop-off times.

As mentioned earlier in this assessment, Klamath County is growing, seeing an influx of individuals from California and other areas of the country. Between 2000 and 2001, the number of building permits issued per 1,000 residents rose by 43 percent, nearly 11 percent faster than the same figure for the state of Oregon.⁷³

- At least three apartment complexes in Klamath Falls - Applegate Trail Apartments, Crestview Commons and County Village - cater to low-income families. Overall, there are at least 128 units; however, it is noted that the former two apartment complexes also cater to elderly residents.
- There is additional low-income housing in Tulelake, including the Tule Park Apartments with 19 units of government housing.

⁷³ *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.



- There are 49 manufactured home parks in Klamath County, 37 of which are located in Klamath Falls.
- There are two farm labor camps in Klamath County operated by Sierra Cascade Nursery and Crown Nursery. Together, these camps are able to accommodate 43 individuals.
- The Newell Migrant Camp is located in Newell, California, and is open from May through October and is able to accommodate 40 families (180 individuals). As of May 2006, the camp was over half full.
- The Klamath County Housing Authority provides Section 8 and public housing assistance to nearly 2,900 individuals annually with waiting lists for Section 8 housing ranging from 7-8 months.
- In addition to education and employment services, the Oregon Human Development Corporation provides weatherization services and housing opportunities.

Representatives from the above facilities were surveyed to determine the greatest housing needs of children and families in the Klamath County area. New affordable housing in the light of the area’s growth ranked as the number one issue of concern. The Newell Migrant Camp reports that over half of its residents are in fact not true mobile migrants. Due to high housing costs (on average, \$450 per month) in Tulelake and Newell, California, many families choose to move to the migrant camp when it is open to take advantage of the \$5 per day rent. The high cost of housing was also an issue revealed by growers in a grower’s survey conducted by the Oregon Child Development Coalition with nearly all respondents indicating that housing and housing assistance was one of the most important issues facing seasonal farmworkers.⁷⁴

“We could use assistance with rent, and then we could afford groceries.”

*-Focus group participant
OR Food Bank Voices Project*

For those living at the Newell Migrant Camp, representatives from the camp have expressed interest in hosting local Head Start agencies, including the Oregon Child Development Coalition, for a sign up day for families arriving at the camp in order to expedite the referral and enrollment process.

In general, agricultural producers cited a general lack of affordable housing in the Klamath Basin, particularly in and around Tulelake, California. In fact, for one grower who plans to bring in H2A contract laborers this year, the lack of housing options has lead their operation to rent space at the Tulelake Fairgrounds with portable showers and restrooms. A site visit to these fairgrounds revealed that the several open air structures on the property, while sufficient, are not at all adequate to house contract laborers working between 8 and 14 hours per day.

“I need housing for my employees.”

*-Supervisor
Tulelake strawberry nursery*

⁷⁴ *Agricultural Employer’s Survey, 2006, Oregon Child Development Coalition.*



DATA ANALYSIS: IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF ISSUES

► SWOT ANALYSIS

A SWOT analysis identified the following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County in carrying out its mission to improve the lives of children and families.

Figure 5.6 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Bilingual, bicultural staff and materials are a resource in the community. * The agency continues to attract qualified staff with advanced degrees despite a limited recruiting pool. * Extensive agency systems promote quality services to children and families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Limited public awareness of the agency, the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program, and the population served. * The county’s geographic isolation inhibits qualified professionals from moving to and practicing in the area. * Opportunities exist in the area of cultivating contacts and partnerships in Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Families are networked and may be a resource in locating qualified bilingual, bicultural employees. * Joint partnership and training opportunities exist to allow the agency to provide leadership in the community. * Partnering with local agencies could provide additional [financial] security and stability in the community. * Non-profit and service organizations are anticipating the need for expansion and are in need of viable partners and creative strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Rumors of recent ICE raids have created a culture of fear and, in conjunction with limited community education and integration, threaten to further polarize various segments of the population. * Changes in agriculture require better tracking mechanisms to anticipate and serve migrant families. * Childcare in the area is limited, especially in more rural areas of the county.

► KEY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY SERVICE AREA

The following observations and 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 in Klamath County 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 Klamath County

Observation: In light of the current immigration debate, a need exists for collaborative strategies in community to respond to the current immigration debate and educate the general public.

Recommendation: Cultivate relationships with the agency's base - growers - and lead efforts to unify groups and service organizations toward advocating for families.

Observation: While the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County continues to adequately serve the migrant population, there is a need to grow capacity to increase component and childcare services to families

Recommendation: Connect to venues and collaborative opportunities for the purposes of public relations, community education and other development related activities

Observations and Recommendations: Education

Observation: There is a need to continue to working on transitions with Early Head Start for children and families residing along the Oregon-California border.

Recommendation: Continue to develop and build partnerships and transition agreements with local Head Start agencies and childcare centers to ensure both continuity and integration toward better identifying the mobile migrant population and increasing capacity to serve seasonal children.

Observation: Interviews with community partners, as well as with childcare providers revealed a general need for greater community collaboration toward integrating early childhood education efforts.

Recommendation: Explore opportunities to share space with other Head Start agencies, as well as with local childcare providers, as such collaborations are consistent with the need to grow partnerships and development activities.

Observations and Recommendations: Mental Health and Disabilities

Observation: Opportunities exist to grow parent involvement and provide education to parents in the mental health and disabilities processes within the Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program.

Recommendation: Continue to increase transparency and accountability in the screening, referral and IED/IFSP planning process to continue supporting parents.



Observation: There is a need for the continued education of parents in the area of mental health and disabilities in addressing stigma issues around mental health and disabilities.

Recommendation: Build parent involvement and knowledge by creating educational and training opportunities centered on mental health and disabilities issues, and integrated with those of other service areas and community partners.

Observations and Recommendations: Health and Nutrition

Observation: There is a need for [Spanish speaking] pediatric dentists and treatment services.

Recommendation: Limited resources invite the exploration of creative strategies in locating and securing dental treatment for children in a cost effective, collaborative manner involving medical and educational institutions in the area.

Observations and Recommendations: Family Services

Observation: There is a need for increased agency visibility in the community to raise awareness of the target population and services available.

Recommendation: Increased exposure to growers - especially those along the Oregon-California border - invites the development of recruitment strategies and events which help to encourage on-site visits to promote dialogue, information sharing, partnerships and opportunities for other forms of support.

Observation: Opportunities exist for the agency to continue to educate the community about the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program and eligibility in Klamath County.

Recommendation: Continue to create informational and educational opportunities targeting the Anglo population, including growers, local businesses and key community representatives.

Observations and Recommendations: Childcare

Observation: There is a need for joint trainings in the community which focus on building cultural competency and involving early childhood education and childcare staff and parents.

Recommendation: Continue to take a proactive leadership role in providing and participating in joint staff trainings with Childcare Resource and Referral - including local childcare providers - to further develop staff and promote childcare provider certification.

Observation: There is a need to identify and collaborate with those childcare providers which program participants rely on outside of the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.



Recommendation: Continue to identify and cultivate relationships with targeted childcare providers who are willing to accommodate [siblings of] program participants.

Observation: In general, a childcare shortage in Klamath County threatens the economic well being of low-income and farmworking families, most especially for primary Spanish speaking families as only minimal bilingual care is available.

Recommendation: Collaborate with local home and center based childcare providers, as well as other Head Start programs, to develop support for a “children’s campus” in Klamath Falls and in Malin, Oregon.

Observations and Recommendations: Transportation and Housing

Observation: Limited transportation resources in the area highlight the need for greater self-transport, as well as transportation services and collaborations in more rural areas.

Recommendation: Continue to examine distances and costs associated with self-transport. Additionally, continue to build partnerships with local transportation providers, as some are currently exploring strategies to increase exposure and build capacity.

Observation: There is a need for low-income, farmworker housing, especially in the areas of Malin, Oregon, and Tulelake, California.

Recommendation: Additional recommendations include the identification and development of relationships with those larger strawberry nurseries in the area toward (i) collaborating on a joint farmworker housing assessment and (ii) obtaining support toward exploring housing development options which would have the effect of providing affordable housing to [migrant and] seasonal farmworkers in the area.

SUMMARY

While there continues to be a need for Migrant Seasonal Head Start services, recent changes - demographic, economic, political and social - highlight the continued need for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County to grow and adapt. As the issue of the declining number of migrant farmworkers is at the forefront, the agency would benefit from growing collaborative strategies that are not only aimed at smoother, more continuous, service delivery, but also long-term strategies towards adapting to the changing needs of farmworkers in the area in such a way that promotes parent involvement and community integration with the whole of the population in the Klamath Basin. Doing so will be increasingly important in light of upcoming immigration legislation.

