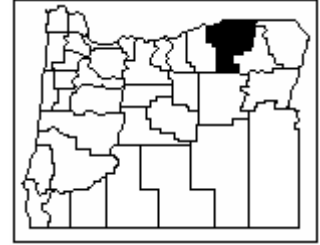


## UMATILLA COUNTY

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County 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 Umatilla County serves a total of 286 children annually. Of these, 196 children are classified as migrant children and 90 are classified as seasonal children. In 2005, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County served 106 percent of funded enrollment. As of May 2006, average daily attendance was 86 percent.



The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County currently employs a center-based option, serving children from two locations in Hermiston, Oregon, and Milton-Freewater, Oregon. The short-term program runs 14 weeks from July through October, operating 17 classrooms, 5 days per week from 6 am to 4 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from April through November, operating 7 classrooms, 5 days per week from 8 am to 2 pm.

The service area includes the entirety of Umatilla County, some 3,231 square miles. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County attends to those especially agricultural areas of Umatilla County, (ii) the program center locations and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start Performance Standards. For illustrative purposes, Appendix C10.1 displays a map containing the service area, as well as grower's locations and program center locations.

### COUNTY SNAPSHOT

#### ► QUICK FACTS

- Umatilla County has seen nearly 3 percent growth in its population over the past 5 years, with areas such as Umatilla, Oregon, and Hermiston, Oregon seeing more explosive growth since 2000.
- The median household income in Umatilla County is 15 percent lower than the state median, with nearly 1,300 children under the age of 6 living in poverty and 52 percent of public school children eligible for free and reduced lunch.
- As of 2006, there are an estimated 63 unserved, eligible Head Start children in Umatilla County with the percentage of unserved, eligible children at 11.8 percent.
- With unemployment at 7.4 percent, Umatilla County is seeing growth in professional and business services, trade, transportation and utilities, and manufacturing.
- Over the past year, Umatilla County has seen a sizeable reduction in harvested acres of potatoes (-8.0%), the county's most profitable commodity, in an attempt to increase demand and boost sales.



- In 2005, there were an estimated 1,925 migrant farmworkers (-13.0% between 2002 and 2005) and 4,004 seasonal farmworkers (-20.0% between 2002 and 2005) in Umatilla County with the total number of migrant and seasonal children under the age of 6 estimated at 142 children and 127 children, respectively.

▶ **CRITICAL ISSUES**

- Immigration and Changes in Agriculture.

*“I’ve been amazed at the racial biases.”*

*-Local service provider  
Umatilla County*

While U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were not rumored to have visited Umatilla County this year, local *growers continue to be concerned about the labor supply* in light of changes in agriculture, especially in the Milton-Freewater area. Unlike in other areas of the state where agricultural operations are being consolidated, small farms in and Milton-Freewater continue to be swallowed up by larger farms in the area without any transfer of ownership. Thus, in the event that the apple crop goes bad - which, currently, there is some speculation that it might in light of infections, concerns around the Codling Moth, and the possible reallocation of up to 25 cubic feet per second of water from nearby Walla Walla - large growers are able to avoid major losses by avoiding ownership altogether.<sup>1</sup>

The uncertainties surrounding the current immigration debate only promote the continued practice of leasing land. Thus, while for the present time migrant farmworkers have elected to travel to the area in droves this year given poor crop conditions in California, it is not clear at this point whether Milton-Freewater’s agricultural economy will move in a direction to warrant the need for such labor over the long-term. Currently, efforts are underway to help ensure the health and viability of the area’s apple crop, however it remains to be seen whether such efforts will be successful.

**COUNTY PROFILE**

▶ **GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Umatilla County is located in northeast Oregon in the Columbia Plateau region of the state along the Columbia River before its turn north into Washington State. *Umatilla* means *water rippling over sand*, a testimony to the desert like environment in this area of the state. Umatilla County spans 3,231 square miles with elevation at Pendleton, the county seat, at 1,068 feet above sea level.<sup>2</sup> Average temperatures range from well above 32 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to well above 74 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The area receives approximately 13 inches of rain annually, including snow during the winter months.

Umatilla County was established in 1862 out of a portion of then Wasco County in response to a number of gold rushes in the area, which had the effect of creating Umatilla City and bringing

<sup>1</sup> Oregon State University Extension Service, 2006.

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



stock raisers to the area.<sup>3</sup> Not a destination for the Lewis and Clark expedition, growth in Umatilla County did not take place until 1881 with the arrival of the railroad and the development of large-scale irrigation efforts. What was once dry desert is now an ideal environment for growing potatoes, apples, onions and melons. Thus, Umatilla County boasts a strong agricultural base.

Not surprisingly, the issue of water and water rights is an explosive political issue in Umatilla County. In 2005, the Umatilla County Critical Groundwater Task Force entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Institute of Natural Resources and the Institute for Water and Watersheds at Oregon State University.<sup>4</sup> The intent of this agreement was to study water resources, particularly the intensive use of groundwater for agriculture and drinking water supplies in the Umatilla Basin. With roughly 89 percent of water in the Umatilla Basin being used for agriculture, opposing groups are looking for ways forward that not only focus on conservation, but also attend to issues that are equally relevant, namely - in the Milton-Freewater area, for example, roughly one-third of the economy is in some way dependent on the agricultural industry.

► **ECONOMIC PROFILE**

In 2003, the median per capita personal income in Umatilla County was \$23,001, which falls well below the 50th percentile when compared with all other counties across Oregon. In fact, this figure ranks well below both those for Oregon (\$29,175) and the United States (\$31,487).<sup>5</sup> Looking at household income, figures from the U.S. Census Bureau show that nearly 50 percent of households in Umatilla County earn less than \$35,000 per year.<sup>6</sup> In context, this means that a family of four living in Umatilla County falls on average \$3,341 short of what is needed to meet necessary estimated yearly expenses, including rent, food, childcare, transportation, insurance and taxes.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 10.1 - Employment by Sector**

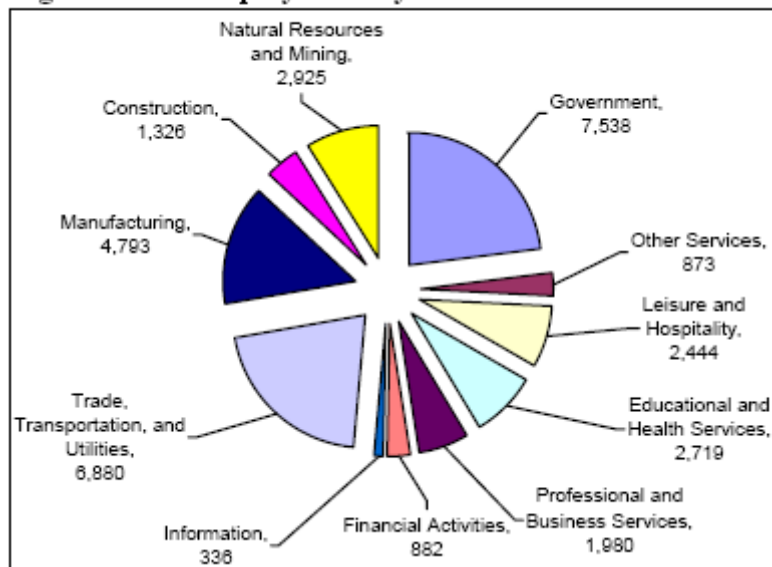


Figure 10.1 displays information for each of the major industries in this area of the state. Government and trade, transportation and utilities continue to be the largest industry categories

Figure 10.1 – Dallas Fridley, *Regional Profile: Industry Employment in Region 12, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>3</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Karen Hutchinson-Talaski, *Groups to Study Water Resources*, November 18, 2005, The Hermiston Herald.

<sup>5</sup> *Oregon Per Capita Personal Income: 1980-2004*, November 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>6</sup> *DP-3: Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics*, 2000, United States Census Bureau.

<sup>7</sup> Economic Policy Institute, 2005



in this area of the state, employing roughly one-third of the workforce in Region 12, an area that includes Umatilla County. It is noted that the government sector includes the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, as well as the Eastern Oregon and Two River's correctional facilities. In general, for the most part, Umatilla County boasts a diverse group of industries marked by an agricultural base and a connection to food manufacturing.

Food manufacturing is of particular importance to the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County, as many families served by the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program have ties to this industry. As the major type manufacturing in this region of the state, food manufacturing has continued to add jobs despite the fact that Umatilla County saw annual average job counts drop by 1.2 percent between 2002 and 2003.<sup>8</sup> However, state economists estimate that food manufacturing will actually shed jobs over the long-term, down by 3.7 percent by 2012 and employing some 3,100 workers. Over the long-term, this estimate is consistent with what is currently taking place in this region of the state, namely that service producing industries are expected to dominate job growth to the tune of over 2,600 jobs between 2002 and 2012.<sup>9</sup>

While Umatilla County represents 88 percent of the labor force in Region 12 - an area that includes both Umatilla and Morrow Counties - it accounts for only 86 percent of unemployment in the Region.<sup>10</sup> The reason for this difference is that, while the unemployment rate in neighboring Morrow County consistently ranks as one of the highest in the state, the employment rate in Umatilla County is typically lower than the state figure. That said, unemployment estimates as of March 2006 suggest otherwise, with the unemployment rate in Umatilla County at 8.5 percent, higher than the state and national unemployment rates at the time of 6.5 percent and 5.1 percent respectively.<sup>11</sup> In context, this figure is actually an improvement from the figure in January of 2004 when the county's unemployment rate reached 11.6 percent and, furthermore, is several points lower than preceding figures from January and March of 2006.

**Figure 10.2 - Total Employment and Unemployment**

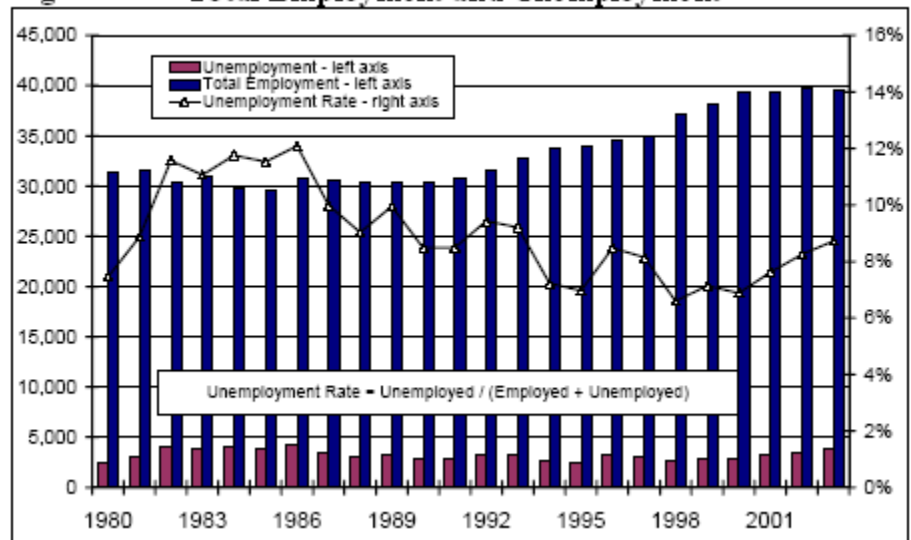


Figure 10.2 – Dallas Fridley, *Regional Profile: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment in Region 12, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>8</sup> Dallas Fridley, *Regional Profile: Industry Employment in Region 12, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>9</sup> Dallas Fridley, *Regional Profile: Industry Employment in Region 12, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>10</sup> Dallas Fridley, *Regional Profile: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment in Region 12, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

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



Over time, unemployment in Umatilla has typically been lower than that in other rural counties given its proximity to Interstates 84 and 82; hence, it is not surprising that trade, transportation and utilities continues to be one of the leading industry categories in this region of the state.<sup>12</sup> In addition, Umatilla County boasts access to the Columbia River, a major shipping route, and major rail lines. Interestingly, as relates to the earlier discussion around the importance of food manufacturing, state economists cite the potential closure of major food manufacturing plants in Umatilla County as one of the primary threats to the economic health of this region. With the closure of a major food manufacturing plant in Milton-Freewater in 2004, as well as other concerns related to the future of agriculture in and around this area, it remains to be seen whether the unemployment rate in Umatilla County will improve as predicted by state economists.

As relates to food manufacturing, an interview with a representative from an operation in Hermiston, Oregon, revealed that greater international competition in recent years has had the effect of keeping inventories high and demand low.<sup>13</sup> According to this respondent, in 2006, the number of harvested acres of peas declined by nearly 25 percent relative to the previous year simply because inventories were high. Likewise, asparagus acreage was down this year given a loss of market share to international competitors, namely Chile and Peru. As many of those employed by food manufacturers are seasonal farmworkers, it is not surprising that estimates for this population in 2005 show a subsequent decline in the number of laborers.

In 2002, Alice C. Larson estimated the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Umatilla County.<sup>14</sup> These estimates, as well as 2005 estimates calculated by the Oregon Child Development Coalition, are shown in Table 10.1. Between 2002 and 2005, the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Umatilla County declined by 13 percent and 20 percent, respectively. Arguably, such estimates evidence the changing agricultural landscape in Umatilla County in light of stiff international competition and a growing service industry, which has the effect of pulling laborers out of agriculture and, in some cases, into better paying, more stable employment.

**Table 10.1 - Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers**

	2002	2005
<b>Umatilla County</b>		
MFWs	1,703	1,925
SFWs	5,002	4,004
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,705</b>	<b>5,929</b>

On average, agricultural operations in Umatilla County currently employ some 3,050 farmworkers per month.<sup>15</sup> Monthly agricultural employment estimates are shown in Figure 10.3 for both the general population of farmworkers (FWs), as well as for migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs).<sup>16</sup> Note the labor peaks during the months of June and August. These dates correspond with, among others, the potato, apple and onion harvests taking place during these times.

<sup>12</sup> Dallas Fridley, *Regional Profile: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment in Region 12*, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>13</sup> *Easter Oregon's Pea Growers Fighting for Survival*, February 9, 2001, Oregon State University News and Communication Services.

<sup>14</sup> Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon*, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.

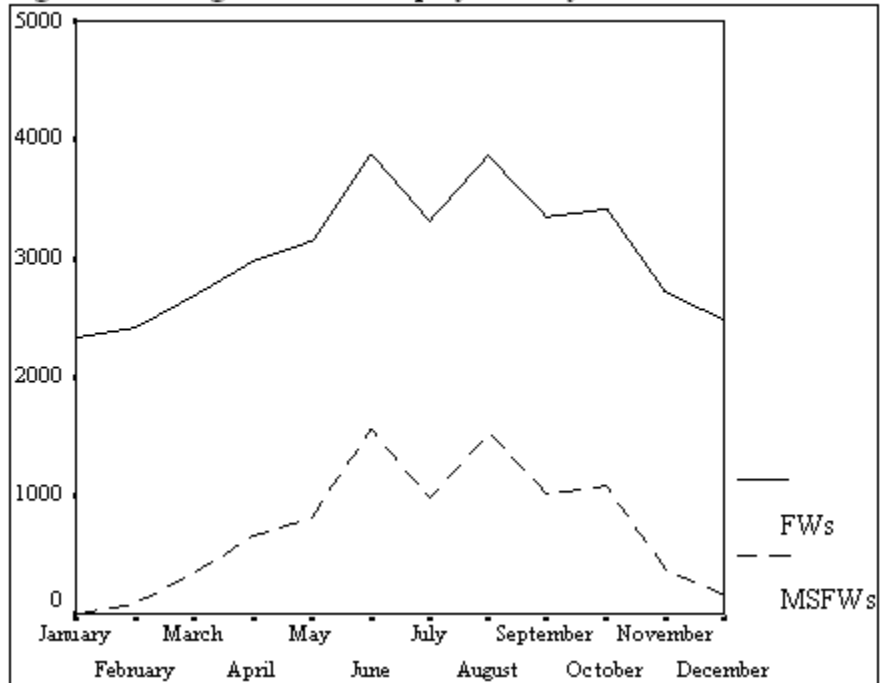
<sup>15</sup> *2005 Oregon Agricultural Employment Estimates*, 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>16</sup> *2005 Oregon Agricultural Employment Estimates*, 2006, Oregon Employment Department.



Also of interest is the relatively consistent need for the migrant and seasonal farmworkers from April through October. In collecting data for this assessment, a focus group was conducted with parents with children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. As displayed graphically in Figure 10.3, parents stressed the need for additional Migrant Seasonal Head Start services, specifically a short-term program that begins as early as April or May. The data displayed in Figure 10.3 would support the need for such additional services.

**Figure 10.3 - Agricultural Employment by Month**



That said, there are some key agricultural developments taking place in Umatilla that will ultimately determine if the need for labor from April through October will remain in the future. For starters, potato growers in Umatilla County have joined with a statewide cooperative to voluntarily reduce and stabilize potato acreage so as to increase potato prices and sales nationwide.<sup>17</sup> Table 10.2 displays information for selected crop outputs in 2004 and 2005. Note the 8 percent reduction in potato acreage between 2004 and 2005 and the consequent 7 percent increase in sales.<sup>18</sup> What is more is that these efforts could not have come at a better time as Japan recently agreed to accept chipping stock potatoes, the first time Japan has allowed fresh potatoes from the United States into the country.<sup>19</sup>

In light of the above discussion, it is seemingly the case that as potato growers farm with greater efficiency, the need for additional labor will lessen. For example, in eastern Oregon’s Malheur County, another potato growing region, growers are increasingly turning to machines for “topping” onions, as well as spraying fields to lessen the need for hand weeding later. Thus, as shown earlier in Table 10.1, it is not surprising that the estimated number of migrant farmworkers also declined by 13 percent between 2002 and 2005.

<sup>17</sup> Mitch Lies, *Spud Growers Continue Cutting Acreage*, 2006, Capital Press.  
<sup>18</sup> *Farmers Band Together to Say Enough is Too Much*, June 16, 2006, Capital Press.  
<sup>19</sup> Oregon Agricultural Information Network, 2006.  
<sup>19</sup> Dave Wilkins, *Japan OKs U.S. Chipping Spuds*, February 6, 2006, Capital Press.



**Table 10.2 - Selected Crop Outputs<sup>20</sup>**

Umatilla County	2004			2005		
	Acres	Production	Sales (in \$000s)	Acres	Production	Sales (in \$000s)
Potatoes	12,500	7,500,000	\$35,625	11,500	8,050,000	\$38,238
Apples	2,900	2,030,000	\$12,688	2,900	2,030,000	\$27,527
Onions	5,800	3,258	\$12,780	5,800	3,420	\$13,395
Watermelons	350	420,000	\$4,200	400	560,000	\$6,160
Cants. & Muskmelons	95	71,250	\$2,496	95	71,250	\$1,496
Squash & Pumpkins	35	1,575	\$173	35	1,645	\$181
Prunes & Plums	325	1,625	\$244	300	1,500	\$300

A second major agricultural commodity in grown in Umatilla County, apples made a comeback in the marketplace in 2005, with total sales increasing by 117 percent despite the stabilization of harvested acreage and production. According to a representative from the Oregon State University's Agricultural Extension office in Milton-Freewater, there is currently some concern about the longevity of apples in Umatilla County. The OSU Extension office is working with local growers to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of codling moth, introduced to apple orchards some 200 years ago by colonial immigrants and responsible for major disruptions in production.<sup>21</sup>

To put this problem in perspective, east Asian countries have adopted a three strikes policy on codling moth. In essence, this means that once three *apples* - apples, as opposed to entire shipments - are found to contain codling moth damage, all imports are suspended. Two years ago, such an event came to pass with the third strike coming from an apple orchard in Milton-Freewater. The total dollar value of lost fruit was \$26 million, a hit that local, state and national orchardists cannot afford once again. Accordingly, efforts are currently underway to enact an ordinance in Milton-Freewater which would provide incentives for local residents to cut down individual fruit trees at their residence which are not being maintained.

Other commodities not shown in Table 10.2 include cherries and wine grapes, each of which do not show up in the Oregon Agricultural Information Network's database given the limited number of harvested acres. That said, both cherries and wine grapes are harvested by hand; thus the need for migrant and seasonal farmworkers. In 2005, Sunset magazine ran an article on Walla Walla, Washington, an area along the Oregon-Washington border near the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program center in Milton-Freewater.<sup>22</sup> Specifically, the story highlighted the ideal conditions in the Walla Walla Valley for wine grape production, raising concerns among many local residents that the popularity of this region will result in explosive population growth similar to what has happened in Bend, Oregon's fastest

<sup>20</sup> Oregon Agricultural Information Network, 20010.

Unit of production varies by commodity.

<sup>21</sup> *Issue Papers*, 2006, U.S. Apple Association.

<sup>22</sup> Sara Schneider, *Walla Walla Spring*, 2005, Sunset Magazine.



growing city, which grew by 35 percent between 2000 and 2005.<sup>23</sup> Accordingly, local residents have adopted the slogan, “Don’t ‘Bend’ Walla Walla” in response to the influx of local developers to the area.<sup>24</sup>

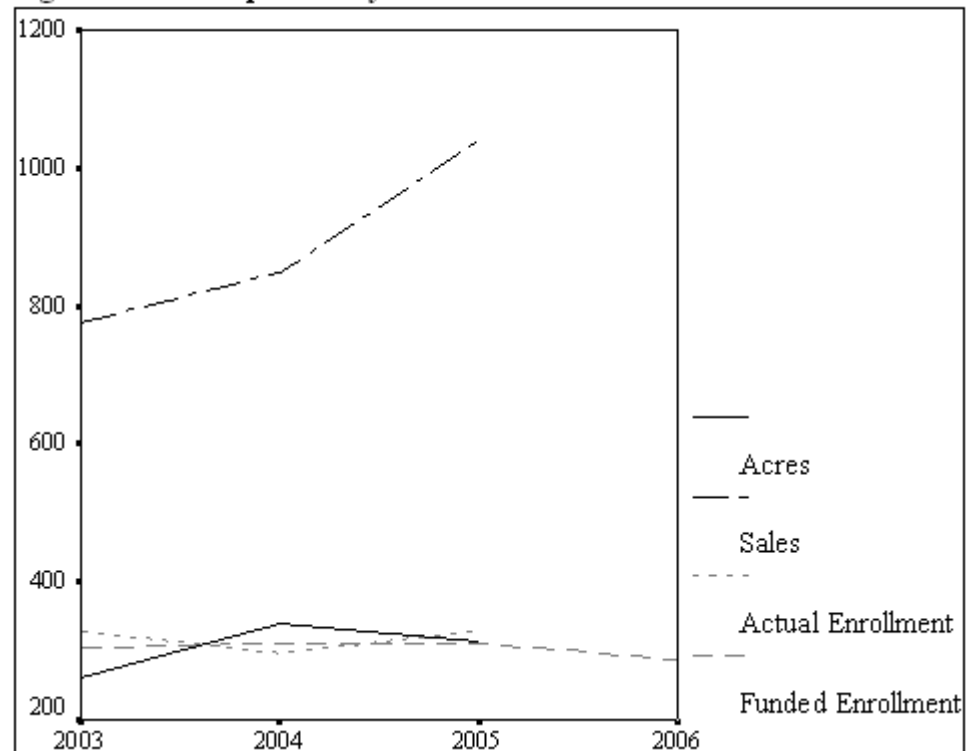
As of 2006, the largest employer of families enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in the entire state of Oregon has recently invested in cider and wine grapes, with plans to open a tasting room in Milton-Freewater. Such developments speak to the changing nature of agriculture in Umatilla County. The same operation that plans to open this tasting room in Milton-Freewater is also leasing a greater number of acres these days. According to a representative from the OSU Extension office, growers in Umatilla County are increasingly leasing acreage as a type of insurance to prevent significant financial losses in the event of a disruption in production (e.g., codling moth infestation). What the leasing of acres also evidences is the fact that not even the largest, most established growers in Umatilla County are counting on, among others, the apple crop in years to come.

In the way of an analysis, it may be useful to determine if enrollment in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program is in some way a function of agriculture in the Umatilla County. Figure 10.4 contains information on harvested acreage, total sales, and actual and funded enrollment in the Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.<sup>25</sup> As is evident, the fact that sales increased exponentially between 2004 and 2005 did not affect actual enrollment in the Migrant

Seasonal Head Start program. In fact, it would appear that actual enrollment in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program is more a function of harvested acreage, with changes in actual enrollment reflected in changes in harvested acreage approximately one year late.

Consequently, adequate enrollment planning for the Oregon Child Development Coalition must attend to the issue of changes in harvested acreage despite

**Figure 10.4 - Crop Sales by OCDC Enrollment**



<sup>23</sup> *Certified Estimates for Oregon, Its Counties and Cities*, July 1, 2005, Population Research Center, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University.

<sup>24</sup> *Don’t Bend Walla Walla*, May 16, 2006, Associated Press.

<sup>25</sup> Note, the scale in Figure 10.4 has been adjusted. Harvested acres are in 0s and total sales are in \$00,000s. Additionally, crop outputs reflect the set of all crops in the Umatilla County area, not just those typically employing migrant and seasonal farmworkers.



the fact that sales continue to increase over time. Growers and food processors - at least those in the Hermiston area - did not experience a labor shortage in 2005, the same year that harvested acreage increased slightly and the same year during which the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County served 106 percent of funded enrollment. However, if the trend in Figure 10.4 holds in 2006 and 2007, we should expect harvested acreage to fall slightly as it did in 2004, the same year during which the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County was able to serve only 95 percent of funded enrollment in light of an apparent labor shortage.

► **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

The 2000 Census reported the population of Umatilla County to be 70,548 persons. From this, the Population Research Center at Portland State University estimated the population of Umatilla County to be 72,395 as of July 1, 2005, demonstrating 2.6 percent growth in the population

**Table 10.3 - Population<sup>26</sup>**

	Year		
	2000	2005	Percent Change
Umatilla County	70,548	72,395	2.6
Hermiston	13,154	15,025	14.2
Milton-Freewater	6,470	6,540	1.1
Pendleton	16,354	17,025	4.1
Umatilla	4,978	6,370	28.0
Walla Walla County (WA)	55,180	57,558	4.3
Walla Walla, WA	29,686	30,989	4.4

over the five-year period. Table 10.3 displays these estimates for each of the major cities and towns in Umatilla County, as well as in neighboring Walla Walla County in Washington state.

Note the positive growth in each of the areas listed, with the areas of Umatilla, Oregon, and Hermiston, Oregon, experiencing more rapid growth over the same period. The population in this region of the state has grown annually for the past 15 years.<sup>27</sup> While neighboring Morrow County is currently the fourth fastest growing county in the state, Umatilla County has progressed at a slower pace with the rate of natural population increase actually outpacing the rate of in-migration.

The population in Region 12 - an area that includes Umatilla County - is also growing younger. The median age in Umatilla County is less than 35 years old.<sup>28</sup> Between 1990 and 2000, the population of children and teens increased by 23 percent, with the percentage of children under the age of 5 in 2004 at 7.2 percent.<sup>29</sup> Relative to figures for the state of Oregon, this percentage is noticeably higher. Further, the percentage of residents who are retirees has decreased in recent years; and, as will be discussed in a later section, Umatilla County's growing Hispanic population

<sup>26</sup> 2004 Oregon Population Report, March 2005, Population Research Center, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University.

United States Census Bureau, 2000 & 2005.

<sup>27</sup> Dallas Fridley, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 12*, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>28</sup> United States Census Bureau, 2000 & 2005.

<sup>29</sup> Dallas Fridley, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 12*, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

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



tends to be younger than the general population, with estimates revealing that Hispanics and Blacks under the age of 5 will outnumber non-Hispanic Whites by 2050.<sup>30</sup>

**Table 10.4 - Population by Age<sup>1</sup>**

	Age						
	0-4	5-9	10-17	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Umatilla County	4,920	5,683	8,990	11,761	21,070	10,725	9,103
Walla Walla County (WA)	3,469	3,691	6,414	10,740	14,758	7,935	8,174

Oregon Housing and Community Services reports that the number of individuals living in poverty in Umatilla County decreased by 9.5 percent between 1990 and 2000, with the Oregon Department of Education reporting the poverty rate to be 20.7 percent as of January 2006.<sup>31</sup> Further, these two sources also estimate 1,236 children under the age of 6 to be living in poverty each year, including 456 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>32</sup>

**Table 10.5 - Free & Reduced Lunch Count<sup>33</sup>**

Umatilla County	Academic Year	
	2003-2004	2004-2005
Athena-Weston School District	222	244
Echo School District	130	126
Helix School District	41	45
Hermiston School District	2,223	2,436
Milton-Freewater School District	1,168	1,285
Pendleton School District	1,319	1,265
Pilot Rock School District	175	197
Stanfield School District	346	349
Ukiah School District	31	31
Umatilla School District	919	930
<b><i>Umatilla County Total</i></b>	<b>6,574</b> <b>(50.2%)</b>	<b>6,908</b> <b>(52.2%)</b>

Although the number of individuals estimated to be living in poverty by the Oregon Housing and Community between 1990 and 2000 decreased, during the 2004-2005 school year, 52 percent (n=6,908) of students in Umatilla County were eligible for free or reduced lunch, a 5.1 percent increase from one year ago. This increase was felt especially in the Hermiston and Milton-Freewater School Districts.

<sup>30</sup> Ray Collins and Angela Willson-Quayle, *Hispanics and Childcare: The Changing Landscape*, 2004, National Child Care Information Center.

*The Larson Northwest Hispanic Market Report*, 2006-2007 Edition, Larson Northwest Research and Consulting.

<sup>31</sup> *Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten*, 2010, Oregon Department of Education.

<sup>32</sup> *County Comparisons: Incidence and Distribution of Poverty*, 2004, Oregon Health and Community Services.

<sup>33</sup> *Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch, 2003-2004 & 2004-2005*, Oregon Department of Education.



► **DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED 3-4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN<sup>34</sup>**

The Oregon Department of Education estimates there to be 2,201 children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Umatilla County in 2006.<sup>35</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 by the poverty rate for Umatilla County, 20.7 percent in 2006. Thus, *the total number of eligible Head Start children in Umatilla County is 456 children*, as displayed in Table 10.10.

**Table 10.10 - Estimated Number of Eligible Children**

Umatilla County	
Total Children	2,201
Percent in Poverty	20.7
<b><i>Eligible</i></b>	<b>456</b>

From this, the number of Head Start children currently being served in Umatilla County by Head Start programs is subtracted. Head Start programs such as Umatilla Indian Reservation Head Start (40 total slots) and Umatilla-Morrow Head Start (471 total slots in seven counties) serve a total of 393 children in Umatilla County between 3 and 4 years of age.<sup>36</sup> Thus, considering the number of eligible Head Start children currently being served, *the total number of unserved, eligible Head Start children is 63 children* as shown in Table 10.7. Thus, 86.2 percent of eligible Head Start children are currently being served in Umatilla County.

**Table 10.7 - Estimated Number of Unserved, Eligible Children**

Umatilla County	
Eligible	456
Served	393
<b><i>Unserved, Eligible</i></b>	<b>63</b>

In the sections that follow, the Oregon Child Development Coalition will further refine the estimate in Table 10.7 to provide estimates for the number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Umatilla County.

**RACIAL & ETHNIC COMPOSITION**

► **POPULATION & ANCESTRY**

*“Hispanics represented about 9 percent [of the population] in 1990, while in 2000 their share had grown to 17.2 percent.”*

*-Dallas Fridley  
Oregon Employment Department*

Table 10.8 displays the racial and ethnic composition of the population in Umatilla 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.

As of 2005, nearly 1 in 5 Umatilla County residents are of Hispanic origin, evidence of the growing diversity in this portion of the state.<sup>37</sup> Figures in Table 10.8 show that there is a sizeable Native Indian population in Umatilla County, as well as a fairly large number of residents

<sup>34</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>35</sup> *Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten*, 20010, Oregon Department of Education.

<sup>36</sup> Total slot counts for individual Head Start programs include Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

<sup>37</sup> Dallas Fridley, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 14*, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.



identifying as some other race. According to state economists, many of those in the latter category would properly be classified as white Hispanics.<sup>38</sup>

**Table 10.8 - Population by Race, 2000-2005<sup>39</sup>**

Umatilla County	One Race						Two or More Races	Hispanic
	White	Black	Native Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Some Other Race	---	---
2000	57,852 (82.0%)	582 (0.8%)	2,375 (3.4%)	530 (0.8%)	124 (0.2%)	7,529 (10.7%)	1,556 (2.2%)	11,366 (16.1%)
Hermiston	10,382	122	119	208	5	1,982	336	3,168
Milton-Freewater	4,758	28	46	29	76	1,348	185	2,055
Pendleton	14,580	250	412	154	10	602	346	981
2005	63,368 (91.1%)	653 (0.9%)	3,040 (4.4%)	390 (0.6%)	---	3,507 (5.0)	1,610 (2.3%)	12,892 (18.5%)

Of the population in Umatilla County, 92 percent were born in the United States, with 84 percent of the population as monolingual English speakers.<sup>40</sup> Of those born outside of the United States (n=5,930), 6.1 percent are currently not U.S. citizens, with 3.7 percent having entered the United States between 1990 and 2000, and 857 percent of those born outside of the U.S coming from Latin America. Accordingly, aside from English and relative to other languages, 14 percent of the population identified as primary Spanish speakers (n=5,031).<sup>41</sup> Of these, more than one-half self-identified as able to speak English less than “very well.”

► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS<sup>42</sup>**

In 2004, 252 children were enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program based on income eligibility or public assistance. Table 10.9 displays the age distribution for children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. Overall, 96 percent of program participants were of Hispanic or Latino origin, which includes persons of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South and Central American or other Spanish culture or origin. The remaining 4 percent were American Indian or Alaska Native. Additionally, the total number of primary Spanish speaking program participants was 296 children.

**Table 10.9 - Enrolled of Children by Age**

Age	Number of Children
<1	14
1	48
2	53
3	60
4	51
5	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>296</b>

<sup>38</sup> Dallas Fridley, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 14, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>39</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>40</sup> *DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics, 2000*, United States Census Bureau.

<sup>41</sup> *DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics, 2000*, United States Census Bureau.

<sup>42</sup> Data is taken from the *Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005*, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



► **DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED MIGRANT CHILDREN<sup>43</sup>**

The Oregon Child Development Coalition has developed a method for estimating the number of children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Umatilla County using Alice C. Larson’s 2002 estimates of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and family members as a base and agricultural information from the Oregon Agricultural Information Network through Oregon State University.<sup>45</sup> The estimates in Table 10.10 suggest that there were 142 migrant children and 127 seasonal children in Umatilla County in 2005.

**Table 10.10 - Estimated Migrant and Seasonal Children**

Umatilla County		
Age	Number Migrant Children	Number Seasonal Children
<1	47	22
1	19	21
2	19	21
3	19	21
4	19	21
5	19	21
<b>Total<sup>44</sup></b>	<b>142</b>	<b>127</b>

To estimate the number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children, the number of children currently being served in Umatilla County by the Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Migrant Seasonal Head Start program is subtracted from the estimates in Table 10.10. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County serves 286 Head Start eligible children through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program, 196 of which are migrant children and 90 of which are seasonal children. Thus, *the total number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Umatilla County is 37 children* and is broken down in Table 10.11. Overall, roughly 86.2 percent of eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children are currently being served in Umatilla County.

**Table 10.11 - Unserved, Eligible MHS Children in Umatilla County**

Umatilla County		
	Number Migrant Children	Number Seasonal Children
Eligible	~142	~127
Served	196	90
<b>Unserved, Eligible</b>	<b>~0</b>	<b>~37</b>

To these estimates we must also add the number of migrant and seasonal children in Washington’s Walla Walla County. In Walla Walla County, the Oregon Child Development Coalition estimates there to be 123 children of migrant farmworkers and 784 children of seasonal farmworkers. Given the location of the program center in Milton-Freewater, a conservative estimate would assume that perhaps 15 percent of the total number of migrant and seasonal children live in or near towns along the Oregon-Washington border. Thus, *the total number of unserved, eligible children in the southern portion of Washington’s Walla Walla County and*

<sup>43</sup> See Appendix C1.3

<sup>44</sup> Totals vary due to rounding.

<sup>45</sup> Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002*, Larson Assistance Services.



*near the Oregon Child Development Coalition's service area is 136 children, 18 of which are estimated to be children of migrant farmworkers.*<sup>46</sup>

Results of the above analysis indicate that the Oregon Child Development Coalition is adequately serving the migrant population in Umatilla County, a population that while greater than expected in thus far in 2006, continues to decline each year. Overall, aside from capacity issues, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County could also serve more seasonal children.

## **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 Umatilla County is a high school graduate or high school equivalency, with 16 percent of the total population having earned a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>47</sup> Data from the Oregon Department of Education show total public school enrollment in Umatilla County to be approximately 13,089 students annually, 34 percent of which are non-white.<sup>48</sup> Across all high schools in Umatilla County, the total number of high school dropouts is 51 students with a 7.9 percent high school dropout rate over the past four years.<sup>49</sup> The Oregon Department of Education also reports that 3 students dropped out of high school during the 2003-2004 school year specifically because they did not speak English well enough, while another 8 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 92 percent of parents served have earned a high school degree or less. Further, of all families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County, none are enrolled in either job training or school, suggesting that seasonal agricultural work and low wages require that both parents work to make ends meet.<sup>50</sup>

---

<sup>46</sup> Estimates for the total number of [unserved, eligible] children in Walla Walla county are computed using a method similar to that for estimating the total number of [unserved, eligible] children in Umatilla County. Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Washington*, 2000, Larson Assistance Services.

<sup>47</sup> *DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics*, 2000, United States Census Bureau.

<sup>48</sup> Oregon Department of Education, 2004-2005.

<sup>49</sup> Oregon Department of Education, 2003.

<sup>50</sup> *Program Information Report*, 2004, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing education services to children and families in Umatilla County and in neighboring Walla Walla County in Washington state. In the area of adult education:

- Blue Mountain Community College has developed an early childhood education program to help meet the educational needs of staff. They also allow the Oregon Child Development Coalition to use meeting rooms at the college to host trainings.
- Blue Mountain Community College also offers adult education classes such as tutoring and adult basis skills programs, including GED preparation, Adult High School Diploma (AHSD), and ESL courses in conjunction with the Hermiston Public Library.
- A consortium of community colleges headed by Portland Community College and in collaboration with Blue Mountain Community College provides early childhood classes in Spanish.
- The Hermiston Public Library provides a number of programs and related services, including general membership, an Elder Libraries program, and the Teen Advisory Council.
- The Oregon Human Development Corporation (OHDC) is currently looking to establish a farmworker training program in Umatilla County, and is considering locating in either Hermiston or Milton-Freewater.

An interview with the Parent Involvement Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County revealed the need for additional adult education courses. While Blue Mountain Community College does offer GED and ESL classes in Spanish, there is evidently an interest among some community members for driver's education courses in Spanish, as well as other courses such as sewing and cooking. During this interview it was noted that the issue in the past has been the ability to promote greater participation in such courses as there needs to be a sufficient number of people interested before the course can be developed. In the past, Blue Mountain Community College has had to cancel some courses due to poor participation.

During a focus group with parents of program participants, interest was expressed in continuing to work toward individual educational goals, however parents were concerned that, without an employment department in the area, they do not know what classes and skills would yield the greatest benefits. As of August 2006, the Oregon Human Development Corporation, with a statewide farmworker training program, is considering expanding into Umatilla County. Should such an effort come to fruition, parents would benefit from additional courses and trainings that are specifically tied to their professional goals.



Early Childhood Education

Other programs that serve the migrant population include Migrant Education. Seasonal and age-specific enrollment counts are displayed in Table 10.12 for the Umatilla Morrow ESD. Roughly one-third of migrant children continue to receive services during the summer months, thereby demonstrating the continued need for the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in this area.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- Umatilla-Morrow Head Start (Region X Head Start) and the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County have developed an interagency agreement to join strategies in such areas as recruitment, transitions, health, disabilities, training and technical assistance.
- Umatilla Indian Reservation Head Start provides early childhood education services to residents of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition and the Washington State Migrant Council are collaborating on sharing family and on-call waiting lists.
- The Migrant ESD program has provided extra teaching staff in Hermiston and Milton-Freewater for preschool classrooms during the summer.
- The Umatilla County Commission on Children and Families provides community planning for many child and family related initiatives.
- The Eastern Oregon Reading Foundation provides support for efforts designed to ensure that every child reads at grade level upon completion of third grade.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest early childhood needs in the Umatilla County area. Primary needs identified include the need to address related issues such as transportation, access to medical and dental care, and employment training in an effort to ensure early childhood education services that are comprehensive in addressing the needs of the entire family. Increasingly, early childhood providers have been frustrated by barriers in other program areas - namely, health - that have impeded their ability to focus their efforts in the classroom. As will be discussed in a later section, there are no pediatric dentists in Umatilla County, with some agencies referring as far away as Boise, Idaho (some 250 miles away). Additionally, some early childhood providers are seeing an increasing number of cases of children with autism and speech delays.

Respondents also indicated that they would benefit from the continued collaboration with the Oregon Child Development Coalition. One local Head Start program indicated that they are looking to grow parent involvement and are in need of new strategies. During this interview it

**Table 10.12 - Migrant Education Enrollment<sup>51</sup>**

Umatilla County	2004-2005	
	Umatilla Morrow ESD	
Regular Enrollment	2,923	
Summer Enrollment	1,056	
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>3,979</b>	
<1 year old	5	
1	16	
2	15	
3	100	
4	106	
5	12	
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>254</b>	

<sup>51</sup> Oregon's Migrant Education Regional Programs, 2004-2005, Oregon Department of Education.



was suggested that such efforts might be joined with others efforts on the part of both agencies to generate additional recognition, resources, and private support in the community. Additionally, representatives from this program noted that they would also benefit from assistance on the administrative side of things, especially in receiving assistance on troubleshooting the HSFIS system.

The needs expressed in the above paragraph speak to the need for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County to continue taking a leadership role in the community. In an interview with the Education Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County, it was noted that there has been interest expressed by other providers in the community in learning more about and integrating with the agency's use of the Creative Curriculum. Such interest has helped to forge partnerships, such as that with the local Migrant ESD. Current efforts are being focused on continuing to develop partnerships with local school districts to increase the number hours that children in transition spend on-site at local schools, as it has been difficult for some children in make the transition into the public schools given the different models of learning relative to a Head Start environment.

Related to the final point in the above paragraph, parents of program participants noted that public school do not have enough bilingual personal. Thus, parents indicated that they would welcome additional support in the form of a bilingual, after-school program for those children who have recently transitioned into kindergarten. For the most part, after school services are needed given parents' work schedules. Thus, it was not surprising that parents also voiced concerns about the need for additional weeks of service for the short-term program, noting that the dates of operation could be adjusted to better line up with when Migrant Seasonal Head Start services are needed.

That said, parents of program participants continue to regard the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program as an excellent program with a "wonderful" and "beautiful" environment. Particular emphasis was placed on the quality of teachers employed by the agency, a feature also noted by the Education Manager.

## ► MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

Access to care is limited by Umatilla County's geographic isolation. In fact, the Health Resources and Safety Administration has identified Umatilla County as a mental health professional shortage area due in large part to its geographic isolation.<sup>52</sup> Related to this, service providers - mental health and otherwise - emphasized the increasing use of methamphetamines among Umatilla County residents over the past few years which currently ranks as the second most used illicit drug in Umatilla County behind marijuana.<sup>53</sup> Accordingly, the Oregon Department of Corrections reports 476 persons incarcerated for drugs as of January of 2006, nearly 16 times the same figure for neighboring Morrow County.

---

<sup>52</sup> *Oregon Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA): Mental Health Designations as of 2/28/010*, 20010, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Professionals.

<sup>53</sup> *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.



Mental health disorders affect approximately 1 in 10 children in Oregon, with 30 percent of these children experiencing co-occurring disorders requiring dual diagnoses. The Office of Mental Health Services with the Oregon Department of Human Services estimates there to be approximately 1,360 children with some sort of mental health issue in Umatilla County under the age of 18, of which 136 are estimated to suffer from co-occurring disorders.<sup>54</sup> Overall, approximately 1,097 adults and 414 children receive some form of community based mental health care in Umatilla County each year.

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that 3 children in Umatilla County were provided mental health services, each of these children also receiving referrals for additional services. On average, mental health professionals spent 15 hours per month on-site. Likewise, ***18 children were determined to have a disability, roughly 23 percent of enrolled seasonal children and 6 percent of enrolled migrant children in 2005.*** Of these 18 children, 16 children were determined eligible to receive special education and related services. Primary disabilities included speech or language impairments and non-categorical/developmental delays.<sup>55</sup>

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing mental health and disabilities services to children and families in Umatilla County and in neighboring Walla Walla County in Washington state.

- The Umatilla Morrow Education Service District provides Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education services.
- The Walla Walla ESD provides developmental screenings, assessments and observations for children that live in Washington state, using St. Mary's Hospital during the summer months.
- Contracted mental health services are provided on-site by Ed Taylor.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition is developing partnership opportunities with Lifeways to provide mental health service to children and families through observations and assessments.
- Parent-to-Parent is a monthly support group for families with children with special needs in Walla Walla, Washington.

Representatives from several of the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest mental health and disabilities needs of children and families in the Umatilla County area. As mentioned in an earlier section, some early childhood providers are seeing an increasing number of cases of children with autism and speech delays. Accordingly, additional efforts are being made by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County to grow partnerships that are not only able to accommodate children and families enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program, but which also work to build the capacity of local agencies to effectively respond to such needs.

In an interview with the Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County, it was noted that additional partnerships are being

---

<sup>54</sup> *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

<sup>55</sup> *Program Information Report*, 2004 & 2005, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



pursued with Lifeways and Early Intervention in Washington state. As always, emphasis is placed on identifying providers and resources who are bilingual and able to provide culturally appropriate information and services.

During a focus group with parents of program participants, parents noted that the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County has also been instrumental in working with parents around the need for individual physical therapy for their children. Parents noted that, unlike in local hospitals, adequate time was invested in working with both parents and children in a way that caught some of the individual differences that hospitals may miss.

## ► HEALTH & NUTRITION

In August of 2005, the Oregon Office of Rural Health released a report identifying healthcare shortages and underservice throughout Umatilla County, including the areas near Hermiston, Oregon, and Milton-Freewater, Oregon, both areas currently served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition.<sup>56</sup> Of notable interest is that within Umatilla County, the population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers was specifically highlighted as an underserved group.

In 2005, there were 102 doctors in Umatilla County, or just over 1 doctor for every 1,000 residents.<sup>57</sup> In Umatilla County, approximately 18.1 percent of the population is without any form of health insurance, an estimate that somewhat less than figures provided from the Oregon Health and Sciences University, which received 4,324 visits from Umatilla County residents in 2004, 51 percent of which were only partially or not reimbursable.<sup>58</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 2004, the rate of low birth was 64.1 (n=69), whereas in 2002 the rate of low birth had been as low as 47.8 (n=51).<sup>59</sup> A similar trend is noted for live births with *very* low birthweight, with the rate of very low birth increasing to 13.0 (n=14) in 2004 from 3.8 (n=4) in 2002.<sup>60</sup>

The increasing rate of low-birth may in part be due to efforts focusing on prenatal care. In 2004, 9.4 percent live births in Umatilla County were also identified as lacking adequate prenatal care.<sup>61</sup> Since 2001, this figure represents a 42 percent increase in the number of live births with inadequate prenatal care and is nearly double the percentage reported statewide (5.8 percent).

---

<sup>56</sup> *Oregon Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/MUP)*, 2005, Oregon Office of Rural Health.

<sup>57</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>58</sup> *2004 Percentage Without Health Insurance by Region*, 2004, Oregon Office of Rural Health. *OHSU and Umatilla County Statistics*, 2004, Oregon Health and Sciences University.

<sup>59</sup> *Live Births with Low Birthweight by County, Oregon Residents, 2001-2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>60</sup> *Live Births with Very Low Birthweight by County, Oregon Residents, 2001-2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>61</sup> *Prenatal Care by Mother's County of Residents, Oregon Residents*, 2004, Oregon Department of Human Services.



Further, 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>62</sup>

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information report show that 77 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Umatilla County in 2005 with health insurance, down by 54 percent from 2004.<sup>63</sup> Those with health insurance were covered by Medicaid, with a handful covered by private insurance. For those without health insurance, the Oregon Child Development Coalition worked with families to increase the number of children with some sort of coverage following enrollment. Most children (n=161) received services through a migrant community health center and have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible medical care. Following dental screenings in 2005, 34 children were identified as needing continued dental care, a service that was in fact provided. Additionally, common health conditions included obesity, anemia, and asthma.

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing health and dental services to children and families in Umatilla County and neighboring Walla Walla County in Washington state.

- The Oregon State WIC program serves 4,791 children under the age 5 and 1,872 pregnant women annually, with 61 percent of those served in Umatilla County at or below the poverty level.<sup>64</sup>
- The Umatilla County Health Department provides core public health services, including family planning, disease prevention, investigation, immunization, environmental health, home visiting, and maternal child health.
- Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic operates the Hermiston Community Health Clinic and the Family Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, providing medical and dental services to children and families. In 2005, these clinics received nearly 9,000 visits from 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 4,750 visits last year.
- Good Shepherd Health Care System provides health and emergency services in Umatilla County. Of the more than 75,000 visits received annually, more than 11 percent are from Hispanic patients.
- St. Anthony Hospital provides a range of services including nutrition, home and occupational health, and emergency services. The hospital also operates a family birth center and provides interpretation for clients.
- Dr. Nacacio provides dental screenings and treatment to children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program at the center in Hermiston, Oregon.
- Dr. Schroeder provides dental screenings to children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program at the center in Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

In an interview with the Health Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County it was noted that there is currently a shortage of pediatric dentists in the area, with some local Head Start programs referring as far away as Boise, Idaho. If this were not enough, families experience barriers in simply getting to local appointments given limited public

---

<sup>62</sup> *Prenatal Care by Mother's Race and Ethnicity, Oregon Residents, 2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>63</sup> *Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005*, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

<sup>64</sup> *2005 WIC Facts, 2005*, Oregon WIC Program, Oregon Department of Human Services.



transportation in the area. Currently, efforts are being focused on assembling information on transportation resources in the community and disseminating these to parents to assist families in getting to medical and dental appointments.

During a focus group with parents of program participants, the lack of pediatric dentists in the area also was discussed. Parents noted that referrals take at least 2 weeks. Likewise, for routine visits, parents expressed frustration at the 3+ hour wait times that they have experienced at local dental clinics. According to several parents, they have walked out on multiple occasions because lengthy wait times have interfered with their work schedules. Thus, there is a pronounced need to ensure that local medical and dental providers understand the relationship between the services that they provide and the sacrifices that families make to come to appointments.

Additionally, it was noted that there has been an increase in childhood obesity in recent years. While the agency is working with a nutritionist on this issue, the Health Manager expressed an interest in not only continuing to educate families about this and other issues, but also to move towards advocacy and greater involvement around this and other issues in the community. In general, such a move would benefit children and families by increasing awareness and potentially opening the door for new partners and resources.

## ► FAMILY SERVICES

In 2004, the Oregon Department of Human Services released figures estimating the number of child abuse victims in Umatilla County to be 223 children, a 10 percent increase from the previous year.<sup>65</sup> These figures amount to approximately 11 child abuse victims per 1,000 children. Shelter counts in Region 5 - an area which includes Umatilla County - show that 153 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 4,141, with over 14 percent of those receiving shelter services for 30 days or more.<sup>66</sup> Additionally, during the 2004-2005 school year, there were a reported 279 homeless students across all school districts in Umatilla County.

Food insecurity is also an important issue in Umatilla County. Figure 10.5 displays Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and food stamps figures over time.<sup>67</sup> Over the past year, the number of TANF cases in this region of the state has increased by 10 percent, while the number of food stamps cases has increased by 6.1 percent, with areas such as Pendleton, Oregon, showing a 34 percent increase in food stamps cases.

---

<sup>65</sup> *The State of Children in Oregon's Child Protective System*, 2004, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>66</sup> *Summary of Services Provided by Domestic and Sexual Violence Service Programs Funded by DHS*, 2005, Oregon Department of Human Services.

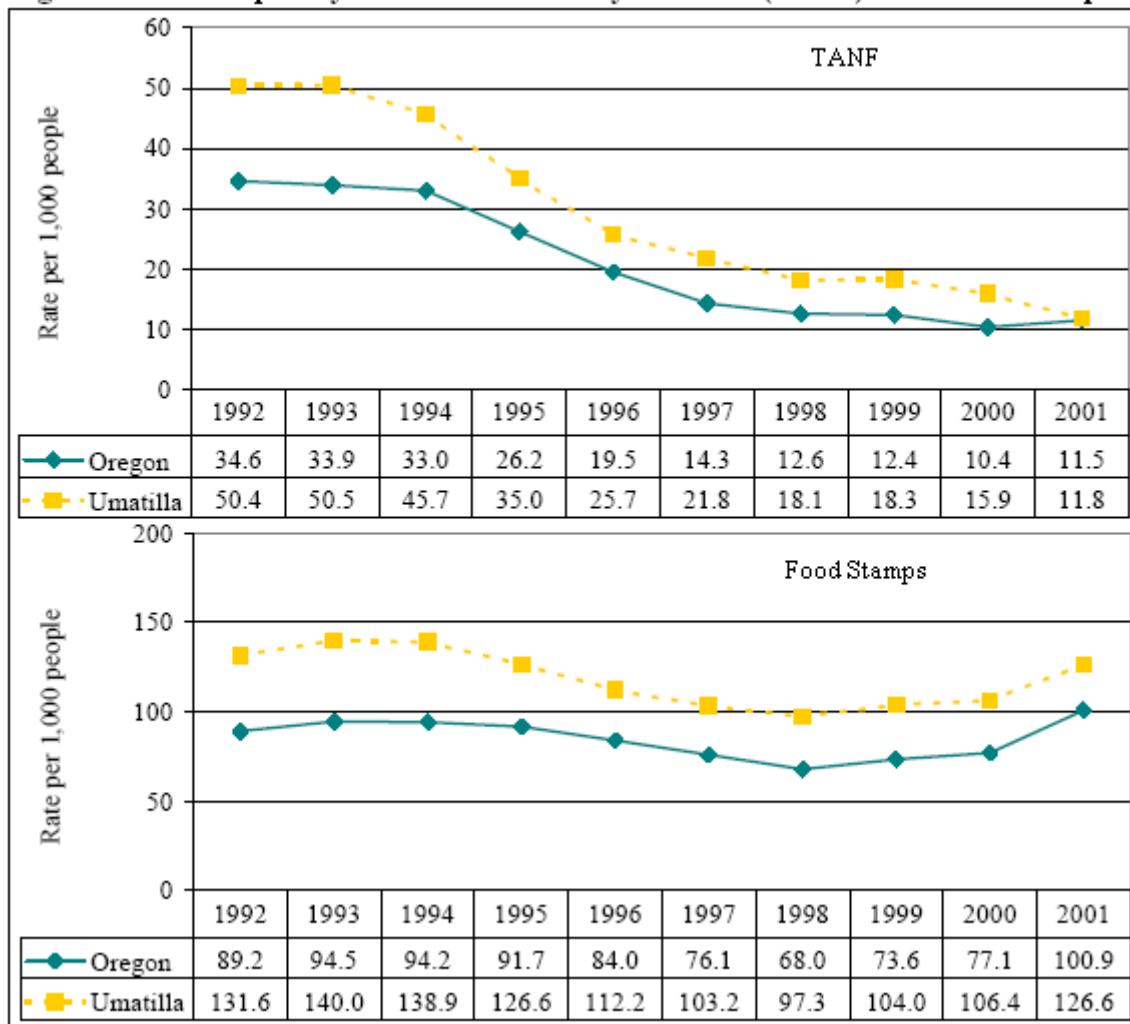
<sup>67</sup> *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

*Oregon TANF Caseload Flash*, May 2010, Oregon Department of Human Services.

*Oregon Food Stamp Caseload Flash*, May 2010, Oregon Department of Human Services.



**Figure 10.5 - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Food Stamps**



Approximately 41 percent of families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County in 2005 identified as single parent families. In each of these families was the parent or guardian employed; whereas, of the total number of two-parent families, 65 percent had both partners in the workforce.<sup>68</sup> In 2004, 2 families received benefits under the TANF program, with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County responding to a range of family needs, the most common being parenting education, ESL needs, adult education, emergency/crisis intervention, and housing assistance.

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing family and social services to children and families in Umatilla County and in neighboring Walla Walla County in Washington state.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County has developed an interagency agreement with the local Child Care Resource and Referral provider to facilitate referrals.

Figure 10.5 – *Umatilla County Data Book*, 2002, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Oregon Department of Human Services.

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



- The Oregon Department of Human Services has offices in Umatilla County providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Shelter services in Umatilla County are provided by Domestic Violence Services.
- CAPECO Food Share boasts 12 food pantries, 2 emergency meal programs and 2 supplemental programs. Each month, 20,620 food boxes are distributed, serving some 4,492 individuals.<sup>69</sup>
- CAPECO also provides community services to over 4,000 persons in need annually, including energy assistance, case management, emergency services, workforce training, and aging services.
- Other food providers include Bread Basket which helps families in need.
- AGAPY House provides food, clothing, other basic household needs, and housing.
- Adventist Community Services provides families with clothing, household items, and other basic family needs.
- Adult and Family Services also handles referrals for families in need.
- Wilcox Storage provides for families in need of furniture.
- Local school districts provide a Homeless Liaison for school age students.
- The Western Umatilla-North Morrow County Hispanic Community Project works to implement community projects that address the concerns of the Hispanic community.

Representatives from several of the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest family services needs of children and families in the Umatilla County area. Primary needs identified were (i) housing and food costs, (ii) perceived barriers to accessing food stamps and other services in light of documentation issues, (iii) language barriers when attempting to access services, and (iv) growing nontraditional needs such as laundry, gas and prescription assistance.

In light of the above needs, it is not surprising that the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County saw a record number of families inquiring about the Migrant Seasonal Head Start services this year. According to the Family Service Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County, efforts are being made to continue building and maintaining partnerships with the Oregon Department of Human Services, shelters, and thrift shops to accommodate the needs of families. During a focus group with parents of program participants there was also an expressed interest in receiving employment related services. However, such services which do not currently exist given that there is not an Oregon Employment Department office in the area.

## ► **CHILDCARE**

The Oregon Childcare Research Partnership lists a total of 186 certified childcare providers in Umatilla County, with approximately 2,454 childcare slots. These figures translate into 18 childcare slots for every 100 children, 7 slots short of the state benchmark of 25 childcare slots per 100 children.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>69</sup> *Regional Food Banks at a Glance*, 2005, Oregon Food Bank.

<sup>70</sup> *Estimated Supply of Childcare in Oregon as of July 1, 2004*, April 210, 2005, Oregon Childcare Research Partnership.



Depending on family type, the Oregon Childcare Research Partnership found that up to 40 percent of some families with children under the age of 13 use some form of paid childcare in Umatilla County, with 28 percent of all children enrolled in some form of paid childcare. In addition, the report found that families use on average 36 hours of paid childcare per week.

Childcare costs in Region C - an area that includes most of Umatilla County - are the lowest in the state, with the median hourly and monthly costs listed in Table 10.13. Researchers

**Table 10.13 - Childcare Costs by Type of Care**

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

from Oregon State University found a statistically significant difference in childcare costs between Region C and other regions of the state of Oregon, suggesting a unique childcare market in Umatilla County due to its rural location.<sup>71</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 Umatilla County.

The following is a breakdown of some of the agencies providing childcare and related services to children in Umatilla County and neighboring Walla Walla County in Washington state.

- Operated by Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, Childcare Resource and Referral makes between 45 and 60 referrals each month.
- Twenty-one (21) certified childcare centers operate throughout Umatilla County, most of which are located in Hermiston, Oregon.
- Approximately 71 family childcare homes operate throughout Umatilla County, with many of these located in Hermiston, Oregon, and Pendleton, Oregon. Four of these providers are primary Spanish speakers.

An interview a representative from Childcare Resource and Referral revealed that there is currently a lack of center-based childcare in Umatilla County, with only one such option in Hermiston and no such option in Milton-Freewater. That center-based childcare is limited means that parents have limited options available to them; thus, it takes away from family choice. In general, families need flexible hours and, according to one local provider, quality individualized care for children with special needs.

Also of issue was the need to continue to position local childcare providers as *professionals* in the community. During a focus group with parents of program participants, it was noted that parents are using whether childcare providers have some focus on education as a selection criteria for selecting a provider. Thus, Childcare Resource and Referral continues to focus on training, environment and business planning with childcare providers so as to build the level of professionalism among local childcare providers. Likewise, local childcare providers expressed

<sup>71</sup> 2004 Oregon Childcare Market Rate Study, August 2004, Oregon State University Family Policy Program, Oregon Childcare Research Partnership.



an interest in receiving information from the Oregon Child Development Coalition about upcoming trainings and events that could benefit their business.

## ► **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

Transitioning from a discussion of childcare to one of transportation and housing, Appendix C10.2 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 agencies providing housing and related services in Umatilla County.

- Multiple apartment complexes, including Orchard Homes (140 total units) in Milton-Freewater, cater to low-income and farmworker families.
- There are 48 manufactured home parks in Umatilla County, with the majority of parks located in Hermiston, Milton-Freewater, and Pendleton. Total capacity is 1,396 spaces.
- There is 1 farm labor camp in Umatilla County located in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Total capacity is 466 persons.
- CAPECO provides energy assistance services to families in need in Umatilla County.
- The Housing Authority of Umatilla County provides a range of housing and assistance programs including voucher assistance and public housing.

In interviews with representatives from CAPECO, respondents distinguished between the lack of housing in Umatilla County and the need for affordable housing. Regarding the latter, respondents indicated that there is currently a need for farmworker housing in Hermiston, Oregon. Increasingly, migrant and seasonal families are electing to travel and set down roots in Hermiston, as the city has grown in recent years and offers a variety of services and amenities. In neighboring Morrow County, the area in and around Boardman, Oregon, has also been identified as in need of additional farmworker housing.

However, the above aside, it remains that there has been some difficulty in filling a farmworker housing complex in Irrigon, Oregon, some 15 miles from Hermiston, Oregon. Two potential explanations were offered by respondents. First, families prefer to live in Hermiston, Oregon, given the availability of services. Thus, families are less willing to locate in more rural areas of the county. Second, a phenomenon also taking place in other areas of the state, many farmworker families lack proper documentation. Thus, they simply cannot get in to farmworker housing complexes. This also may explain why this complex in Irrigon, Oregon, was only half full as of August 2006.

At the other end of Umatilla County, in Milton-Freewater, city officials noted that they have multiple housing programs available, with several programs where recipients work 30 hours per week to construct their own homes. However, participation was quite low, with many simply turning down the opportunity to build a new home, perhaps demonstrating that programs which require that participants miss work are not necessarily the most effective in addressing the need for affordable housing in Umatilla County.



Turning to transportation, the following is a breakdown of the agencies providing transportation services in Umatilla County.

- The City of Milton-Freewater provides public transportation services between Milton-Freewater and Walla Walla, Washington, with four routes per day from 7:50 am to 5 pm.
- Transportation services are available to those covered by the Oregon Health Plan.
- For training purposes, the Oregon Department of Transportation provides core trainings for bus drivers and substitutes. Further, Oregon OSHA has worked with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County to provide on-site evaluations, as well as with the Safety Committee in the area of operations and additional trainings.

As discussed earlier, Umatilla County has been designated a mental health professional shortage area due in large part to its geographic isolation. This isolation makes it difficult to effectively operate public transportation services in a cost effective manner. Accordingly, the only such services available are provided by the City of Milton-Freewater. An interview with a respondent from the City of Milton-Freewater revealed that current services are only able to be provide 3 days per week in light of declining federal funding.

Also discussed during this interview was the fact that there is limited community participation in the planning process. An interest was expressed in bringing in a greater cross-section of community members to discuss how to implement services in the future.

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

**Figure 10.10 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>* Bilingual, bicultural staff are a resource in the community, with strong parent involvement recognized as a strength in the community.</p> <p>* Strategic partnerships have help the agency identify and secure additional resources, as well as plan strategies for engaging additional partners.</p>	<p>* Interviews with growers and service providers from across the spectrum reveal limited agency name awareness and knowledge of the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.</p> <p>* In general, service providers in the community acknowledge the need to address clients’ concerns around documentation, but currently lack the capacity to do so.</p>



Opportunities	Threats
<p>* There are numerous opportunities to continue partnering with Umatilla-Morrow Head Start and Umatilla Indian Reservation Head Start in the areas of program development and administrative support.</p> <p>* There are currently multiple initiatives targeting the Hispanic population in Umatilla County that could benefit from the expertise of the agency in serving the migrant and seasonal farmworker population.</p>	<p>* The growing number of leased acres in and around Milton-Freewater, Oregon, may be cause for some concern about the longevity of apples and other commodities in this region.</p> <p>* The area's geographic isolation inhibits qualified professionals (e.g., pediatric dentists) from settling in the area and development of other services (e.g., transportation).</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 Umatilla 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 Umatilla County**

**Observation:** Growers and service providers revealed limited knowledge about the agency and the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.

**Recommendation:** Continue to cultivate strategic relationships with local growers and service providers in way that not only communicates valuable information about the agency and the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program, but also the very issues (e.g., early childhood education, immigration, and workforce development, etc.) that currently warrant the expertise of the agency.

**Observations and Recommendations: Education**

**Observation:** There is an need to continuing integrating with efforts with other early childhood providers and to engage local school districts as children and families begin the transitions process.

**Recommendation:** Continue to develop collaborative activities with local elementary schools which help to familiarize children and families with the transitions process and the new environment.



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

**Observation:** A need exists to continue to support parents in identifying and securing bilingual mental health resources and venues in the community.

**Recommendation:** Continue to expand partnerships, especially with those individuals and agencies that have the capacity to provide bilingual services.

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

**Observation:** There is a need for pediatric dentists and treatment services.

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

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

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

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

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

**Observation:** There is an opportunity to support Childcare Resource and Referral in building local childcare resources and developing the professionalism of existing providers.

**Recommendation:** Continue to explore joint training opportunities that could benefit all parties while sharing information that may assist with recruitment, development, and retention.

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

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



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

**Observation:** There is a need for low-income, farmworker housing, especially in the area of Hermiston, Oregon.

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

## **SUMMARY**

Given limited resource in Umatilla County, it is imperative that the agency continue to be a viable and collaborative partner. This is especially necessary as families and service providers attempt to address issues of community integration, readiness and support. Given the expertise and involvement of agency staff, there is an opportunity for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County to continue to take a leadership role, as the agency is already recognized for providing quality culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

