

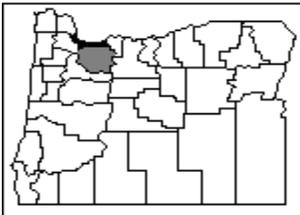
MULTNOMAH & CLACKAMAS COUNTIES

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties 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 Multnomah and Clackamas Counties served a total of 269 children in 2008. Of these, 140 children were classified as migrant children and 129 children were classified as seasonal children.

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties currently employs a center-based option, serving children from one location in Gresham, Oregon. The short-term program runs 12 weeks from June through August, operating nine classrooms, 5 days per week from 4:45 am to 4:30 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from January through May and then from September through December, operating seven classrooms, 5 days per week from 8 am to 2 pm and from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

The service area includes the entirety of Multnomah County, as well as the northern portion of neighboring Clackamas County including the town of Sandy, Oregon. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) the program center location in Gresham, (ii) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties serves the predominantly agricultural areas of these counties, and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start



Performance Standards.

CRITICAL ISSUES

▶ IMMIGRATION

Recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids have targeted major agriculture producers in Portland, OR, including several large packing plants, scaring away immigrants and persuading many agricultural employers to improve hiring practices.

During the last few years the number of families working on crops has been declining. There are a large number of fathers coming without spouses and children.



► CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE

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

While nurseries and greenhouses are increasingly profitable for many more growers these days, one cannot infer that greater sales will result in more employees, better jobs and higher wages. If the past 10-20 years have provided one lesson, it is that growers are looking to increase efficiency while lowering overhead (i.e., labor costs) and stabilizing acreage.

COUNTY PROFILE

► GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Multnomah and Clackamas Counties are located in the northwest portion of Oregon spanning some 465 square miles and 1,879 square miles respectively. Both were named for their resident Indian populations, with the name *Multnomah* derived from *nematlnomaq* meaning “downriver.”¹ Prior to the arrival of Americans and Europeans, approximately 1 million people inhabited this area, due in large part to the abundant supply of fish in the Willamette and Clackamas Rivers. Despite the rich farmland in the area, inhabitants did not practice agriculture.

Today, Multnomah County, Oregon’s smallest county in size, contains Oregon’s largest population. Home to the city of Portland, Multnomah County continues to attract visitors and new residents from around the United States due to the appealing contrast of urban metropolis bordered by rivers and farmland.² Immediately south is Clackamas County. The diversity of Oregon’s landscape is perhaps best characterized by Clackamas County. Oregon City - home to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center - sits 55 feet above sea level near the west end of the county.

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

¹ Oregon Blue Book 2008

² Oregon Blue Book 2008.



the abundance of landmarks and natural resources, including Mount Hood (11,249'), the Columbia Gorge, Multnomah Falls, and the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers.³

► 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 Multnomah County was \$42,157 and for Clackamas County it was \$45,653, the two highest in the state. Table 1 also shows the total number of individuals employed in the Multnomah County in 2007 was 582,125 with .25 percent in agriculture. The number of people employed in Clackamas County was 225,644 with 3.62 percent employed in agriculture. The July 2009 unemployment rate for Multnomah County was 11.4 percent, more than double the rate of 5.3 percent in 2008. In Clackamas County the July 2009 unemployment rate was 11 percent, up from 6.6 percent in 2008 and 5.7 percent in 2007 (see Table 1).

The labor peak corresponds with the berry harvests during the summer months, beginning with strawberries. Following strawberries; raspberries, blueberries and blackberries are harvested, lasting into August when growers will transition into harvesting wine grapes and preparing for Christmas trees. Growers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties depend on the labor of migrant and seasonal farmworkers to harvest strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries, as well as to assist in nurseries and greenhouses. However, growers are seeking to further mechanize raspberries, blueberries and blackberries.

Berry production in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties has been declining for more than 10 years. Growers are seeing greater competition these days from domestic (e.g., California strawberries) and international (e.g., China, Chile and Eastern Europe) competitors. Especially in the case of international competitors, growers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties - and throughout Oregon for that matter - cannot compete given expressed concerns around fuel and storage costs, labor and wages, and other overhead. Unable to compete in their respective markets, growers have slowly been reducing acreage while also seeing declining sales annually.

While berry production decreases nursery and greenhouse sales continue to increase each year. Nearby Marion and Washington Counties are the state leaders in nursery and greenhouse sales, but Clackamas County is gaining a share of the market. Representatives from these operations revealed that employers are currently looking for ways to position themselves as the “employer of choice” in an effort to recruit and retain skilled laborers.

To migrant and seasonal farmworkers, reductions in berry acreage and corresponding increases in nursery and greenhouse sales means more consistent employment opportunities for those farmworkers who are skilled enough to attain such positions. The

³ Oregon Blue Book 2008.



further effect of such reductions in berry acreage is that fewer migrant families elect to travel to the area.

The above findings are also of importance in program planning. Adequate enrollment planning for the Oregon Child Development Coalition must attend to the issue of declining acreage despite the fact that nursery and greenhouse sales continue to increase over time.

► **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Data in Table 5 shows the total population of Multnomah County in 2008 to be 714,567 up by 2.20 percent from 2007 and the total number of children under age four in Multnomah County in 2008 to be 44,858.

Table 5 also shows the number of individuals living in poverty (all ages) in 2007 in Multnomah County to be 15.0 percent and the poverty rate for children birth to two years of age to be 24.5 percent. The poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 21.9.⁴ During the 2008-2009 school year, 50.0 percent of the students were eligible for free and reduced lunch (Table 5).

Table 5 reported the total population of Clackamas County in 2008 to be 380,576 up by 1.46 from 2007 and the total number of children under the age of four in Clackamas County in 2008 to be 23,002.

The percent of the total population of all people living in poverty in Clackamas County was 9.2 in 2007 and for children ages birth to two years the rate was 24.5 percent (Table 5). The poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 13.5 percent.⁵ During the 2008-2009 school year, 31.1 percent of students in Clackamas County schools were eligible for free or reduced lunch.

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

The Oregon Department of Education estimates there to be 17,916 children between the ages of 3 and 4 living in Multnomah County in 2008 and 9,968 children between the ages of 3 and 4 living in Clackamas County in 2008.⁶ 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 Multnomah County and Clackamas County, 21.9 percent and 13.5 percent respectively. Thus, the 2008 total number of eligible Head Start children in Multnomah County is 3,922 children; and the total number of eligible Head Start children in Clackamas County is 1,341 children.⁷

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

⁵ Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009

⁶ Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

⁷ Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.



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 Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

► **POPULATION & ANCESTRY**

Unlike in other counties, Multnomah County boasts a relatively large Black population, as well as a growing number of Asians and Hispanics. This is largely due to the location of Portland - Oregon's largest and most densely populated urban area - in Multnomah County. Relative to the rest of the state, Region 2 - an area which includes Multnomah County - has a high degree of racial and ethnic diversity, with nearly three-quarters of the state's black population and two-thirds of the state's Asian population calling this area home.⁸ State economists have also noted that the Hispanic population is the fastest growing minority group in this area, growing at a rate that, in Multnomah County, is ten times faster than the general population and, in Clackamas County, at a rate that is six times faster than the general population.

► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

In 2008, 269 children were enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start programs for Multnomah and Clackamas Counties on the basis of public assistance or income eligibility. Of this total, 140 children qualified as migrant and 129 qualified as seasonal.

Table 5 displays the Hispanic composition of the population in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. Multnomah is reported as having a population of 73,185 Hispanic residents in 2007 and 77,415 in 2008 which represents a 5.78 increase. In Clackamas County there was an estimated 26,212 persons of Hispanic origin in 2007 increasing to 27,768 in 2008 representing an increase of 5.94 percent.

Nearly all 269 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. Indigenous languages are typically spoken by those program participants from the Oaxaca region of Mexico and include the languages of Mixteco and Trique. It is also noted the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties has seen an increase in the number of indigenous language speakers in need of services.

► **DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED MIGRANT CHILDREN⁹**

⁸ Amy VanderVliet, Regional Profile: Population in Region 2, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.



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.¹⁰ Table 2 contains the estimated number of MFW and SFW for four years across an 11 year period from 1997 to 2008.

In Multnomah County the estimated total number of MSFW decreased from 2,832 in 1997 to 1,622 in 2002 and, then, increased to 2,203 in 2005 but decreased again in 2008 to 2,118. The numbers reflect a dramatic shift in migrant to seasonal workers in the county. It is estimated that in 1997 there were 1,971 MFW in Multnomah County declining to 625 in 2008. Estimates indicate there were only 861 SFW in 1997 but they increased to 1,535 in 2005 and slightly decreased to 1,491 in 2008.

Table 8 contains the number of estimated eligible, served, and estimated eligible unserved children, ages 0-5, for each county where services are provided by OCDC. **The reporting system for 2008 integrated the number of children from Clackamas into the estimates for Marion and Multnomah Counties. Therefore the estimated number of eligible migrant children across the three counties is 1,268 and the estimated numbers of seasonal children across the three counties is 4,641. The number of migrant children served in the three counties is 446 leaving an estimated 822 unserved. The number of seasonal children served is 192 leaving approximately 4,449 children unserved.**

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 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

In 2008, 202 parents reported their level of education on the enrollment form, with 93% having less than a high school education for the Multnomah/Clackamas OCDC center.¹¹

¹⁰Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.

¹¹ Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



In general, state economists have noted that Multnomah and Clackamas County residents are typically better educated relative to residents in other areas of the state. However, what is also of interest is that roughly the same percentages of residents have a high school degree or less as have earned at least a bachelor's degree, perhaps evidence of a widening gap between these segments of the population, a gap that most certainly impacts not only wages and earnings, but also the economic stability of local residents.

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

- Mt. Hood Community College and Portland Community College, in collaboration with Centro Mexicano, have incorporated INEA, a Literacy Program from Mexico introduced in 2000 and currently in college curriculums as basic skills training which bridges classes to obtain the Spanish GED and advance into ESL classes. Access to literacy information in Spanish and 16 Indigenous languages is available from Centro Mexicano through conevyt.org.mx, an international website.
- Clackamas Community College's Pathways to Progress grant provides funding for support staff interested in becoming teachers or social workers. Two staff members have completed this program, with several others having completed the application process for the second cohort.
- The Multnomah County Public Library offers 12-15 classes annually and serves some 2,000 parents. Materials are offered in 4 languages and considerable emphasis is placed on outreach to hard to reach populations.
- Catholic Charities operates El Programa Hispano, offering skill building and job search classes such as Spanish literacy, ESL, computer courses, driver's education, financial literacy, and safety promotions.
- The Oregon Employment Department's WorkSource Oregon office provides a range of trainings and services for job seekers and employers.
- The Oregon Human Development Corporation works with displaced agricultural workers offering job-training programs during the whole year.
- Multnomah/Clackamas Oregon Child Development Coalition also offers classes and trainings in the area of adult education. Classes and trainings have been offered in the areas of child development, food handler's card, literacy and reading with children, and transitions.
- OCDC encourages parents to apply for open positions within OCDC that they might meet the requirements for. Parents are welcome to work towards their CDA.

The OCDC staff in Multnomah County indicates that the above agencies have identified several issues associated with the educational needs of children and families in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. In the area of adult education, several providers have expressed concern around the issue of immigration and documentation, as the absence of the latter acts to inhibit those in need from linking into essential community services.



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

Efforts continue to be made to collaborate with the above providers and ensure that barriers to trainings and other classes are removed. One of the barriers is the legal status; some of the agency partners require students to have a valid social security number.

Early Childhood Education

In the area of early childhood education, other Head Start programs in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties include Albina Head Start, Clackamas County Children's Commission, Clackamas ESD Pre-kindergarten, Mt. Hood Community College Head Start, Neighborhood House, Portland Public Schools Head Start and Siletz Tribal Head Start. Although Multnomah Early Childhood Program (MECP) does not operate Head Start Services, MECP serves children ages birth to 5. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas County has and continues to develop interagency agreements with these providers to facilitate recruitment, trainings, transitions, etc. The Head Start Director for the Clackamas County Children's Commission has expressed a desire to explore the development of a joint recruitment strategy for children in Clackamas County.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- Clackamas County Children's Commission (Region X Head Start), Clackamas County ESD Pre Kindergarten (OHS - Pre-kindergarten), Mt. Hood Community College Head Start (Region X Head Start), Multnomah Early Childhood Program (MECP), and the Oregon Child Development in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties have developed an Interagency Agreement which focuses on jointly implementing strategies in such areas as recruitment, transitions, health and disabilities and training and technical assistance.
- The Multnomah and Clackamas Education Service Districts provide a range of education and support services to children with special needs and their families.
- The Multnomah County Public Library offers 12-15 classes annually and serving some 25,000 children from birth through age 6. They offer the Early Words programs and the Raising a Reader program, and are in the process of applying for federal funding for the Early Reading First program.
- Fairview Elementary School (Reynolds School District) provides program support by giving preference for enrollment to children in the school district, sponsoring



- parent events to introduce them into the school system while the child is still in preschool, sharing staff trainings, providing free space, and supporting an elementary school “buddy” program.
- The Gresham-Barlow School District has recently hired Spanish speaking liaisons whose responsibilities include working on providing support to low-income and migrant families.
 - The Parkrose School District offers a range of after school and Title I programs, as well as pre and post school day childcare.

Some local school districts do not have the funding to ensure bilingual staff to assist with the transitions process. To address this, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties has been working to take an inventory of what services each school district has available and then working to address gaps and shortages. Further, as way to counter those gaps and problems that do arise during the transitions process, efforts are being made to individualize curriculum in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program so as to promote continuity with what various school districts need in order to facilitate the transitions process.

► MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Program Information Report show that 1 child in Multnomah/Clackamas Center was provided mental health services in 2008. Likewise, *24 children were determined to have a disability in 2008*. Of these children, each was determined eligible to receive special education and related services. Primary disabilities included speech or language impairment, hearing, non-categorical and multiple disabilities.¹²

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

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties has interagency agreements with Multnomah Early Childhood Program and Clackamas ESD. Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education services may include speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy based on the identified needs of each child.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties contracts the mental health services of Donna Osorio - currently on site every Tuesday and Thursday - with the Multnomah County Health Department.
- In partnership with Cascadia Behavioral Health and Central City Concern, El Programa Hispano makes available mental health services through the Mios program.

Representatives from the above indicated that cultural barriers sometimes act as impediments to care given certain cultural perceptions around disabilities. It was noted that disabilities are often a taboo subject for many families. Parents may view their child

¹² *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.



as “sticking out” and themselves as “bad parents.” Thus, continued efforts are needed to ensure that parents continue to be educated and informed about the needs of their children in an environment characterized by trust and mutual support.

The Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties indicates that there continues to be a need to educate and support parents in learning about children’s basic developmental timeline. Parents in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program have worked to develop Cara Corazon, a parent support group which focuses on parenting skills and problem solving for Dads. Other learning opportunities for parents include parenting classes led by the Mental Health Consultant based on the Incredible Years Curriculum and child development information provided at Parent Informational Fairs.

► **HEALTH & NUTRITION**

In 2008, 269 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Multnomah County. From these numbers of children enrolled, 198 were enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan. For those without health insurance the Oregon Child Development Coalition worked with families to reduce the number of children without health insurance. The number of families receiving WIC services in Multnomah/ Clackamas OCDC was 69.

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

- The Oregon State WIC program in Clackamas County serves 7,150 children under the age 5 and 2,964 pregnant women annually, with 62 percent of those served in Clackamas County at or below the poverty level.
- The Multnomah County Health Department has six clinics in the Portland and Gresham areas, four of which include a dental clinic. These clinics have extensive Spanish speaking staff on the phone and at appointments. Many enrolled children with OHP are patients at these clinics.
- The Clackamas County Public Health Department provides health services to migrant farmworkers during the summer. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties contracts a medical doctor to serve the children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. The two agencies have also developed a paperwork processing system to facilitate access to care.
- La Clínica de Buena Salud, part of the Multnomah County Health Department’s Homeless Children’s Project, provides comprehensive culturally appropriate primary care health and outreach services to families who are at risk of homelessness.
- The Multnomah County Immunization Office is a resource for children lacking an established medical home at enrollment who are in need of immunizations prior to beginning the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.



- The North Portland Nurse Practitioners Clinic is one of the only clinics in the area that will provide acute care for uninsured children who are not established at a clinic. Sliding scale fees and walk-in care are available.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties collaborates with the Community Dental Health program to provide fluoride varnish ~~four~~ three times per year for all un-insured children in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.
- Dr. Park, a private dentist, donates his time to provide at least 6 on-site visits each year to do dental screenings. Additional contracted services provide dental treatment for uninsured children with high needs.
- The Wallace Medical Concern Clinic in Gresham together with the Oregon Nurse Association, the Multnomah County health Department and the Children's Community Clinic in Portland provide free medical services and immunizations to our families.

► **FAMILY SERVICES**

The number of families receiving TANF funds was 12 in Multnomah/Clackamas OCDC.¹³

The Migrant Seasonal Head Start program responded to a range of family needs, the most common being emergency and crisis intervention, transportation assistance and ESL needs.

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

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties has developed an interagency agreement with the local Child Care Resource and Referral provider to facilitate referrals.
- The Oregon Department of Human Services has offices in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Shelter services in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties are provided by the following agencies and programs: Clackamas Women's Resource Center, Community Bradley-Angle, Inc*. Domestic Violence Resource Center, El Programa Hispano, Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization, Listen to Kids, Native American Family Healing Circle, Portland Women's Crisis Line, Raphael House, Russian Oregon Social Services, and South Asian Women's Empowerment and Resource Alliance (SAWERA) Self-Enhancement, Inc.¹⁴
- Oregon 211 provides information and referral services in the Multnomah and Clackamas Counties and is currently looking to improve outreach to the Hispanic population.

¹³ Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.

¹⁴ Summary of Services Provided by Domestic and Sexual Violence Service Programs Funded by DHS, 2008, Oregon Department of Human Services.



- El Programa Hispano serves 10,000 clients annually, advocating for those in need, focusing on information and referral and short term intervention. They also offer the Unica program, a domestic violence program with a crisis line, outreach and transition assistance.
- Snowcap provides food and clothing to migrant families and has partnered with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties to provide request of assistance forms and access to resources at their Gresham, Oregon, office.
- Catholic Charities provides a range of services, including immigration legal services, refugee resettlement services, and pregnancy support and adoption services.
- Lakeridge Latter Day Saints provides the Adopt a Family program which provides support to 20 families per year. Support includes food, new clothing and Christmas gifts for children and adults.
- J. Frank Schmidt Nursery has donated shrubs to the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties for the playground, as well as potting soil for the children's vegetable garden.
- Oregon Community Warehouse charge \$30 dollars per visit to obtain furniture.

► **CHILDCARE**

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following information on child care in Multnomah County in 2008. There were 15,845 slots in child care and education centers and 6,997 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Multnomah had 20 per 100 children. It was also reported that 4,734 children age 0-12 received state assistance, through DHS, with part of all of their child care costs.¹⁵

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following information on child care in Clackamas County in 2008. There are 8,201 slots in child care and education centers and 2,499 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Clackamas has 17 per 100 children. There were also 1,257 children age 0-12 who received state assistance, through DHS, with part of all of their child care costs.¹⁶

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

- Childcare Resource and Referral in Multnomah County makes approximately 1,200 referrals annually, as well as provides training and assistance to approximately 1,000 childcare providers. In addition, Childcare Resource and

¹⁵ Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.

¹⁶ Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.



Referral in Multnomah County employs a Spanish Specialist and has a Spanish speaker on the referral line.

- Childcare Resource and Referral in Clackamas County also handles childcare referrals, as well as training and assistance to childcare providers.
- Within Multnomah County, there are 242 certified childcare centers and 893 family childcare homes. Of the total number of childcare homes, 49 are listed as primary Spanish speakers.
- Within Clackamas County, there are 70 certified childcare centers and 362 family childcare homes. Of the total number of childcare homes, 41 are listed as primary Spanish speakers.
- Additionally, there are an unspecified number of exempt childcare providers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

Providers have noted that additional before and after hours care is becoming increasingly necessary to accommodate parents working second and third shift. According to respondents, the most critical hours are those before 6 am when care is not available. Providers also noted that public transportation routes are not conducive to getting children to childcare providers, especially for those parents with work schedules beginning as early as 5 am. Thus, the conclusion may be reached that additional care - both in terms of hours of service and the number of days per week - is a current need.

Discussions around child care suggest there are many opportunities for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties to collaboratively address childcare needs in the community. Childcare Resource and Referral in Multnomah County and the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties have signed a written agreement and are looking develop joint staff trainings. Additional opportunities exist for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties to provide assistance in recruiting and (take out recruiting) and training Spanish-speaking providers, a task that has been difficult for Childcare Resource and Referral in Multnomah County.

► **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

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

- TriMet links eastern Multnomah County with the Portland metro area, serving 575 square miles and is seeing growing ridership by 16 percent annually.¹⁷ TriMet also provides travel trainings and services through Ride Connection.
- Ride Connection offers individualized transportation services such as U-Ride, a shared ride system designed to provide a partial solution to the absence of public transportation in rural areas.

¹⁷ *Ridership Statistics and Demographics*, 2006, TriMet



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

High fuel costs have been an issue for the agency this year. In response, the agency has been working to make stops more efficient, as well improve routes to ensure that existing routes do not cross one another, an indicator that multiple busses are covering the same area.

A team including the Transportation Coordinator noted parents continue to need education around (i) utilizing public transportation services in the community and (ii) securing car seats and necessary training. The agency work to bring in representatives from Tri-Met and Sandy Area Metro (SAM) to not only discuss existing services, but also gain input about potential new routes. Currently, existing routes are either infrequent or do not stop near the current program center location in Gresham, Oregon.

There were 5 labor camps in Multnomah County for 2006 and 4 in 2008. The total labor camp occupancy was 476 in 2006 and 469 in 2008. In Clackamas County there were 20 labor camps in for 2006 and 23 in 2008. The total labor camp occupancy was 530 in 2006 and 630 in 2008.¹⁸

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

- At least 64 apartment complexes in Multnomah County, such as the Clara Vista Apartments, cater to low-income and migrant families. Overall, there are several thousand units; however, it is noted many of these are in areas that are not near agricultural areas.
- There are 98 manufactured home parks in Multnomah County, the majority of which are located in the eastern portion of the county.
- There are 5 farm labor camps in Multnomah County. Together, these camps are able to accommodate 476 individuals.
- At least 10 apartment complexes in north Clackamas County, such as the Sandy Vista Apartments, cater to low-income families. Overall, there are several hundred units, many of which are located in or near agricultural areas.
- There are 90 manufactured home parks in Clackamas County, the majority of which are located in the more rural areas of the county.
- There are 20 farm labor camps in Clackamas County. Together, these camps are able to accommodate 493 individuals.

¹⁸ Agricultural Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2006-2008



- Since 1999, Caritas Housing Initiatives has acquired, renovated and built 80 units of housing for low-income and special needs populations, including Casa Verde in Canby, Oregon, and Rondel Court in Molalla, Oregon.
- The Housing Authority of Portland provides affordable housing options, public housing and the Section 8 Housing Voucher program.
- The Clackamas County Housing Authority provides housing and rental assistance in the forms of low rent public housing, rental assistance, and a transitions program to house families with homeless children.

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

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



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 Unservd Counties	≈785	0	≈785	≈2,298	0	≈2,298
Selected Unservd 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.

