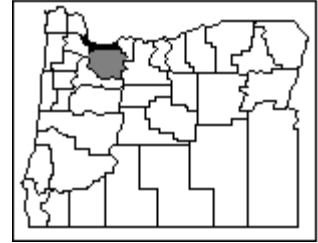


## MULTNOMAH & CLACKAMAS COUNTIES

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties improves the lives of children and families through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. Directed by a County Executive Committee, which includes a County Director, parents of program participants and community representatives, the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties serves a total of 222 children annually. Of these, 96 children are classified as migrant children and 126 children are classified as seasonal children. In 2005, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties served 123 percent of funded enrollment. As of May 2006, average daily attendance was 85 percent.



The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties currently employs a center-based option, serving children from one location in Gresham, Oregon. The short-term program runs 14 weeks from June through August, operating nine classrooms, 5 days per week from 4:45 am to 4:30 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from January through May and then from September through December, operating seven classrooms, 5 days per week from 8 am to 2 pm and from 9 am to 3 pm.

The service area includes the entirety of Multnomah County, as well as the northern portion of neighboring Clackamas County including the town of Sandy, Oregon. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) the program center location in Gresham, (ii) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties serves the predominantly agricultural areas of these counties, and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start Performance Standards. For illustrative purposes, Appendix C8.1 contains a map of the service area, as well as grower's locations and program center locations.

### COUNTY SNAPSHOT

#### ▶ QUICK FACTS

- Multnomah County and Clackamas County have experienced steady population growth over the past 5 years - 4.9 percent and 6.8 percent respectively - with areas such as Fairview, Oregon, and Sandy, Oregon, experiencing more rapid growth over the same period.
- The median household income for both Multnomah and Clackamas Counties is 16 percent higher than the state median, with the number of children under the age of 6 living in poverty estimated to be 8,459 children and 2,605 children, respectively.
- Between the 2003-4 and 2004-5 schools years, the number of children eligible for free and reduced lunch in Multnomah County and Clackamas County grew by 11 percent and 5 percent to 44,996 children and 15,468 children, respectively.



- As of 2006, the estimated number of unserved, eligible Head Start children in Multnomah County and Clackamas County was 1,118 children and 427 children, respectively.
- With unemployment in Multnomah County at 7.2 percent and Clackamas County at 5.3 percent, these areas are seeing growth in trade, transportation and utilities, and professional and business services.
- Nurseries and greenhouses continue to post gains each year, with combined sales reaching nearly \$240 million in 2005 and increasing at a rate of nearly 5 percent annually.
- In Multnomah County, there were an estimated 607 migrant farmworkers (-15.0% between 2002 and 2005) and 1,089 seasonal farmworkers in 2005, with the total number of migrant and seasonal children under the age of 6 estimated at 59 children and 189 children, respectively.
- In Clackamas County, there were an estimated 3,487 migrant farmworkers (-<1.0% between 2002 and 2005) and 3,755 seasonal farmworkers in 2005, with the total number of migrant and seasonal children under the age of 6 estimated at 295 children and 170 children, respectively.

## ▶ CRITICAL ISSUES

- Immigration

Rumors of a visit by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) resulted in lost wages for many farmworkers this year. Yet, aside from the economic impact, there is most certainly a human toll as well. Interviews conducted for this assessment confirm that family members were separated during this time and, in some cases, have yet to reestablish contact. While the Department of Homeland Security has repeatedly issued statements about the fact that they only target agencies and organizations<sup>1</sup>, what is clear from accounts provided by Multnomah County residents is that representatives from the ICE have seemingly targeted *individuals*.

- Changes in Agriculture

Berry acreage in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties continues to decline each year. Not surprisingly, so does the number of migrant farmworkers. Growers in the area are scrambling to sell their product to the highest bidder. Berry processors, in turn, are having to compete with one another to not only secure contracts with growers, but also to secure contracts with customers and other outlets. Given their overhead, growers face the harsh reality of bringing overpriced products to market or turning to suppliers from overseas (e.g., China, Chile, Eastern Europe, etc.), and thereby promoting the further decline of Oregon berries.

While nurseries and greenhouses are increasingly profitable for more many growers these days, one cannot infer that greater sales will result in more employees, better jobs and

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<sup>1</sup> Meredith Buel, *U.S. Cracks Down on Businesses Employing Illegal Immigrants*, April 20, 2006, Voice of America News.



higher wages. If the past 10-20 years have provided one lesson, it is that growers are looking to increase efficiency while lowering overhead (i.e., labor costs) and stabilizing acreage.

## **COUNTY PROFILE**

### **► GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Multnomah and Clackamas Counties are located in the northwest portion of Oregon spanning some 465 square miles and 1,879 square miles respectively. Both were named for their resident Indian populations, with the name *Multnomah* derived from *nematlnomaq* meaning “downriver.”<sup>2</sup> Prior to the arrival of Americans and Europeans, approximately 1 million people inhabited this area, due in large part to the abundant supply of fish in the Willamette and Clackamas Rivers.<sup>3</sup> Despite the rich farmland in the area, inhabitants did not practice agriculture. Instead, they were known for developing some of the first trade routes between, what is today, Alaska and California. Thus, they were innovators, entrepreneurs and specialists, known for building permanent homes and developing new ways of storing food over the long-term.

In 1805, the Lewis and Clark expedition reached the Pacific Ocean. Later, in 1849, Oregon City - located in Clackamas County - would become the first incorporated city west of the Rocky Mountains and the first capitol of the Oregon Territory. By this time, only a handful of the native inhabitants remained, their numbers decimated by malaria and other diseases brought by other explorers and traders.

Today, Multnomah County, while Oregon’s smallest county in size, is home to Oregon’s largest population. Home to the city of Portland, Multnomah County continues to attract visitors and new residents from around the United States due to the appealing contrast of urban metropolis bordered by rivers and farmland.<sup>4</sup> The Columbia River to the north serves as a major shipping route spanning nearly the entire Oregon-Washington border, thereby ensuring the viability and sustainability of Portland’s ports.

To the south of Multnomah County lies Clackamas County. The diversity of Oregon’s landscape is perhaps best characterized by Clackamas County. Oregon City - home to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center - sits 55 feet above sea level near the west end of the county, with Mt Hood at the east end of the county some 11,249 feet above sea level. Naturally, Mt. Hood sits in the Mt. Hood National Forest, established in 1893 and encompassing some 1 million acres.

Excluding the area around Mount Hood, average elevation in these areas is approximately 60 feet above sea level. Average temperatures range from 40 Fahrenheit degrees during the winter months to well over 80 Fahrenheit degrees during the summer months. The area receives approximately 40 inches of rain annually and is recognized for the abundance of landmarks and

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<sup>2</sup> Oregon Blue Book 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Lynn Wallis, *The History of Industry and Workforce of Clackamas County, A Short Version*, March 12, 2004, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>4</sup> Oregon Blue Book 2006.



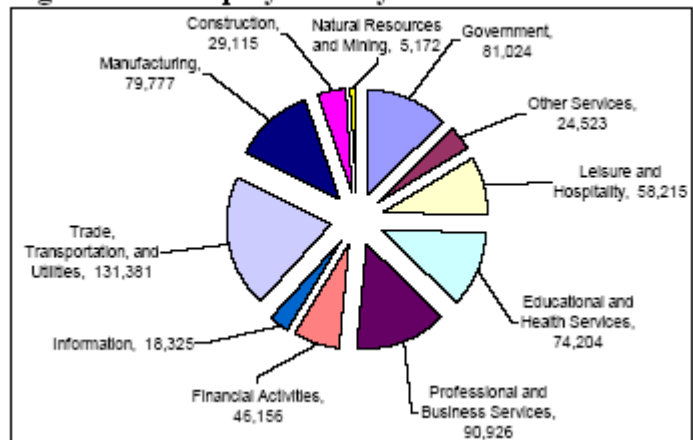
natural resources, including Mount Hood (11,249'), the Columbia Gorge, Multnomah Falls, and the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers.<sup>5</sup>

► **ECONOMIC PROFILE**

In 2003, the median per capita personal income in Multnomah County and Clackamas County was \$34,017 and \$34,900, respectively. These figures are the two highest in the state Oregon. Both figures rank above those for the state of Oregon (\$29,175) and the United States (\$31,487).<sup>6</sup> Further, figures from the U.S. Census Bureau show that over 50 percent of households in Clackamas County earn more than \$50,000 per year.<sup>7</sup>

However, the above findings considered, state economists have noted that while the labor force is currently growing, many residents in this region are still out of work.<sup>8</sup> Specifically, it is noted that the number of unemployed persons is nearly double what it was during the 2001-2003 recession. This is due, in part, to the influx of new residents to the area, nearly 1.7 percent growth in Clackamas County in 2004, and an economy recovering from a recession only a few years earlier.<sup>9</sup>

**Figure 8.1 - Employment by Sector**



Between 2001 and 2003, along with the rest of the country, the state of Oregon and Multnomah and Clackamas Counties felt the effects of a slowing economy. Sectors such as manufacturing experienced a lesser demand for products which resulted in the temporary or permanent closure of many plants in the area. In March of 2003, the unemployment rate in Multnomah County and Clackamas

**Figure 8.2 - Annual Average Unemployment Rates**

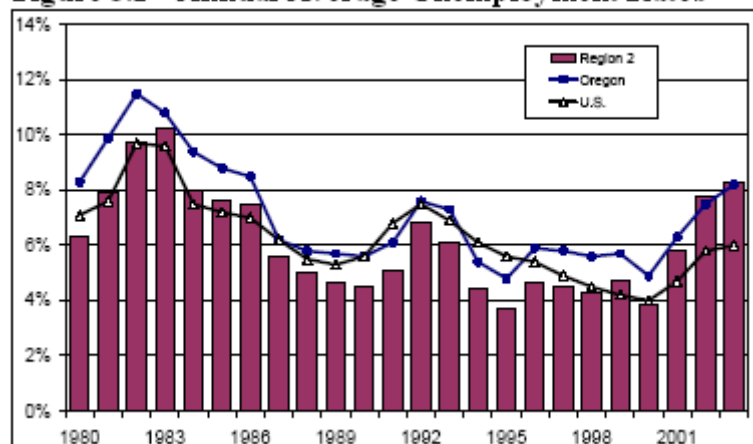


Figure 8.1 – Amy Vander Vliet, *Regional Profile: Industry Employment in Region 2, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

Figure 8.2 – Amy Vander Vliet, *Regional Profile: Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment in Region 2, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>5</sup> Oregon Blue Book 2006.

<sup>6</sup> *Oregon Per Capita Personal Income: 1986-2004*, November 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>7</sup> *DP-3: Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics, 2000*, United States Census Bureau.

<sup>8</sup> Amy VanderVliet, *Regional Profile: Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment in Region 15, Fall 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>9</sup> Amy VanderVliet, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 15 (Clackamas County), Fall 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.



County was at 9.2 percent and 8.0 percent, respectively.<sup>10</sup>

Three years later - March 2006 - the unemployment rate in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties was 5.8 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively, still several points higher than pre-recession levels and the national unemployment rate (4.8 percent).<sup>11</sup> Currently, occupations reporting steady job growth in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties include sales related occupations, as well as office and administrative support, and management, business and financial.<sup>12</sup> This is due in large part to those urban areas, such as Portland, as well as major retail centers, such as Clackamas Town Center. By 2012, employment in Regions 2 and 15 - regions which include Multnomah and Clackamas Counties - is expected to increase by more than 100,000 jobs and to be lead by professional and related occupations in Multnomah County and service and sales related occupations in Clackamas County. Also of interest is that economists speculate that additional job growth will be powered by a demand for social-service professions, estimated to account for nearly one-third of all new jobs in Region 2 - an area which includes Multnomah County.<sup>13</sup>

Economists have also been careful to point out the connection between education, wages and new jobs; they estimate that 85 percent and 71 percent, respectively, of all new jobs in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties will require an associates degree or higher by 2012, with approximately 17 percent of all new jobs requiring a bachelors degree or higher.<sup>14</sup> However, for many low paying jobs, many employers require nothing but on the job training. This is especially the case for agricultural employees.

Employers in Region 15 - an area which includes Clackamas County - indicate a greater reliance on temporary and seasonal labor (7.8 percent) relative to all employers throughout the state of Oregon (5.4 percent).<sup>15</sup> In 2002, Alice C. Larson estimated the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.<sup>16</sup> These estimates, as well as 2005 estimates computed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition, are shown in Table 8.1.

**Table 8.1 - Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers**

	2002	2005
<b>Multnomah County</b>		
MFWs	714	607
SFWs	1,089	1,089
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>1,696</b>
<b>Clackamas County</b>		
MFWs	3,498	3,487
SFWs	5,407	3,755
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,905</b>	<b>7,242</b>

<sup>10</sup> Oregon Labor Force and Unemployment by Area, April 20, 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>11</sup> Oregon Labor Force and Unemployment by Area, April 20, 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>12</sup> Amy Vander Vliet, *Regional Profile: Occupational Employment in Region 15*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

Amy Vander Vliet, *Regional Profile: Occupational Employment in Region 2*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>13</sup> Amy Vander Vliet, *Regional Profile: Occupational Employment in Region 2*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>14</sup> Amy Vander Vliet, *Regional Profile: Occupational Employment in Region 15*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

Amy Vander Vliet, *Regional Profile: Occupational Employment in Region 2*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>15</sup> *Portrait of the Workforce: An Oregon Employer Perspective*, 2002, Oregon Employment Department.

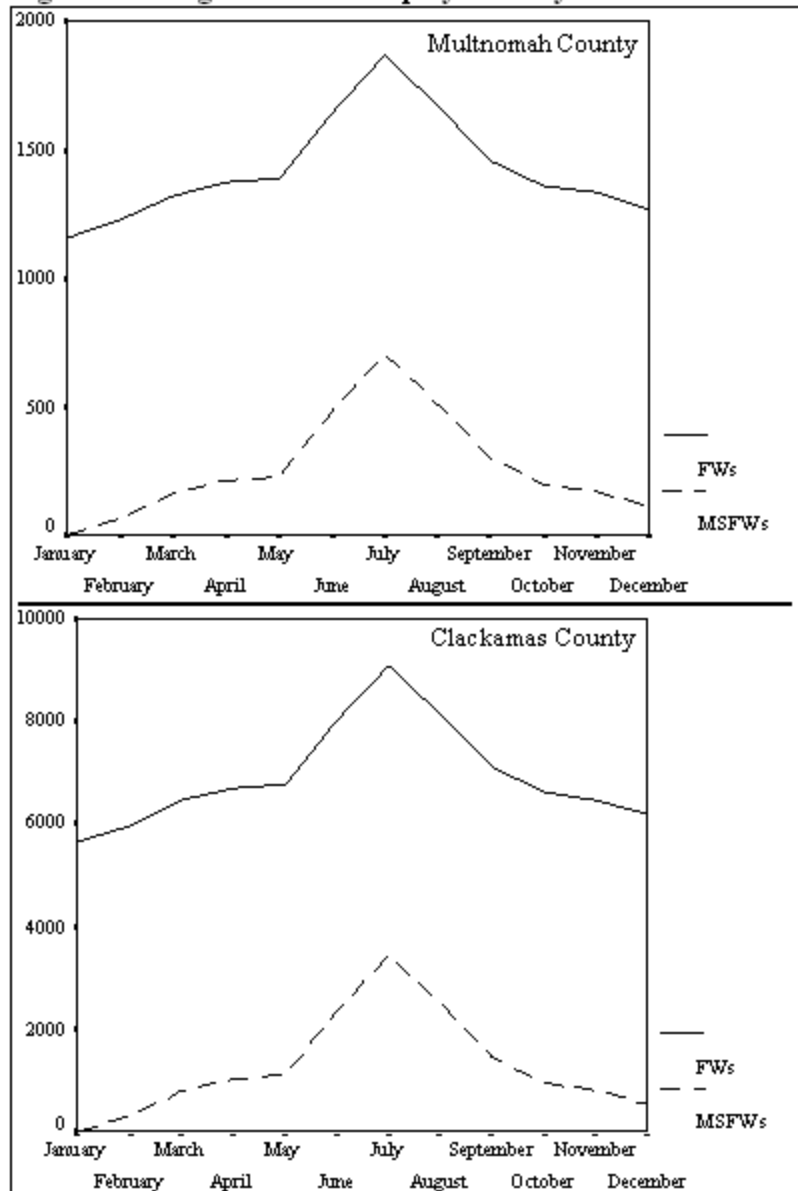
<sup>16</sup> Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002*, Larson Assistance Services.



Between 2002 and 2005, the number of migrant farmworkers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties declined by 15 percent and less than 1 percent, respectively.

On average, agricultural operations in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties employ 1,423 farmworkers and 6,933 farmworkers each month, respectively.<sup>17</sup> Monthly agricultural employment estimates are shown in Figure 8.3 for both the general population of farmworkers (FWs), as well as for migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs).<sup>18</sup> The labor peak corresponds with the [berry] harvests during the summer months, beginning with strawberries. Interviews with local strawberry producers revealed that strawberries were approximately 7-10 days late this year, noting that it takes 1,135 “heat degree days” - defined as the total number of hours during which the temperature falls above specific benchmarks - for strawberries to mature. Following strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries are harvested, lasting into September and October when growers will transition into harvesting wine grapes and preparing for Christmas trees.

**Figure 8.3 - Agricultural Employment by Month**



A recent survey of agricultural producers conducted in 2006 by the Oregon Child Development Coalition revealed that growers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties depend on the labor of migrant and seasonal farmworkers to harvest strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries, as well to assist in nurseries and greenhouses.<sup>19</sup> Given current labor shortages, the majority of growers surveyed indicated that they expect to employ at least as many migrant and

<sup>17</sup> 2005 Oregon Agricultural Employment Estimates, 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>18</sup> 2005 Oregon Agricultural Employment Estimates, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>19</sup> Agricultural Employer’s Survey, 2006, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



seasonal farmworkers as they did during the previous year.<sup>20</sup> However, growers also indicated that they are seeking to further mechanize raspberries, blueberries and blackberries, suggesting that they may be anticipating a labor shortage next year. An additional 2006 survey of farm labor contractors conducted by the Oregon Child Development Coalition found that contractors believe that growers are looking to further mechanize Christmas tree production, as well.<sup>21</sup>

Also of interest is that one grower surveyed indicated that they would not be planting raspberries next year. As seen in Table 8.2, this is hardly surprising. Berry production in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties has been declining for the last 10 years or so. Between 2004 and 2005, strawberry, blackberry and raspberry production all fell. In each case, the explanation for such declines is similar. Growers are seeing greater competition these days from domestic (e.g., California strawberries) and international (e.g., China, Chile and Eastern Europe) competitors. Especially in the case of international competitors, growers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties - and throughout Oregon for that matter - cannot compete given expressed concerns around fuel and storage costs, labor and wages, and other overhead. Unable to compete in their respective markets, growers have slowly been reducing acreage while also seeing declining sales annually.

**Table 8.2 - Selected Crop Outputs<sup>22</sup>**

Multnomah County	2004			2005		
	Acres	Production	Sales (in \$000s)	Acres	Production	Sales (in \$000s)
Strawberries	65	728	\$349	60	684	\$321
Blackberries	200	1,377	\$883	188	1,323	\$887
Raspberries	485	1,771	\$1,378	422	1,628	\$1,280
Blueberries	140	1,137	\$966	155	1,360	\$1,183
Wine Grapes	12	30	\$42	12	30	\$45
Nursery & Greenhouse	---	---	\$50,320	---	---	\$52,050
Christmas Trees	70	88	\$2,376	70	90	\$2,025
Clackamas County	2004			2005		
	Acres	Production	Sales (in \$000s)	Acres	Production	Sales (in \$000s)
Strawberries	260	2,912	\$1,223	230	2,760	\$1,297
Blackberries	1,330	9,251	\$5,946	1,310	9,208	\$6,191
Raspberries	1,320	4,253	\$4,572	1,295	4,334	\$4,617
Blueberries	410	3,329	\$2,830	425	3,464	\$3,014
Wine Grapes	189	397	\$572	195	390	\$597
Nursery & Greenhouse	---	---	\$177,600	---	---	\$186,900
Christmas Trees	1,910	2,349	\$45,806	1,670	2,054	\$35,945

<sup>20</sup> Michael Rose, *Pick Your Theory, But Valley Is Short of Cherry Harvesters*, June 29, 2006, Salem Statesman Journal.

<sup>21</sup> *Farm Contractor's Survey*, 2006, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

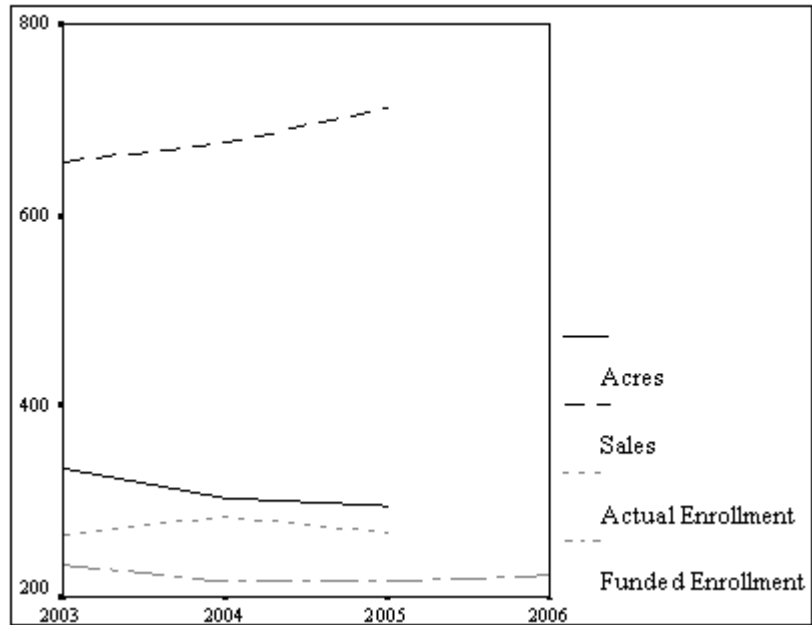


What is evident from Table 8.2 is that nursery and greenhouse sales continue to increase each year. While nearby Marion and Washington Counties are the state leaders in nursery and greenhouse sales, Clackamas County is also in the running, boasting a five percent increase in sales over the one year period. Interviews with representatives from these operations revealed that employers are currently looking for ways to position themselves as the “employer of choice” in an effort to recruit and retain skilled laborers.

To migrant and seasonal farmworkers, reductions in berry acreage and corresponding increases in nursery and greenhouse sales means more consistent employment opportunities for those farmworkers who are skilled enough to attain such positions. An interview with a representative from one local nursery indicated that they have difficulty filling those positions which require skilled labor (e.g., customized budding). The further effect of such reductions in berry acreage is that fewer migrant families elect to travel to the area; and, as discussed earlier, this is seemingly the case already as the estimated number of migrant farmworkers in Multnomah County declined by 15 percent between 2002 and 2005.

The above findings are also of importance in program planning. Figure 8.4 provides information on harvested acres, total sales, and enrollment counts for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.<sup>23</sup> It is important to note that Figure 8.4 does, in fact, confirm that growers in Multnomah County are farming less acreage over time while seeing regular gains in sales annually. Figure 8.4 also confirms that with declining acreage, actual enrollment in the Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Migrant Seasonal

**Figure 8.4 - Crop Outputs by OCDC Enrollment**



Head 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 nursery and greenhouse sales continue to increase over time.

**► DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

<sup>22</sup> Oregon Agricultural Information Network, 2006.

Unit of production varies by commodity.

<sup>23</sup> Note, Figure 8.4 reflects crop outputs for Multnomah County only. Additionally, the scale in Figure 8.4 has been adjusted. Harvested acres are in 000s and total sales are in \$00,000s. Crop outputs reflect the set of all crops in the Multnomah County area, not just those typically employing migrant and seasonal farmworkers.



The 2000 Census reported the population of Multnomah County and Clackamas County to be 600,486 and 338,391, respectively. From this, the Population Research Center at Portland State University estimated the population of Multnomah County to be 692,825 persons and the population of Clackamas County to be 361,300 persons as of July 1, 2005, demonstrating 4.9 percent and 6.8 percent growth, respectively. Table 8.3 displays these estimates for each of the major cities and towns in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

Note the positive growth in each of the areas listed, with areas such as Fairview, Oregon, and Sandy, Oregon, boasting nearly 25 percent growth over the five year period. While net in-migration has slowed considerably in Multnomah County, the same is not so for Clackamas County where in-migration is responsible for nearly three-quarters of the county's recent growth.<sup>24</sup> Growth in Clackamas County current outpaces both the rates for the state of Oregon and the United States, a phenomenon which began in the early 1990s when, in light of cutbacks in the defense industry, many Californians made their way to Oregon where the recession had not hit as hard and property was more affordable.

**Table 8.3 - Population<sup>25</sup>**

	Year		
	2000	2005	Percent Change
<b>Multnomah County</b>	660,486	692,825	4.9
Fairview	7,561	9,425	24.7
Gresham	90,205	95,900	6.3
Portland	529,121	555,650	5.0
Troutdale	13,777	14,880	8.0
Wood Village	2,860	2,880	0.7
<b>Clackamas County</b>	338,391	361,300	6.8
Canby	12,790	14,385	12.5
Estacada	2,371	2,480	4.6
Molalla	5,930	6,395	13.2
Oregon City	25,754	28,965	12.5
Sandy	5,385	6,645	23.4

The population in Region 15 - an area which includes Clackamas County - tends to be older and better educated than that of Oregon and the United States. From this, one might infer that aging baby-boomers will create a vacuum in the labor market, resulting in greater job opportunities in the future. This is certainly the case in Multnomah County where the median age is 35 years old. The Portland area, especially, is an inviting place of young professionals. In fact, the largest age groups fall with prime working years of 25-55. In light of this fact, it is important to remember that Multnomah County's rate of in-migration has slowed recently. Thus, what is of interest is the *retention* of this population, which some have attributed to the ability of local businesses to attract creative, energetic and entrepreneurial professionals to the area.<sup>26</sup>

It is also noted that roughly 25 percent of the population in both Multnomah and Clackamas Counties is under the age of 18. Several universities in the area work to keep local residents in

<sup>24</sup> Amy VanderVliet, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 15 (Clackamas County)*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

Amy VanderVliet, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 2*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>25</sup> *2004 Oregon Population Report*, March 2005, Population Research Center, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University.

<sup>26</sup> Joe Cortright and Carol Colletta, *The Young and the Restless: How Portland Competes for Talent*, 2005, Impressa Consulting and Colletta & Co.



the area as they transition through college and into a career, including Portland State University, the University of Portland, Lewis and Clark College, Reed College, Marylhurst University and Concordia University.

**Table 8.4 - Population by Age<sup>27</sup>**

	Age						
	0-4	5-9	10-17	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Multnomah County	47,026	42,774	66,417	131,337	225,146	98,348	54,902
Clackamas County	20,510	26,286	44,233	49,692	114,206	62,071	39,251

Oregon Housing and Community Services reports that the number of individuals living in poverty in Multnomah County and Clackamas County increased by 15 percent and 9 percent, respectively, between 1990 and 2000, with the Oregon Department of Education reporting the poverty rate to be 10.2 percent and 17.6 percent as of January 2006.<sup>29</sup> Further, these two sources also estimate over 11,000 children under the age of 6 to be living in poverty each year, including nearly 3,999 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.<sup>30</sup>

During the 2004-2005 school year, 49.4 percent (n=44,996) of students in Multnomah County schools and 27.4 percent (n=15,468) of students in

**Table 8.5 - Free & Reduced Lunch Count<sup>28</sup>**

Multnomah County	Academic Year	
	2003-2004	2004-2005
Centennial School District	3,000	4,316
Corbett School District	167	153
David Douglas School District	5,330	6,621
Gresham-Barlow School District	4,175	4,327
Parkrose School District	1,917	2,072
Portland School District	19,981	21,518
Reynolds School District	5,719	5,862
Riverdale School District	16	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,511 (44.3%)</b>	<b>44,996 (49.4%)</b>

Clackamas County	Academic Year	
	2003-2004	2004-2005
Canby School District	1,684	1,749
Colton School District	197	232
Estacada School District	1,407	1,065
Gladstone School District	620	691
Lake Oswego School District	417	426
Molalla River School District	1,017	1,160
N. Clackamas School District	4,943	5,351
Oregon City School District	2,233	2,406
Oregon Trail School District	1,315	1,467
West Linn/Wilsonville SD	831	921
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,664 (25.9%)</b>	<b>15,468 (27.1%)</b>

<sup>27</sup>2004 Oregon Population Report, March 2005, Population Research Center, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University.

<sup>28</sup> Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch, 2003-2004 & 2004-2005, Oregon Department of Education.

<sup>29</sup> Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten, 2006, Oregon Department of Education.

<sup>30</sup> County Comparisons: Incidence and Distribution of Poverty, 2004, Oregon Health and Community Services.



Clackamas County schools were eligible for free or reduced lunch. As displayed in Table 8.5, relative to the previous academic year, these figures represent a respective 5 percent and 11 percent increase in the number of students receiving free or reduced lunch over the one-year period. Such increases were felt especially in the Centennial School District, the David Douglas School District and the Molalla School District.

► **DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED 3-4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN<sup>31</sup>**

The Oregon Department of Education estimates there to be 17,355 children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Multnomah County and 9,135 children between the ages of 3 and 4 Clackamas County in 2006.<sup>32</sup> 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 in each county by the poverty rate in 2006 for Multnomah County and Clackamas County, 17.6 percent and 10.2 percent respectively. Thus, *the total number of eligible Head Start children in Multnomah County is 3,059 children; and the total number of eligible Head Start children in Clackamas County is 940 children*, as displayed in Table 8.6.

**Table 8.6 - Estimated Number of Eligible Children**

Multnomah County	
Total Children	17,355
Percent in Poverty	17.6
<b>Eligible</b>	<b>3,059</b>
Clackamas County	
Total Children	9,135
Percent in Poverty	10.2
<b>Eligible</b>	<b>940</b>

From this, the number of Head Start children currently being served in Multnomah County and Clackamas County by Head Start programs is subtracted. Head Start programs such as Albina Head Start (479 total slots), Mt. Hood Community College Head Start (695 total slots), Neighborhood House (163 total slots), Portland Public Schools Head Start (543 total slots), and Siletz Tribal Head Start (112 total slots in three counties) serve a total of 1,941 children in Multnomah County between 3 and 4 years of age.<sup>33</sup> Thus, *the total number of unserved, eligible Head Start children in Multnomah County is 1,118 children* and is shown in Table 8.7

**Table 8.7 - Estimated Number of Unserved, Eligible Children**

Multnomah County	
Eligible	3,059
Served	1,941
<b>Unserved, Eligible</b>	<b>1,118</b>
Clackamas County	
Eligible	940
Served	513
<b>Unserved, Eligible</b>	<b>427</b>

Likewise the number of unserved, eligible children in Clackamas County is also shown in Table 8.7. Head Start programs in Clackamas County such as Clackamas County Children’s Commission (390 total slots) and Clackamas ESD Pre-kindergarten (123 total slots) serve a total of 513 children in Clackamas County between 3 and 4 years of age.<sup>34</sup> Thus, *the total number of unserved, eligible Head Start children in Clackamas County is 427 children*.

<sup>31</sup> 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.

<sup>32</sup> *Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten*, 2006, Oregon Department of Education.

<sup>33</sup> Total slot counts for individual Head Start programs include Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

<sup>34</sup> Total slot counts for individual Head Start programs include Early Head Start and Head Start programs.



In the sections that follow, the Oregon Child Development Coalition will further refine the estimates in Table 8.7 to provide estimates for the number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

*“The Hispanic population is the fastest growing minority group in the region. It has grown over six times faster than the overall population.”*

*-Amy VanderVliet  
Regional Economist, Oregon Employment Department*

## **RACIAL & ETHNIC COMPOSITION**

### **► POPULATION & ANCESTRY**

Table 8.8 displays the racial and ethnic composition of the population in Multnomah County and Clackamas 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.

Unlike in other counties, Multnomah County boasts a relatively large Black population, as well as a growing number of Asians and Hispanics. As is evident in Table 8.8, this is largely due to the location of Portland - Oregon’s largest and most densely populated urban area - in Multnomah County. Relative to rest of the state, Region 2 - an area which includes Multnomah County - has a high degree of racial and ethnic diversity, with nearly three-quarters of the state’s black population and two-thirds of the state’s Asian population calling this area home.<sup>35</sup> State economists have also noted that the Hispanic population is the fastest growing minority group in this area, growing at a rate that, in Multnomah County, is ten times faster than the general population and, in Clackamas County, at a rate that is six times faster than the general population.

Of the population in Multnomah County, 86 percent were born in the United States, with 83 percent of the population as monolingual English speakers.<sup>36</sup> Of those born outside of the United States (n=83,965), 8.3 percent are currently not U.S. citizens, with 7 percent having entered the United States between 1990 and 2000, and 31 percent of those born outside of the United States coming from Latin America. Accordingly, aside from English and relative to other languages, 6.3 percent of the population identified as primary Spanish speakers (n=38,767).<sup>37</sup> Of these, more than one-half self-identified as able to speak English less than “very well.”

Of the population in Clackamas County, 92 percent were born in the United States, with 90 percent of the population as monolingual English speakers.<sup>38</sup> Of those born outside of the United States (n=24,100), 4.4 percent are currently not U.S. citizens, with 3.1 percent having entered the United States between 1990 and 2000, and 34 percent of those born outside of the United States coming from Latin America. Accordingly, aside from English and relative to other languages, 9.6 percent of the population identified as primary Spanish speakers (n=13,853).<sup>39</sup> Of these, less than one-half self-identified as able to speak English less than “very well.”

<sup>35</sup> Amy VanderVliet, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 2*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>36</sup> DP-2: *Profile of Selected Social Characteristics*, 2000, United States Census Bureau.

<sup>37</sup> DP-2: *Profile of Selected Social Characteristics*, 2000, United States Census Bureau.

<sup>38</sup> DP-2: *Profile of Selected Social Characteristics*, 2000, United States Census Bureau.

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



**Table 8.8 - Population by Race, 2000-2005<sup>40</sup>**

Multnomah County	One Race						Two or More Races	Hispanic
	White	Black	Native Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Some Other Race	---	---
2000	522,825 (79.2%)	37,434 (5.7%)	6,785 (1.0%)	37,638 (5.7%)	2,320 (0.4%)	26,620 (4.0%)	26,864 (4.1%)	49,607 (7.5%)
Fairview	5,762	230	63	260	28	795	423	1,210
Gresham	74,619	1,707	848	3,007	243	6,335	3,446	10,732
Portland	412,241	35,115	5,587	33,470	1,993	18,760	21,955	36,058
Troutdale	12,061	262	127	571	34	235	487	636
Wood Village	2,336	16	37	49	7	282	133	435
2005	528,174 (80.5%)	37,218 (5.7%)	7,652 (1.2%)	41,498 (6.3%)	2,509 (0.4%)	13,022 (2.0%)	26,073 (4.0%)	63,355 (9.7%)
Clackamas County	One Race						Two or More Races	Hispanic
	White	Black	Native Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Some Other Race	---	---
2000	308,852 (91.3%)	2,233 (0.7%)	2,416 (0.7%)	8,292 (2.5%)	569 (0.2%)	7,699 (2.3%)	8,330 (2.5%)	16,744 (4.9%)
Canby	11,309	60	98	128	17	956	222	1,985
Estacada	2,012	4	34	42	1	235	43	303
Molalla	5,003	25	73	28	16	378	124	596
Oregon City	23,807	150	277	288	28	553	651	1,283
Sandy	5,057	8	62	40	14	89	115	220
2005	332,198 (90.8%)	3,145 (0.9%)	864 (0.2%)	12,615 (3.4%)	351 (0.1%)	4,217 (1.2%)	12,333 (3.4%)	23,632 (6.5%)

**► PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS<sup>41</sup>**

In 2005, 262 children were enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program on the basis of public assistance or income eligibility, an increase of less than 1 percent from the previous year. Table 8.9 displays the age distribution for children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. Overall, all 266 program participants were of Hispanic or Latino origin, which includes persons of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South and

**Table 8.9 - Enrolled of Children by Age**

Age	Number of Children
<1	11
1	35
2	28
3	49
4	66
5	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>

<sup>40</sup> 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.

<sup>41</sup> Data is taken from the *Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005*, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



Central American or other Spanish culture or origin. The majority of these were primary Spanish speakers, including an increasing number of 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. It is also noted that, in 2006, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties has seen an increase in the number of indigenous language speakers in need of services.

► **DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED MIGRANT CHILDREN<sup>42</sup>**

The Oregon Child Development Coalition has developed a method for estimating the number of children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties 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.<sup>43</sup> The estimates in Table 8.10 suggest that there were 59 migrant children and 189 seasonal children in Multnomah County in 2005. Likewise, there were an estimated 295 migrant children and 170 seasonal children in Clackamas County in 2005.

**Table 8.10 - Estimated Migrant and Seasonal Children**

Multnomah County		
Age	Number Migrant Children	Number Seasonal Children
<1	19	4
1	8	16
2	8	25
3	8	66
4	8	72
5	8	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>189</b>
Clackamas County		
Age	Number Migrant Children	Number Seasonal Children
<1	130	30
1	33	28
2	33	28
3	33	28
4	33	28
5	33	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>170</b>

To estimate the number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children, the number of children currently being served in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties by the Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Migrant Seasonal Head Start program is subtracted from the estimates in Table 8.10. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties serves 128 Head Start eligible children through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program, 96 of which are migrant children and 126 of which are seasonal children. Thus, the total number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Multnomah County is 73 children and the total number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Clackamas County is 425 children. These estimates are broken down in Table 8.11.

<sup>42</sup> See Appendix C1.3

<sup>43</sup> Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002*, Larson Assistance Services.



Overall, roughly *71 percent of eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children are currently being served in Multnomah County*. Likewise, *in Clackamas County, only 9 percent of eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children are currently being served*.

Results of the above analysis indicate that the Oregon Child Development Coalition is adequately serving the migrant population only in Multnomah County, a population that continues to decline each year. Overall, there is a need for greater Migrant Seasonal Head Start services in Clackamas County, particularly in the Molalla and Canby areas.<sup>44</sup> In addition, aside from capacity issues, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties could serve more seasonal children.

**Table 8.11 - Unserved, Eligible MHS Children in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties**

Multnomah County		
Age	Number Migrant Children	Number Seasonal Children
Eligible	59	189
Served	66	116
<b><i>Unserved, Eligible</i></b>	<b><i>~0</i></b>	<b><i>~73</i></b>
Clackamas County		
Age	Number Migrant Children	Number Seasonal Children
Eligible	295	170
Served	30	10
<b><i>Unserved, Eligible</i></b>	<b><i>~265</i></b>	<b><i>~160</i></b>

**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 both Multnomah County and Clackamas County is some college, no degree, with only 31 percent and 28 percent, respectively, having earned a bachelor’s degree or higher.<sup>45</sup> In general, state economists have noted that Multnomah and Clackamas County residents are typically better educated relative to residents in other areas of the state. However, what is also of interest is that roughly the same percentage of residents have a high school degree or less as have earned at least a bachelor’s degree, perhaps evidence of a widening gap between these segments of the population, a gap that most certainly impacts not only wages and earnings, but also the economic stability of local residents.

<sup>44</sup> Clackamas County Health Department, 2006.

<sup>45</sup> DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics, 2000, United States Census Bureau.



Data from the Oregon Department of Education show total public school enrollment in Multnomah County to be approximately 90,961 students annually, 35 percent of which are non-white.<sup>46</sup> Likewise, total public school enrollment in Clackamas County schools is approximately 56,582 students annually, 16 percent of which are non-white. Across all high schools in Multnomah County and in Clackamas County, Across all high schools in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, the total number of high school dropouts is 2,504 students with 10.0 percent and 14.9 percent high school dropout rates over the past four years, respectively. Across both counties, the Oregon Department of Education also reports that 41 students dropped out of high school during the 2003-2004 school year specifically because they did not speak English well enough, while another 212 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 96 percent of parents served have less than a high school degree. Further, of all families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, 24 are enrolled in either job training or school, suggesting that while seasonal agricultural work and low wages require that both parents work to make ends meet, there is a contingent pursuing their education.<sup>47</sup>

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing education services to children and families in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. In the area of adult education:

- Mt. Hood Community College and Portland Community College, in collaboration with Centro Mexicano, have incorporated INEA, a Literacy Program from Mexico introduced in 2000 and currently in college curriculums as basic skills training which bridges classes to obtain the Spanish GED and advance into ESL classes. Access to literacy information in Spanish and 16 Indigenous languages is available from Centro Mexicano through [covevyt.org.mx](http://covevyt.org.mx), an international website.
- Clackamas Community College's Pathways to Progress grant provides funding for support staff interested in becoming teachers or social workers. Two staff members have completed this program, with several others having completed the application process for the second cohort.
- The Multnomah County Public Library offers 12-15 classes annually and serves some 2,000 parents. Materials are offered in 4 languages and considerable emphasis is placed on outreach to hard to reach populations.
- Catholic Charities operates El Programa Hispano, offering skill building and job search classes such as Spanish literacy, ESL, computer courses, driver's education, financial literacy, and safety promotions.
- The Oregon Employment Department's WorkSource Oregon office provides a range of trainings and services for job seekers and employers.
- The Oregon Human Development Corporation works with displaced agricultural workers offering an 8-week job-training program.

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<sup>46</sup> Oregon Department of Education, 2004-2005.

<sup>47</sup> *Program Information Report*, 2004, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest educational needs of children and families in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. In the area of adult education, several providers expressed concern around the issue of immigration and documentation, as the absence of the latter acts to inhibit those in need from linking into essential community services. In response to a question about the presence of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the area this year, one respondent indicated that several of their clients had been apprehended and are currently in prison. However, what is of interest is that these clients were apprehended *by a security service company* as they were on an errand, and not by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. According to providers, it is events of this type that have raised further concerns over racial profiling in light of the current immigration debate.

Respondents also expressed concern around recruiting and retaining bilingual staff, noting that language barriers act a primary impediment in reaching out to parents and families. This is especially the case in reaching Vietnamese families in the area. Further, the inability to retain qualified, bilingual staff impedes the ability of local agencies to develop trust and rapport with families and to form long-term relationships. The preceding concern is complicated by the fact that many parents are working second and third shifts to make ends meet, leading several providers to begin exploring how to conduct education and outreach parents in light of varying work schedules.

An interview with the Parent Involvement Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties revealed that increasing parent involvement in the community remains a priority. Efforts continue to be made to collaborate with the above providers and ensure that barriers to trainings and other classes are removed.

### Early Childhood Education

In the area of early childhood education, other Head Start programs in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties include Albina Head Start, Clackamas County Children’s Commission, Clackamas ESD Pre-kindergarten, Mt. Hood Community College Head Start, Neighborhood

*“[Migrant Seasonal Head Start] teachers are wonderful and they communicate often.”*

*-Migrant Seasonal Head Start Parent  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Multnomah and Clackamas Counties*

House, Portland Public Schools Head Start and Siletz Tribal Head Start.<sup>48</sup> The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas County has and continues to develop interagency agreements with these providers to facilitate recruitment, trainings, transitions, etc. Interviews with representatives from several of the above programs revealed that partnerships are in place and that efforts are currently being directed towards continuing to identify community needs and developing joint strategies in response. The Head Start Director for the Clackamas County Children’s Commission also noted that they would like to continue to explore the development of a joint recruitment strategy for children in Clackamas County.

<sup>48</sup> 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 8.12 for three general areas and then by age per county. What is evident is that less than 20 percent of children continue to be served during the summer

**Table 8.12 - Migrant Education Enrollment<sup>49</sup>**

Multnomah & Clackamas Counties	2004-2005		
	Portland School District	East Multnomah County	Clackamas County
Regular Enrollment	645	755	1,279
Summer Enrollment	162	151	322
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>1,601</b>
	Multnomah County	Clackamas County	
<1 year old	4	---	
1	16	17	
2	25	36	
3	66	42	
4	72	52	
5	6	12	
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>159</b>	

months, a pivotal time for most migrant families as they work long hours during berry and other harvests. Also of interest is the number of 3 and 4 years olds in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- Clackamas County Children’s Commission (Region X Head Start), Clackamas County ESD Pre Kindergarten (OHS - Pre-kindergarten), Mt. Hood Community College Head Start (Region X Head Start), and the Oregon Child Development in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties have developed an Interagency Agreement which focuses on jointly implementing strategies in such areas as recruitment, transitions, health and disabilities and training and technical assistance.
- The Multnomah and Clackamas Education Service Districts provide a range of education and support services to children, families and local providers.
- The Multnomah County Public Library offers 12-15 classes annually and serving some 25,000 children from birth through age 6. They offer the Early Words programs and the Raising a Reader program, and are in the process of applying for federal funding for the Early Reading First program.
- Fairview Elementary School (Reynolds School District) provides program support by giving preference for enrollment to children in the school district, sponsoring parent events to introduce them into the school system while the child is still in preschool, sharing staff trainings, providing free space, and supporting an elementary school “buddy” program.
- The Gresham-Barlow School District has recently hired Spanish speaking liaisons whose responsibilities include working on providing support to low-income and migrant families.

<sup>49</sup> Oregon’s Migrant Education Regional Programs, 2004-2005, Oregon Department of Education.



- The Parkrose School District offers a range of after school and Title I programs, as well as pre and post school day childcare.

Respondents from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest needs of children and families. In the area of early childhood education, providers noted that, in general, funding continues to be cut for early child education programs (e.g., 1 percent cut for Head Start programs this year). Such cuts make it difficult to respond effectively to community needs. For instance, Mt. Hood Community College Head Start and Clackamas County Children’s Commission have a combined waiting list of approximately 2,000 children.

Limited capacity is not a phenomenon experienced by Head Start programs only. In an interview with the education manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties it was noted that some local school districts do not have the funding to ensure, for example, bilingual staff to assist with the transitions process. To address this, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties is working to take an inventory of what services each school district has available and then working to address gaps and shortages. Further, as way to counter those gaps and problems that do arise during the transitions process, efforts are being made to individualize curriculum in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program so as to promote continuity with what various school districts need in order to facilitate the transitions process.

A focus group with parents of program participants revealed that parents view the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program as a quality educational program where “children are cared for well and prepared for kindergarten.” For those families enrolled in the long-term program, a desire was also expressed for more hours of service.

► **MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES**

The Health Resources and Safety Administration has designated neither Multnomah County nor Clackamas County as a mental health professional shortage area.<sup>50</sup> However, from this, one cannot infer that these areas are without their share of related problems. One such problem is the growing methamphetamine epidemic. In Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, over 3,000 individuals have been incarcerated for drugs.<sup>51</sup> Currently, methamphetamines rank as the second most used illicit drug behind marijuana.

*“[We see that our] children’s mental development is more advanced than other kids.”*

*-Migrant Seasonal Head Start Parent  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Multnomah and Clackamas Counties*

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 10,716 children with some sort of mental health issue in Multnomah County

<sup>50</sup> 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.

<sup>51</sup> Oregon Data Book, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.



under the age of 18, of which 1,072 are estimated to suffer from co-occurring disorders.<sup>52</sup> Likewise, in Clackamas County, an estimated 6,168 children are said to experience some sort of mental health disorder, of which 617 are estimated to suffer from co-occurring disorders. Overall, approximately 6,962 children in Multnomah County and 1,966 children in Clackamas County receive some form of community based mental health care each year.

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that 24 children in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties were provided mental health services in 2005, with 14 of these children also receiving referrals for additional services. On average, mental health professionals spent 70 hours per month on-site. Likewise, ***22 children were determined to have a disability, roughly 11 percent of enrolled seasonal children and zero percent of enrolled migrant children in 2005.*** Of these 22 children, each was determined eligible to receive special education and related services. Primary disabilities included speech or language impairments, emotional behavioral disorder, or health impairment.<sup>53</sup>

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing services - both in the areas of mental health and disabilities - to children in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties has interagency agreements with both the Multnomah and Clackamas County ESDs.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties contracts the mental health services of Megan Sage - currently on site every Tuesday and Wednesday - with the Multnomah County Health Department.
- The Clackamas County Health Department provides a health promoter to work along side health professionals and accommodating referrals, working with children, for example, on gross motor exercises.
- Additional contracted services are provided to children with downs syndrome by occupational therapists.
- Partnerships with auditory specialists are also in place.
- In partnership with Cascadia Behavioral Health and Central City Concern, El Programa Hispano makes available mental health services through the Mios program.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest mental health and disabilities needs of children and families in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. Respondents indicated that cultural barriers sometimes act as impediments to care given certain cultural perceptions around disabilities. It was noted that disabilities are often a taboo subject for many families. Parents may view their child as "sticking out" and themselves as "bad parents." Thus, continued efforts are needed to ensure that parents continue to be educated and informed about the needs of their children in an environment characterized by trust and mutual support.

An interview with the Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties revealed that there continues to be a need to educate and support parents in learning about children's basic developmental timeline. Parents of program participants echoed this concern; during a focus group, parents

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<sup>52</sup> *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

<sup>53</sup> *Program Information Report*, 2004 & 2005, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



expressed that they were not sure where to find such resources in the community, a particularly salient issue for parents enrolled in the short-term program, many of which speak indigenous languages and are illiterate. That said, parents in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program have worked to develop Cada Corazon, a parent support group which focuses on parenting skills and problem solving.

## ► HEALTH & NUTRITION

In August of 2005, the Oregon Office of Rural Health released a report identifying healthcare shortages and underservice southwest Clackamas County. Also of interest is that the homeless population and the population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers were identified as underserved groups in Multnomah County and Clackamas County, respectively.<sup>54</sup>

In 2004, there were approximately 5 doctors for every 1,000 residents in Multnomah County and 2 doctors for every 1,000 residents in Clackamas County.<sup>55</sup> Roughly 16.5 percent of all residents in these two counties are without any form of health insurance, a figure that is somewhat less than figures provided by the Oregon Health and Sciences University. In 2004, the Oregon Health and Sciences University received 254,706 visits from Multnomah County residents, 58 percent of which were only partially or not reimbursable. Likewise, 76,300 visits were received from Clackamas County residents, 50 percent of which were only partially or not reimbursable.<sup>56</sup>

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 low-birth rate has increased in Multnomah County. In 2004, the rate of low birth was 64.3 (n=597), whereas in 2001, the rate of low birth had been as low as 58.9 (n=545).<sup>57</sup> A similar trend is noted for live births with *very* low birthweight, with the rate of very low birth rising slightly to 11.3 (n=105) in 2004 from 10.1 (n=94) in 2003.<sup>58</sup>

The increasing rate of low-birth may in part be due to limited resources for prenatal care. In 2004, 6.4 percent live births in Multnomah County were also identified as lacking adequate prenatal care.<sup>59</sup> Since 2001, this figure represents a 14 percent increase in the number of live births with inadequate prenatal care and is higher than the percentage reported statewide (5.8 percent). 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.<sup>60</sup> Thus, the increase in the percent of live births with inadequate prenatal care may prove to be higher among Hispanics in this area.

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<sup>54</sup> *Oregon Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/MUP)*, 2005, Oregon Office of Rural Health.

<sup>55</sup> *Active and Practicing Physicians in Oregon by Geographic Region and per 100,000 Population*, 2005, Oregon Public Health Services, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>56</sup> *2004 Percentage Without Health Insurance by Region*, 2004, Oregon Office of Rural Health.

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

<sup>57</sup> *Live Births with Low Birthweight by County, Oregon Residents, 2001-2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>58</sup> *Live Births with Very Low Birthweight by County, Oregon Residents, 2001-2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>59</sup> *Prenatal Care by Mother's County of Residents, Oregon Residents, 2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>60</sup> *Prenatal Care by Mother's Race and Ethnicity, Oregon Residents, 2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.



Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information report show that, in 2005, following dental screenings, 44 children were identified as needing continued dental treatment and care, an increase of 24 percent from the previous year. Related to these figures, 173 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Multnomah County in 2005 with health insurance, down by 3 percent from 2004.<sup>61</sup> Those with health insurance were covered by Medicaid and private insurance. For those without health insurance (n=93 during 2005), the Oregon Child Development Coalition worked with families to reduce the number of children without health insurance by 19 percent following enrollment. Thus, most children (n=263 by the end of the enrollment year) have access to an ongoing source of continuous, accessible medical care, with common health conditions including anemia, obesity, asthma and hearing difficulties.

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing health and dental services to children and families in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

- The Oregon State WIC program in Multnomah County serves 21,483 children under the age 5 and 9,351 pregnant women annually, with 69 percent of those served in Multnomah County at or below the poverty level.<sup>62</sup>
- The Oregon State WIC program in Clackamas County serves 6,883 children under the age 5 and 2,848 pregnant women annually, with 65 percent of those served in Clackamas County at or below the poverty level.<sup>63</sup>
- The Multnomah County Health Department has six clinics in the Portland and Gresham areas, four of which include a dental clinic. These clinics have extensive Spanish speaking staff on the phone and at appointments. Many enrolled children with OHP are patients at these clinics.
- Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic operates the Rosewood Family Health Clinic in Portland, providing medical and dental services to children and families. In 2005, the clinic served nearly 649 patients under the age of 6. The client base served is predominantly Hispanic and composed of primary Spanish speakers. Additionally, migrant and seasonal farmworkers recorded over 4,000 visits last year.
- The Clackamas County Public Health Department provides health services to migrant farmworkers during the summer. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties contracts a nurse practitioner to serve the children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. The two agencies have also developed a paperwork processing system to facilitate access to care.
- La Clínica de Buena Salud, part of the Multnomah County Health Department's Homeless Children's Project, provides comprehensive culturally appropriate primary care health and outreach services to families who are at risk of homelessness.
- The Multnomah County Immunization Office is a resource for children lacking an established medical home at enrollment who are in need of immunizations prior to beginning the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.
- Dr. Jasmine Chotocruz provides onsite medical and nutrition services to children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program.

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<sup>61</sup> *Program Information Report*, 2004 & 2005, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

<sup>62</sup> *2005 WIC Facts*, 2005, Oregon WIC Program, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>63</sup> *2005 WIC Facts*, 2005, Oregon WIC Program, Oregon Department of Human Services.



- The North Portland Nurse Practitioners Clinic is one of the only clinics in the area that will provide acute care for uninsured children who are not established at a clinic. Sliding scale fees and walk-in care are available.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties collaborates with the Community Dental Health program to provide fluoride varnish four times per year for all children the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.
- Dr. Park, a private dentist, donates his time to provide at least 6 on-site visits each year to do dental screenings. Additional contracted services provide dental treatment for uninsured children with high needs.
- The Mt. Hood Community College Dental program will complete a dental exam, fluoride treatment, cleaning, and x-rays for uninsured clients at a much reduced cost. They can do limited treatment and also make referrals for advanced treatment.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties has coordinated with the Doernbecher Hospital on a case-by-case basis to arrange for free or reduced cost services for uninsured children with the need for advanced follow up.
- The Russell Street Clinic, part of the Oregon Health and Sciences University's dental school, provides dental treatment for uninsured children and adults at a 40 percent reduction in cost.
- The Lion's Club provides free vision screenings and has a Needy Kids fund for additional services such as eye exams.
- The Eye Wear Repair in Gresham will repair glasses for \$1.00 for uninsured children.
- Mt. Hood Hearing Center provides free exams for preschoolers who do not pass screenings and need to see an audiologist for follow up.
- In the past, the school district in the Fairview areas has allowed uninsured children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program to use the dental van sponsored by the NW Dental Team.

Representatives from several of the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest medical and dental needs of children and families in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. Primary needs identified include: (i) the inability to treat chronic health conditions among the mobile migrant population, (ii) poor conditions and high health risks in farm labor camps which result in poor hygiene and safety risks, and (iii) concerns about whether families have and understand the information necessary to administer medications and follow up on referrals. Regarding the latter point, the Health Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties revealed that non-Spanish speaking families (i.e., indigenous families) often do not comprehend medical information provided to them by interpreters at local health and dental clinics. Thus, it was noted that this population risks, for example, administering medications incorrectly.

Related to the final point in the above paragraph, medical providers noted that there is not a system in place for long-term care and support for mobile migrant families. Thus, providers can only treat small problems and not work with patients to *prevent* medical and dental conditions from developing in the first place. Additionally, providers expressed an interest in exploring whether certain naturopathic methods and medicines would better suit this population in light of the fact that such methods are more culturally appropriate (i.e., herbal, earth based, organic, etc.).



An interview with the Health Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties confirms that the ability of parents to comprehend instructions around administering medications continues to be an issue. To address this, the agency is currently developing several strategies, including bringing in medical providers to talk to parents during parent meetings and doing so with the necessary personnel to interpret in parents' primary language. Likewise, during a focus group with parents of program participants, it was also noted that interpretation continues to be the primary barrier in accessing medical and dental care. Several parents indicated that they work with El Programa Hispano to make appointments and identify additional providers.

## ► FAMILY SERVICES

In 2004, the Oregon Department of Human Services released figures estimating the number of child abuse victims in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties to be 2,537 children, with an average increase of 42 percent between 2003 and 2004.<sup>64</sup> These figures amount to approximately 13 child abuse victims per 1,000 children in Multnomah County and 5 children abuse victims per 1,000 children in Clackamas County. Shelter counts in Region 2 - an area which includes Multnomah and Clackamas Counties - show that 577 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 16,562.<sup>65</sup> These regional figures are the highest in the state of Oregon, with nearly 10 percent of those receiving shelter services for 30 days or more. Additionally, during the 2004-2005 school year, school districts in Multnomah County and Clackamas County report 2,193 homeless students and 379 homeless students, respectively.

*"Families really see us as the primary resource."*

*-Family Service Manager  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Multnomah and Clackamas Counties*

Figures from the Oregon Department of Human Services show 5,318 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cases in Multnomah County in March of 2006. Relative to the previous year, this figure represents a 5.2 percent decrease in the number of TANF cases.<sup>66</sup> Likewise, the number of food stamps cases also declined by approximately 1 percent.<sup>67</sup> However, it is noted that such declines in the number of TANF and food stamps cases may actually reflect DHS budget cuts rather than diminishing needs. Figure 8.5 displays usage rates of TANF assistance and food stamps in Multnomah County.

In 2005, 26 percent (n=55) of all families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties identified as single parent families. In 100 percent of these families was the parent or guardian employed; whereas, of the total number of two-parent families, 52 percent had both partners in the workforce.<sup>68</sup> In 2005, 5 families received benefits

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Figure 8.5 – *Multnomah County Data Book*, 2002, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>64</sup> *The State of Children in Oregon's Child Protective System*, 2004, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>65</sup> *Summary of Services Provided by Domestic and Sexual Violence Service Programs Funded by DHS*, 2005, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>66</sup> *Oregon TANF Caseload Flash*, May 2006, Oregon Department of Human Services.

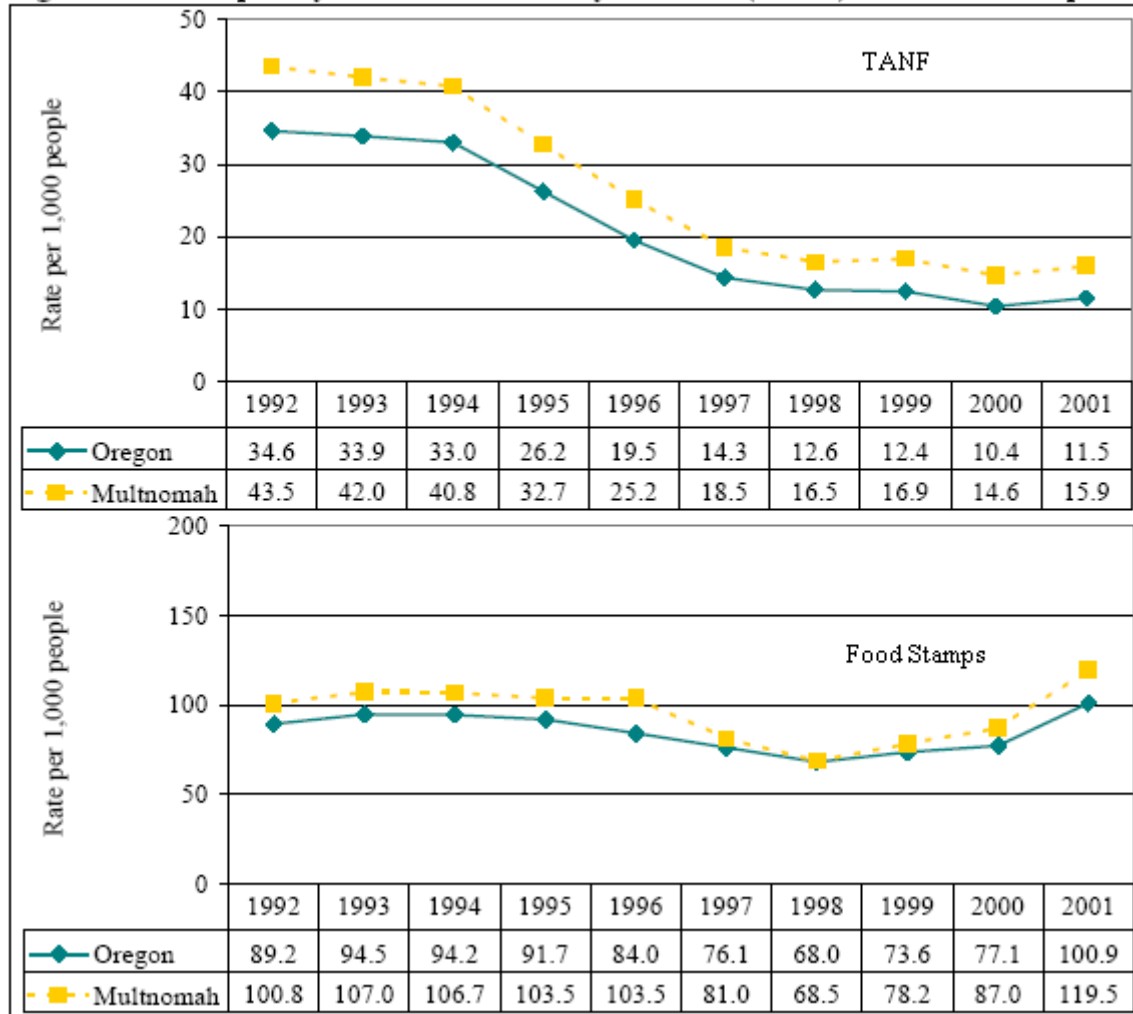
<sup>67</sup> *Oregon Food Stamp Caseload Flash*, May 2006, Oregon Department of Human Services.

*Clackamas County Data Book*, 2002, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Oregon Department of Human Services.



under the TANF program, a decrease of 67 percent from the previous year. In addition, the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program responded to a range of family needs, the most common being emergency and crisis intervention, transportation assistance and ESL needs.

**Figure 8.5 - 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 Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties 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 Multnomah and Clackamas Counties providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Shelter services in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties are provided by the following agencies and programs: Clackamas Women’s Resource Center, Community Advocates/Listen to Kids, Desorrollo de la Familia, El Programa Hispano, IRCO, Lotus,

<sup>68</sup> Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



the Native American Family Healing Circle, Portland' Women's Crisis Line, Raphael House, Russian Oregon Social Services, Volunteers of America Home Free, West Women's and Children's Shelter, and YWCA Yolanda House.<sup>69</sup>

- The Oregon Food Bank - Metro Services boasts 91 food pantries, 38 emergency meal programs and 103 supplemental programs. Each month, 282,617 food boxes are distributed, serving some 70,049 individuals.<sup>70</sup>
- Oregon 211 provides information and referral services in the Multnomah and Clackamas Counties and is currently looking to improve outreach to the Hispanic population.
- El Programa Hispano serves 10,000 clients annually, advocating for those in need, focusing on information and referral and short term intervention. They also offer the Unica program, a domestic violence program with a crisis line, outreach and transition assistance.
- Snowcap provides food and clothing to migrant families and has partnered with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties to provide vouchers and access to resources at their Gresham, Oregon, office.
- Catholic Charities provides a range of services, including immigration legal services, refugee resettlement services, and pregnancy support and adoption services.
- Lakeridge Latter Day Saints provides the Adopt a Family program which provides support to 20 families per year. Support includes food, new clothing and Christmas gifts for children and adults.
- J. Frank Schmidt Nursery has donated shrubs to the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties for the playground, as well as potting soil for the children's vegetable garden.
- Oregon Community Warehouse donates beds, sofas and other furniture.
- Additional support comes from local businesses, including Wal-Mart, Dollar Tree, and Bi-mart.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest family services needs of children and families in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. Respondents emphasized that while necessary partnerships are in place, there is a need to grow collaborations to avoid service duplication. Local providers have attempted to address this in the past; however, such efforts have not progressed beyond the planning stage. Additionally, it was noted that there may be some animosity between some providers in the community. During one interview, it was stated that “[other local providers] may not be thrilled with our...advocacy tactics.” Thus, the ability to grow collaborative efforts may first need to undergo a period of repair before notable progress can be made.

Respondents also stressed the need for educating families about their rights and the legal system. In addition to concerns about the barriers posed by lack of documentation as discussed earlier, providers also emphasized that their clients have been victims of by pay-day lenders, prompting one provider to begin working on a pay-day loan ordinance after finding that an increasing number of Hispanic clients were in need of outreach and advocacy in this area.

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<sup>69</sup>Summary of Services Provided by Domestic and Sexual Violence Service Programs Funded by DHS, 2005, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>70</sup>Regional Food Banks at a Glance, 2005, Oregon Food Bank.



Providers view the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties as a reliable partner in the community but note that there is a need to increase exposure and communication between management and directors. Further, providers are seeing a need to grow outreach and education efforts aimed at addressing three primary issues - legal documentation, parenting skills and crime and gang prevention - and would benefit from greater access to Migrant Seasonal Head Start parent meetings and other such events.

An interview and focus group with the Family Service Manager and Family Service Workers for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties revealed that opportunities exist in the area of continuing to involve local growers in the life of the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. It was noted that the waiting list for the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program this year shows an increase in the number of infants and toddlers. The ability to serve these children, as well as provide additional services requested by parents (e.g., transportation, translation, etc), may be made possible by increasing local support.

A focus group with parents of program participants confirms that families are in fact utilizing services provided by church groups and social service agencies, including Snowcap, and have the information and resources necessary to secure these services on their own. However, it is noted that such may not necessarily be the case of short-term migrant families who do not speak Spanish. In their case, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties continues to advocate for these families.

## ► **CHILDCARE**

The Oregon Childcare Research Partnership lists a total of 1,253 certified childcare providers in Multnomah County and 587 certified childcare providers in Clackamas County, with approximately 21,334 childcare slots and 9,632 childcare slots respectively. These figures translate into a respective 19 childcare slots and 15 childcare slots for every 100 children, both several slots short of the state benchmark of 25 childcare slots per 100 children.<sup>71</sup>

Depending on family type, the Oregon Childcare Research Partnership found that up to 39 percent and 46 percent of families in Multnomah County and Clackamas County with children under the age of 13 use some form of paid childcare, with 25 percent and 27 percent, respectively, of all children currently enrolled in paid childcare. In addition, the report found that families in Multnomah County and Clackamas County use on average 32 hours and 42 hours of paid childcare per week, respectively.

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<sup>71</sup> *Estimated Supply of Childcare in Oregon as of July 1, 2004*, April 26, 2005, Oregon Childcare Research Partnership.



Childcare costs in Region A - an area that includes most of Multnomah and Clackamas Counties - are the highest in the state, with the median hourly and monthly

**Table 8.13 - Childcare Costs by Type of Care**

	Family Childcare		Certified Family Childcare		Center Based Childcare	
	Hourly	Monthly	Hourly	Monthly	Hourly	Monthly
Infant	\$2.39	\$393	\$2.66	\$424	\$3.29	\$526
Toddler	\$2.12	\$361	\$2.39	\$382	\$3.18	\$509
Pre K	\$2.12	\$340	\$2.22	\$359	\$2.34	\$372

costs listed in Table 8.13. Researchers from Oregon State University found a statistically significant difference in childcare costs between Region A and other regions of the state of Oregon, suggesting a unique childcare market Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.<sup>72</sup> 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 Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

The following is a breakdown of some of the agencies providing childcare and related services to children and families in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

- Childcare Resource and Referral in Multnomah County makes approximately 1,200 referrals annually, as well as provides training and assistance to approximately 1,000 childcare providers. In addition, Childcare Resource and Referral in Multnomah County employs a Spanish Specialist and has a Spanish speaker on the referral line.
- Childcare Resource and Referral in Clackamas County also handles childcare referrals, as well as training and assistance to childcare providers.
- Within Multnomah County, there are 242 certified childcare centers and 893 family childcare homes. Of the total number of childcare homes, 49 are listed as primary Spanish speakers.
- Within Clackamas County, there are 70 certified childcare centers and 362 family childcare homes. Of the total number of childcare homes, 41 are listed as primary Spanish speakers.
- Additionally, there are an unspecified number of exempt childcare providers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest childcare needs of children and families in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. Providers noted that additional after hours care is becoming increasingly necessary to accommodate parents working second and third shift. According to respondents, the most critical hours are those before 6 am when care is not available. A focus group with home-based childcare providers also revealed that care is needed on Saturdays and Sundays. Further, providers also noted that public transportation routes are not conducive to getting children to childcare providers, especially for those parents with work schedules beginning as early as 5 am. Thus, the conclusion may be reached that additional care - both in terms of hours of service and the number of days per week - is a current need.

<sup>72</sup> 2004 Oregon Childcare Market Rate Study, August 2004, Oregon State University Family Policy Program, Oregon Childcare Research Partnership.



During interviews with service providers from across the spectrum, the need for additional childcare was expressed universally. Further, providers emphasized the need for quality, culturally and linguistically appropriate childcare. To address this, Childcare Resource and Referral in Multnomah County has been making mini-grants available to childcare providers to increase the stock of quality childcare for special needs children. An interview with the Director of Childcare Resource and Referral in Multnomah County revealed that, while these grants are effective, they are not at all sufficient to address the current need. In 2005, nearly 200 childcare providers applied for 50 only mini-grants.

Interviews with the above providers revealed many opportunities for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties to collaboratively address childcare needs in the community. Childcare Resource and Referral in Multnomah County and the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties have signed a written agreement and are looking develop joint staff trainings. However, additional opportunities exist for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties to provide assistance in recruiting and training Spanish-speaking providers, a task that has been difficult for Childcare Resource and Referral in Multnomah County.

Likewise, home-based childcare providers are also looking to the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. During a focus group with 4 Spanish speaking childcare providers, it was expressed that providers could benefit from joint trainings that were either free or at a reduced price. Providers also expressed an interest in working with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties to accommodate referrals, as well as develop informational and education materials for parents.

As quality is an issue, home-based childcare providers also indicated that they would benefit from information and trainings designed to assist them with implementing an educational curriculum, as well as with managing time and resources. Providers also continue to need access to classes and other trainings, most notably ESL and the Child Development Associates (CDA).

## ► **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

Transitioning from a discussion of childcare to one of transportation and housing, Appendix C8.2 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.

The following is a breakdown of the various transportation providers and services in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

- TriMet links eastern Multnomah County with the Portland metro area, serving 575 square miles and is seeing growing ridership by 16 percent annually.<sup>73</sup> TriMet also provides travel trainings and services through Ride Connection.
- Ride Connection offers individualized transportation services such as U-Ride, a shared ride system designed to provide a partial solution to the absence of public transportation in rural areas.

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<sup>73</sup> *Ridership Statistics and Demographics*, 2006, TriMet.



- Sandy Area Metro (SAM) provides transportation services between Gresham, Oregon, and Sandy, Oregon. Each month, over 15,000 rides are provided, including rides to roughly 750 elderly and disabled passengers.
- The Gresham Fire Department and the Pregnancy Crisis Center provide car seat installation trainings.

An interview with the Transportation Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties revealed that high fuel costs have been an issue for the agency this year, with costs having increased by 55 cents per mile. In response, the agency has been working to make stops more efficient, as well improve routes to ensure that existing routes do not cross one another, an indicator that multiple busses are covering the same area.

The Transportation Coordinator also noted the parents continue to need more education around (i) utilizing public transportation services in the community and (ii) securing car seats and necessary training. To address the former, it was suggested that the agency work to bring in representatives from Tri-Met and Sandy Area Metro (SAM) to not only discuss existing services, but also gain input about potential new routes. Currently, existing routes are either infrequent or do not stop near the current program center location in Gresham, Oregon. To address the latter, it was suggested that the agency explore options for training parents and potential car seat technicians in-house.

Related to the above paragraph, parents of program participants indicated that it would be beneficial for parents to bring local transportation providers together at one time to not only talk about available services, but also about the integration of these services toward more effectively serving the migrant population.

In the area of housing, the following is a breakdown of the various housing complexes and housing services in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

- At least 64 apartment complexes in Multnomah County, such as the Clara Vista Apartments, cater to low-income and migrant families. Overall, there are several thousand units; however, it is noted many of these are in areas that are not near agricultural areas.
- There are 98 manufactured home parks in Multnomah County, the majority of which are located in the eastern portion of the county.
- There are 5 farm labor camps in Multnomah County. Together, these camps are able to accommodate 476 individuals.
- At least 10 apartment complexes in north Clackamas County, such as the Sandy Vista Apartments, cater to low-income families. Overall, there are several hundred units, many of which are located in or near agricultural areas.
- There are 90 manufactured home parks in Clackamas County, the majority of which are located in the more rural areas of the county.
- There are 20 farm labor camps in Clackamas County. Together, these camps are able to accommodate 493 individuals.
- Since 1999, Caritas Housing Initiatives has acquired, renovated and built 80 units of housing for low-income and special needs populations, including Casa Verde in Canby, Oregon, and Rondel Court in Molalla, Oregon.



- The Housing Authority of Portland provides affordable housing options, public housing and the Section 8 Housing Voucher program.
- The Clackamas County Housing Authority provides housing and rental assistance in the forms of low rent public housing, rental assistance, and a transitions program to house families with homeless children.

Interviews with service providers from across the spectrum revealed that affordable housing is currently an unmet need in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. Housing costs continue to increase while subsidies do not. Further, Section 8 and HUD have long waiting lists and, as of recently, have closed their waiting lists. Such shortages have prompted several groups to initiate collaborative efforts designed to address this need. Metro Health and Family Services, for example, has assembled the Community Alliance of Tenants, whereby they work with Hispanic tenants on a number of housing and shelter related issues.

Parents of program participants indicated that they pay on average of 25-50 percent of their household income towards rent each month. Parents also noted, however, that their income fluctuates with the level of available work in the area. Thus, during certain months (e.g., September through November), this percentage increases as household income declines. Additionally, several parents expressed concerns that their current dwelling was not large enough to accommodate the number of occupants living there.

**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 Multnomah County in carrying out its mission to improve the lives of children and families.

**Figure 8.6 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Bilingual, bicultural staff and materials are a resource in the community.</li> <li>* A diversity of partnerships works to ensure necessary resources for families and children as well as promote collaborative approaches to community needs.</li> <li>* Parent involvement in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program is recognized by the community as a strength in reaching the migrant population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* While median income figures for Multnomah and Clackamas Counties are some of the highest in the state, both counties continue to see pockets of impoverished families with a growing gap between those with and without means.</li> <li>* There is a need to continue to expose the work of the agency to the agricultural community, particularly those decision makers with means to provide support.</li> </ul>



Opportunities	Threats
<p>* Providers from across the spectrum indicated an interest in further developing partnerships and agreements to tackle new and emergent needs.</p> <p>* Additional involvement with local childcare providers would be advantageous for all parties involved, as well as a platform for the agency to market its expertise in the community.</p>	<p>* Berry acreage in both Multnomah and Clackamas Counties is declining which may have the effect of deterring migrant families from traveling to the area.</p> <p>* While not growing as fast as other areas of the state, Multnomah County and Clackamas County continue to see their share of development, resulting in higher rent, costlier services, etc.</p>

► **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 Multnomah 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 Multnomah County**

**Observation:** Given the diversity of needs in the community, local agencies and providers would benefit from the expertise of the agency in the following areas: (i) effectively serving the migrant population, (ii) cultural and linguistic appropriateness, and (iii) promoting greater parent and family involvement.

**Recommendation:** Continue to engage local providers in developing collaborative strategies for addressing community needs and supporting such efforts through, for example, joint trainings and a standing invitation for community agencies and providers to attend and participate in parent meetings.

**Observations and Recommendations: Education**

**Observation:** Additional Migrant Seasonal Head Start services are needed in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, more so in Clackamas County for both migrant and seasonal children.

**Recommendation:** Continue to explore additional public and private support as a way to increase the number of available slots and children served.



**Observation:** Agencies and programs providing early childhood education services are seeing funding cuts and limited resources, thereby growing waiting lists and limiting the ability of Head Start providers to serve families in need.

**Recommendation:** Continue to partner with Head Start and other providers to streamline processes (e.g., recruitment, referrals, etc) in an effort to direct needed resource to serving a greater number of [Migrant] Head Start eligible children.

### **Observations and Recommendations: Mental Health and Disabilities**

**Observation:** Stigma issues continue to threaten identifying and serving children with disabilities.

**Recommendation:** Continue to develop supportive, educational opportunities to educate parents about children's development, as well as about resources in the community that are available to them.

### **Observations and Recommendations: Health and Nutrition**

**Observation:** The agency boasts a diverse group of health and nutrition providers that serve the migrant population.

**Recommendation:** Recent concerns about the ability of indigenous families to comprehend medical and nutrition instructions invites the agency to begin exploring this issue collectively with existing partners to develop plans for promoting long-term preventive care while building the capacity of families to ensure healthy habits upon out-migration.

### **Observations and Recommendations: Family Services**

**Observation:** The current immigration debate has raised concerns about barriers to services that are the result of misinformation and/or lack of documentation.

**Recommendation:** Continue to build relationships and training opportunities with local services providers and growers to explore opportunities for educating parents about their rights, the legal system, and how to secure needed services.

### **Observations and Recommendations: Childcare**

**Observation:** Childcare Resource and Referral of Multnomah County and the Oregon Child Development Coalition of Multnomah and Clackamas Counties share an existing interagency agreement.



**Recommendation:** In light of concerns over the availability and quality of childcare, work to bring other agencies and childcare providers into the fold to grow training opportunities and build the capacity of local [home] providers.

### **Observations and Recommendations: Transportation and Housing**

**Observation:** Parents have expressed a desire to learn more about the public transportation options available to them.

**Recommendation:** Continue building relationships with local transportation providers, and sponsor joint meetings to communicate information about available services and provide input on the transportation needs of migrant families.

### **SUMMARY**

There is much evidence to suggest that local service providers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties are quite capable in providing services to their respective target populations. However, that said, it is also apparent that as these providers identify and attempt to respond to new and emergent needs in the community, that they cannot do so in isolation. Resources are too scarce, and the scope of new and emerging needs is too broad. Thus, the agency would do well to continue building partnerships, as well as opportunities for parents to provide direct input into planning processes.

The above consideration is particularly important given key changes in the community. As discussed, agriculture is undergoing a shift, moving away from those commodities that typically require the labor of migrant farmworkers toward greenhouse and nursery commodities. That a greater number of seasonal families are electing to remain in the area and work in these greenhouses and nurseries warrants the agency in continuing to develop strategies to build the capacity of these families to secure resources on their own and advocate for themselves.

