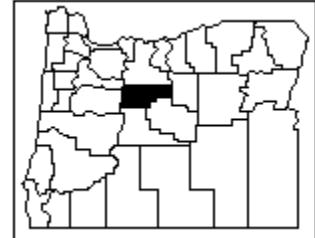


JEFFERSON COUNTY

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jefferson County improves the lives of children and families through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. The agency operates under the direction of the Board of Directors. Program guidance is given by the Policy Council with input, planning, and action provided by local program committees comprised of local parents. Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Jefferson County served a total of 103 children in 2008. Of these, 42 children were classified as migrant children and 61 are classified as seasonal children.



The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jefferson County currently employs a center-based option, serving children from one location in Madras, Oregon. The short-term program runs 15 weeks from June through September, operating 6 classrooms, 5 days per week from 7 am to 4:15 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from March through October operating 2 classrooms, 5 days per week from 8 am to 3:30 pm.

The service area includes the entirety of Jefferson County. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jefferson County attends to those especially agricultural areas of Jefferson County, (ii) the program center location and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start Performance Standards.

CRITICAL ISSUES

► IMMIGRATION

Growers this year reported rumors of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents visiting the area. One grower sent employees home for four days so as to avoid any unnecessary disruptions during this time, resulting in both lost wages for some 100 employees and \$500,000 losses due to the fact that two fields were not harvested during this time. Likewise, parents of program participants noted that, in light such rumors, families were denied housing and in some cases evicted from their homes during this time.

► UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate as of July 2009 was 15.75 percent. This has forced many people to return to work in agriculture. Construction is at a low and many manufacturing plants such as Brightwood; Keith Brown Manufacturing have either laid-off large numbers of employees or completely closed.



COUNTY PROFILE

► GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Jefferson County is located in central Oregon, east of the Cascade Mountains, spanning some 1,791 square miles. The county, named for nearby Mt. Jefferson (10,497'), was established in 1914 from a portion of neighboring Crook County.

Elevation in the Madras area of Jefferson County is 2,242 feet above sea level. Average temperatures range from 37 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to well over 70 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The area receives approximately 10 inches of rain annually, including significant snow during the winter months.¹

Today, the draw for many people in relocating to and vacationing in the area lies in the abundance of outdoor activities. Jefferson County boasts the Metolius River, Suttle Lake, Blue Lake, Lake Billy Chinook, and the Haystack Reservoir. Additionally, nearby mountains including Mt. Hood, Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Bachelor permit of variety of outdoor activities year round.

► ECONOMIC PROFILE

Data from Table 1 (all tables are contained in the earlier Oregon Community Assessment and OCDC Overview section of the Community Assessment) indicate that in 2007 the median per capita personal income in Jefferson County was \$25,945 as compared to \$36,492 for Oregon and \$39,209 for the United States. Of the 12 Oregon counties in which OCDC provides services, only Malheur County has a lower 2007 median per capita income.

Table 1 also shows the total number of individuals employed in Jefferson County in 2007 was 8,818 with 8.85 percent in agriculture. Unemployment in Jefferson County was 5.5 percent in 2007 and it increased to 6.0 percent in 2008. The July 2009 unemployment rate of 15.7 percent was the highest for the 12 counties that OCDC serves.

Labor demand peaks during the months of April, August and September corresponding to the harvests for garlic, potatoes, and vegetable and flower seed. While in other counties the mechanization of crops typically reduces operations' reliance of farmworkers, the opposite may be the case in Jefferson County. Given that Jefferson County growers remain competitive because of carrot seed cleaning technology, local growers have indicated that further mechanization will only grow the need for additional farm labor. What is not clear at this point is whether such mechanization would *actually* result in a need for more migrant farmworkers, or whether the population of seasonal farmworkers in the area could satisfy the need for additional labor. It could become increasingly difficult to classify farmworkers according to the type of agricultural work in which they

¹ Oregon Blue Book, 2008.



are engaged. For example, a family that lives in the area mostly year round - and so would generally be considered to have seasonal status - could potentially work in carrots or a nursery for several months, migrate to the Portland area to pick berries - as some families in Jefferson County currently do - and then return home to Jefferson County. Thus, they would assume migrant status given the migratory move involved while they are mostly year round residents in Jefferson County.

► DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Data in Table 5 show Jefferson County's population in 2008 to be 20,512 up by .56 percent from 2007 and the total number of children under age four in Jefferson County in 2008 to be 1,663.

Table 5 also shows the number of individuals (all ages) living in poverty in 2007 in Jefferson County was 18.8 percent and that the 2008 poverty rate for children birth to two years of age was 23.4 percent. The 2008 poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 17.8 percent.² During the 2008-2009 school year, 75.6 percent of students in Jefferson County were eligible for free or reduced lunch (Table 5). The 18.8 percent poverty rate for all individuals in the county and 75.6 percent free and reduced lunch rate where the highest for the 12 Oregon counties OCDC provides services. These figures are important to note because poverty is often associated with: health problems and access to health care; and the need for food stamps, temporary assistance to needy families (TANF), and housing.

Jefferson County's 2008 Hispanic population numbered 4,271 which accounted for 20.8 percent of the population (Table 5). When examining population changes, observe that in 2007 there were 35 more Hispanic individuals than in 2008. Although a decrease occurred from 2007 to 2008, a 2006 study is noteworthy. In that study economists noted that of the three counties that compose Region 10 (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson), Jefferson County boasted the highest 2006 percentage of Hispanic residents.³ In fact, only 4 counties in Oregon had a higher 2006 percentage of Hispanic residents than Jefferson County. Such figures can be explained by Jefferson County's dependence on agricultural (especially in the Madras area) and, hence, an agricultural workforce that is composed of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, the majority of which are Hispanic.

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

The Oregon Department of Education estimates there to be 735 children between the ages of 3 and 4 living in Jefferson County in 2008.⁴ 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 2008 for Jefferson

² Annual Estimates of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

³ Steven C. Williams, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 10, Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties*. April 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

⁴ Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.



County, 17.8 percent. Thus, the total number of eligible Head Start children in Jefferson County is 131 children⁵. Note that Head Start and OPK programs in Jefferson County served 252 children in 2008. Because the 2008 number served by Head Start and OPK programs exceeded the eligible number, it appears that the 131 estimate was an underestimate of the true number of eligible children.

In the sections that follow, the Oregon Child Development Coalition will further refine the estimates from the Oregon Department of Education to provide estimates for the number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Jefferson County.

► PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

In 2008, 103 children were enrolled in the Jefferson Migrant Seasonal Head Start program based on income eligibility or public assistance, of which 42 qualified as migrant and 61 as seasonal.

Overall, nearly 99 percent of program participants were of Hispanic or Latino origin, which includes persons of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South and Central American or other Latino culture or origin. The majority of these were primary Spanish speakers, including an increasing number of indigenous language speakers.

► DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED MIGRANT CHILDREN

The Oregon Child Development Coalition contracted with a demographer, Jack DeWaard, who developed a method for estimating both the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and the number of children ages 0-5 of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Oregon counties for 2005 and 2008. The method builds upon Alice C. Larson's 2002 estimates of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and uses agricultural information from the Oregon Agricultural Information Network through Oregon State University.⁶ Table 2 contains the estimated number of MFW and SFW for four years across an 11 year period from 1997 to 2008.

In Jefferson County the estimated total number of MSFW decreased from 1,108 in 1997 to 1,020 in 2002 and, then, decreased to 925 in 2005, and increased by three workers in 2008 to 928. The numbers reflect a shift in migrant to seasonal workers in the county. It is estimated that in 1997 there were 843 MFW in Jefferson County declining to 371 in 2008. Estimates indicate there were only 265 SFW in 1997 but they increased to 557 in 2008.

⁵ *Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten, 2009*, Oregon Department of Education.

⁶ Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



The estimates of children of MFW and SFW reflect the changes discussed above. Table 7 shows the changes in this estimated population of children under five over a three year period from 2005 to 2008. The table shows there were 41 migrant children and 131 seasonal children in Jefferson County in 2005. The number of estimated migrant children increased by one to 42 and the number of children from seasonal families increased by three to 134 in 2008.

Table 8 contains the number of 2008 estimated eligible, served, and estimated eligible unserved for each county where services are provided by OCDC. **In Jefferson County the estimated number of eligible migrant children was 42 and the total number of migrant children served was 42, leaving zero estimated unserved children. The estimated numbers of eligible seasonal children was 134 and the total number of seasonal children served was 61, leaving 73 estimated unserved seasonal children.**

Results of the above analysis indicate that the Oregon Child Development Coalition is adequately serving the migrant population in Jefferson County, a population that has been declining. However, while there continues to be a decline in the number of eligible, migrant children in the area, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jefferson County could serve more seasonal children.

STRENGTHS & NEEDS

In this part of the report, information on services offered to children and families is discussed. External data from secondary sources and community organizations are usually used at the beginning of each subsection to construct a framework for specific strengths and needs. Internal data may also be included at the close of each section.

► EDUCATION

Adult Education

Of the 69 OCDC Jefferson County parents who reported their level of education on the enrollment form, 83 percent had less than a high school education and 17% were high school graduates.⁷

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

- Central Oregon Community College provides a number of courses, including, ESL, GED, and basic skills. They also offer conversational Spanish and distance learning courses.
- Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) provides GED, basic English, computer and alternative secondary classes.

⁷ Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



Oregon Child Development Coalition

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- The University of Oregon provides a high school equivalency program, as well as computer and employment search courses to approximately 30 students annually.
- The Oregon State University operates the Community Action Migrant Program (CAMP) which assists migrant students by paying for their first 52 credit hours for 2 students from central Oregon annually.
- Boise State University also provides a high school equivalency program as an alternative to the program provided by the Oregon State University.

Early Childhood Education

In the area of early childhood education, other Head Start programs in Jefferson County include The Children's Learning Center, the Mid-Columbia Children's Council, and Warm Springs Tribal Head Start. The Children's Learning Center has undergone a new structure and is under new leadership. It is hoped that collaborative opportunities can be developed with the new Director. The program is currently collaborating with Neighbor Impact and Childcare Resource and Referral on trainings for staff.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- Healthy Start (Healthy Families of the High Desert)
- Jefferson County ESD
- High Desert ESD
- Jefferson County Early Childhood Committee
- Juniper Junction Relief Nursery
- Migrant Education
- Jefferson County Fire Department & Policy on car seat program.
- The Jefferson County Library offers story times in Spanish and English, as well as a summer reading program and a traveling storyteller. The summer reading program serves approximately 175 children per week and the library is looking to increase capacity.

OCDC in Jefferson County has staff from the other Head Start programs that work in the program during the summer time and return to Regional Head Start programs (Mid-Columbia Children's Council, Inc. & Neighbor Impact) for the school year programs. OCDC accepts trainings and certifications that shared staff attend to maximize resources and staff training times.

► MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that two children in Jefferson County were provided mental health services in 2008, with one of these children also receiving referrals for additional services. On average, mental health professionals spent 7 hours per month on-site. Likewise, 12 children were determined to have a disability. Of these 12 children, each was determined eligible to



receive special education and related services. Primary disabilities included non-categorical developmental delays.⁸

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

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jefferson County shares an interagency agreement with Early Intervention operated by both the High Desert ESD and Mosiac Medical.
- Cindy Dahl, LCSW, provides independent consulting and direct service, including onsite observations and evaluations.
- Best Care provides community mental health, addiction and prevention services. They serve approximately 1,000 adults and 400 children annually.
- The Mosiac Medical also provides referrals for mental health services to qualified providers.

Jefferson County schools has implemented a program called “WatchDogs;” a father involvement program in which father’s volunteer their time and expertise at the local schools. Over 100 fathers attended the first meeting and attendance has been growing. OCDC hopes to model the same type of program with its fathers.

► **HEALTH & NUTRITION**

Data from the 2008 Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Program Information report show that out of 103 children enrolled in the MSHS program in Jefferson County, 88 had health insurance in 2008. Of the 88, 87 had insurance with the Oregon Health Plan.⁹ Of the families enrolled, 66 received WIC services.¹⁰

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing health and dental services to children and families in Jefferson County.

- The Jefferson County Health Department provides general health services, parent training and alcohol and drug counseling.
- The Mosaic Medical provides medical and dental services, as well as mental health referrals, to nearly 6,000 clients annually. They focus on clients experiencing barriers to care, including the homeless and migrant and seasonal farmworkers.¹¹
- Madras Medical Group provides preventive care and for other ongoing medical needs. They do not put a cap on medical clients; all are welcome. They provide a 20 percent discount for the self-pay patient when payment is received at the time of service, and also accept payment arrangements. They have 3 Spanish interpreters, which is a unique service to Central Oregon.

⁸ *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.

⁹ *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.

¹⁰ *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.

¹¹ Holly M. Gill, *Officials, Community Celebrate Clinic Opening*, Spring 2006, The Madras Pioneer.



- The Family Care Clinic, Central Oregon Pediatrics and Mountain View Family Care also serve as medical homes for many families enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.
- Dr. Higbee provides dental services to children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.
- Mountain View Hospital provides outreach and emergency services and supports community health projects such as Tooth Taxi, Community Health Fairs, and Varnish Clinics.

► FAMILY SERVICES

In 2008, seven OCDC families in Jefferson County received benefits under the TANF program. The agency responded to a range of family needs including: parenting education, ESL needs, adult education, emergency/crisis intervention, and housing assistance.¹²

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing family and social services to children and families in Jefferson County.

- The Oregon Department of Human Services has offices in Jefferson County providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Shelter services in Jefferson County are provided by Saving Grace which offers shelter and transitional services, as well as a hotline, emergency victim assistance, peer counseling and support groups, children's services, and additional advocacy services.
- Neighborhood Impact provides childcare resource and referral, support services for rent, electricity, and home remodeling services.
- Legal Aid Services of Oregon serves the entire central Oregon region, serving over 1,000 clients annually. Correspondence with the regional director found that they do a significant amount of divorce, custody, domestic violence, and landlord-tenant work.
- The Latino Community Leadership Council in Bend, Oregon, advocates for family support services.
- The Central Oregon Council on Aging serves the elderly and handicapped; however others in the community can access dial-a-ride services for a fee.
- Boys and Girls Club provides after school activities for school age children
- Juniper Junction Community Council focuses on child abuse and neglect and is in contraction with OCDC to provide a Relief Nursery.

► CHILDCARE

¹² Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following information on child care in Jefferson County in 2008. There were 537 slots in child care and education centers and 234 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Jefferson had 18 per 100 children. It was also reported that 64 children age 0-12 received state assistance (through DHS) with part of all of their child care costs.¹³

The following is a breakdown of some of the agencies providing childcare and related services to children in Jefferson County.

- The Oregon Child Care Division's database for Jefferson County lists certified childcare centers in the county.
- Certified childcare homes are also listed in the Oregon Child Care Division's database for Jefferson County. Most of these are in the Madras area. Roughly one-half of all home childcare providers in Jefferson County speak Spanish.

Consider a personal story by one provider: "I was a registered family child care provider in Madras for several years. I wanted to expand my business to be able to care for more children but I did not have the extra time or money to attend necessary classes to become certified. I read in the Child Care Resources Spanish Language Newsletter that they were offering a "Super Saturday" in my community where Spanish speaking providers could complete all trainings required for certification in one day. I was able to attend the Super Saturday and obtain certification through the Child Care Division. I am now able to serve more families and the quality of my business and care has increased."¹⁴

► TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING

There were no labor camps in Jefferson County during either 2006 or 2008.¹⁵ Many of OCDC families reside in manufactured home parks.

The following is a breakdown of housing information in Jefferson County.

- At least two apartment complexes in Jefferson County - Menta Park and the Willow Creek Apartments - cater to low-income and farmworker families. Overall, there are at least 60 units.
- There are 14 manufactured home parks in Jefferson County, 11 of which are located in Madras.
- The Central Oregon Regional Housing Authority (CORHA) provides housing and housing assistance to central Oregon residents. Those seeking assistance from CORHA have noted long waits, 6 month to 1 year.

¹³ Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.

¹⁴ Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.

¹⁵ Agricultural Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2006-2008



The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing transportation services in Jefferson County.

- Cascade East Ride provide transportation to individuals with the Oregon Health Plan and travel to Bend and Redmond where they can access medical and dental appointments and other Central Oregon Resources. .
- The Central Oregon Council on Aging serves the elderly and handicapped; however others in the community can access dial-a-ride services for a fee.



EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES, CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSED CHANGES

EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES

Table 8, contained in the earlier Oregon Community Assessment and OCDC Overview section of this report, listed 2008 estimated eligible and served migrant and seasonal Head Start children. Because it will be referred to several times in this section, a copy of it is also contained on the next page of this section.

Because OCDC gives first priority to migrant children, the following discussion focuses on them. For 2008, the estimated eligible number of migrant children in the state was 4,464 of which 3,679 were located in the 12 counties OCDC serves (Table 8). Of the estimated 3,679 eligible children, OCDC served about half (1,803), leaving 1,876 unserved. There is also an estimated 785 eligible unserved 0-5 year old children living in the other 24 counties in the state.

If resources are available, what opportunities should OCDC pursue? Three broad possibilities exist: market penetration, market development and combined market penetration and market development. These three approaches plus other supporting strategies are discussed next. An important reason for presenting these ideas is to inform the Board of Directors and Policy Council as they consider future directions for the agency. Following this presentation are concluding CA remarks plus proposed changes.

► MARKET PENETRATION

With this approach, OCDC would penetrate or access children from the estimated 1,876 migrant children existing in its current territory or market. In Table 8, the Marion/Multnomah/Clackamas three-county area has the largest estimated number of these unserved children (822). The Hood River/Wasco combined area is the next largest with 807 estimated unserved children. An advantage of this strategy is that it would probably be less costly than other ways to serve additional children. OCDC already has resources (e.g., staff, buildings, and buses) and experiences (e.g., relationships with growers and other service providers) in these counties and this probably means less effort would be necessary to serve additional children/families than moving into new counties. This would certainly be true if additional children could be served at current sites that were not operating at full capacity and it would be less true if new service sites were needed.



Table 8: 2008 Estimated Eligible, Served & Estimated Unserved Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Children Ages 0-5

	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
	Estimated Eligible Migrant Children	Served Migrant Children	Estimated Eligible Unserved Migrant Children	Estimated Eligible Seasonal Children	Served Seasonal Children	Estimated Eligible Unserved Seasonal Children
Oregon	≈4,464	1,803	≈2,661	≈14,154	916	≈13,238
OCDC Counties						
Hd River/Wasco	≈1,191 (565+626)	384	≈807	≈2,903 (1,618+1,285)	121	≈2,782
Jackson	≈228	74	≈154	≈648	53	≈595
Jefferson	≈42	42	≈0	≈134	61	≈73
Klamath	≈19	49	≈0	≈78	80	≈0
Mar/Mul/Clack	≈1,268 (712+105+451)	446 (306+14)	≈822	≈4,641 (2,787+414+1,44)	192 (63+129)	≈4,449
Malhuer	≈172	215	≈0	≈533	99	≈434
Polk	≈199	88	≈111	≈690	49	≈641
Umatilla	≈184	206	≈0	≈1,034	107	≈927
Wash	≈376	299	≈77	≈1,195	154	≈1,041
Total OCDC Counties	≈3,679	1,803	≈1,876	≈11,856	916	≈10,940
Total Unserved Counties	≈785	0	≈785	≈2,298	0	≈2,298
Selected Unserved Counties						
Yamhill	≈393	0	≈393	≈832	0	≈832
Benton	≈175	0	≈175	≈383	0	≈383
Lane	≈97	0	≈97	≈351	0	≈351

Sources: Indirect estimates of migrant and seasonal children ages 0-5, OCDC, 2008; Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008



► MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Another approach is to serve additional children from the 785 estimated unserved migrant children located in counties OCDC does not currently provide service. Hence, OCDC would spread out or develop new territories/counties/markets. In Table 8, OCDC's unserved counties with the largest estimated eligible migrant children are listed. Yamhill County with 393 children has the largest estimated unserved number followed by Benton County with 175 and Lane County with 97. A reason for selecting this approach over market penetration is that children/families in new counties may have greater education, disability, mental health, etc. needs than the additional children that could be served through the market penetration strategy.

► COMBINED MARKET PENETRATION AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Employing a combined strategy means OCDC would serve additional children in both its current 12 counties as well as new counties and combine the benefits of each approach. In general, knowledge about the market penetration and market development strategies helps decision makers visualize and understand location differences with regard to serving additional children/families.

► OTHER STRATEGIES

Other strategies also may need to be considered. Suppose a program has decided to serve additional children in new counties or at new sites in its currently served counties. The next question needing an answer is: How should the program enter those new areas? It could enter by itself (start-up entry) or it could partner with others (strategic alliance entry). If OCDC elects to use the start-up entry approach it has complete control of all decisions and the outcomes, both positive and negative. However, OCDC will be responsible for all associated costs. If a strategic alliance is established, the costs are mitigated but there is the need for collaboration and cooperation.

An important part of a strategic alliance is the development of a formal (written) document between the two or more involved parties covering the agreed upon commitments and responsibilities. Ideally, partners provide the alliance with different resources, capitalizing on each of their strengths. Resources include: staff, buildings, equipment, expertise, and funding. Each partner, in turn, hopes that the benefits of the alliance--a synergy--will be greater than those from their individual efforts. The alliance can be cooperation or collaboration. The main differences between these two types is that a collaboration is a more active form of cooperation and, as such, requires more input time while producing more output benefits for the parties. Although alliances are attractive and partners can see the benefits during the planning phase, some do not produce the desired outcomes. Often problems arise during implementation when unexpected issues occur and the parties cannot agree on what actions should be taken.



CONCLUSIONS

OCDC is serving the needs of many Migrant and Seasonal families in Oregon. OCDC offers an array of services to meet family needs to match peak agricultural seasons while addressing long-term needs of seasonal workers who remain in the community. The scheduled hours and program options are designed to meet the varying needs of each of the twelve counties where most migrant and seasonal workers reside or work. However, the “season” for agriculture continues to evolve into one that is year round with no one “peak” harvest period due to crop diversity, crop rotation, and changing farm management practices. In some areas it is reported that there are more than one “peak” season where additional workers are needed. Agricultural reports indicate a continued growth in planting of orchards, vineyards, and hop yards and a growing emphasis on local “farm to market” activities supported by the industry and the consumer.

OCDC has extensive partnerships in the state that are designed: to meet the needs of their employees, through professional development; and to meet the needs of the families, through collaborative partnerships with key agencies in the state providing health, disabilities, mental health and educational services. Of particular note is the expanded emphasis and interest in family literacy and working with local clinics to provide medical and dental services.

PROPOSED CHANGES

The following are suggested changes associated with the Community Assessment process.

- Estimates of MSFW and their children should be carefully reviewed and an emphasis placed on validating the numbers in the state, the counties and in local areas within the counties.
- There appears to be a need to develop a weighting scale to assist in the prioritization of future expansion into additional counties or within current counties served in the state. Should expansion dollars or other resources become available, the scale would include criteria for weighing family and community needs to determine the neediest areas.
- It is suggested that data be gathered from each of the twelve counties rather than consolidating Clackamas into Multnomah and Marion and combining Hood River with Wasco.
- Questions contained in the parent survey should be reviewed. Some questions may need to be redesigned to reduce their ambiguity. Also, depending on the purpose of the survey, other questions may need to be added to more fully cover the services offered by OCDC and the needs of families.
- It is recommended that timelines for completing data reports to inform the grant application using the Needs Assessment, Community Assessments, Training and Technical Assistance Plan, Goals and Objectives and Budget be reviewed and revised at the county and state level.



- An ongoing CA team, led by the Director of Resource Development at the central office, needs to be established to oversee the data gathering and analysis process, and to identify trends that impact the services OCDC offers. The outcomes of the CA can be integrated more fully in training and technical assistance, grant applications, goals and objectives and the self assessment.

