

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – 2013 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families by providing early childhood education, care and advocacy with unique and supportive services to enhance family growth and community success. Operating as a private, non-profit corporation, OCDC serves thirteen counties in Oregon, with central offices located in Wilsonville. Programs vary across the state depending on assessment of child, family and community needs; these include Migrant and Seasonal Head Start / Early Head Start, Oregon Prekindergarten, Oregon Early Head Start, and Early Head Start Home Visiting programs.

Key Trends Facing Head Start Eligible Families in OCDC's Service Area

Oregonians continue to become *less* likely to meet basic needs, including access to food, housing, and transportation. **In some Oregon counties, the child poverty rate exceeds 1 out of every 3 children**; in 8 of 13 counties OCDC serves, greater than 1 out of every 4 children lives below the poverty line. **Yet childcare costs continue to rise.**

Risks impacting the general population and Hispanics/Latinos¹ are assumed to be ***more pronounced* among Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers** exacerbated by extremely poor living conditions, high stressors (including poverty, domestic violence, and food insecurity), and health risks associated with pesticide exposure, hunger/malnutrition and stress.

Demographic Make-up of Eligible Children

Families with children under age 18 are overrepresented among those living in poverty (76% vs. 47% of the Oregon population).² Black, Hispanic, and American Indian / Alaska Native children in Oregon are also disproportionately impacted by poverty.³ Oregon Head Start Enrollment has continued to grow although there was a dip across all ages in 2011.⁴

¹ Oregon's Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker population continues to be dominated by a high majority of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans.

² Oregon Housing and Community Services. April 2012. Report on Poverty. http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/isd/ra/docs/2011_oregon_poverty_report.pdf

³ National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP). 2010a. Oregon: Demographics of Poor Children. Columbia University: Mailman School of Public Health. http://www.nccp.org/profiles/OR_profile_7.html Accessed: September 2012.

⁴ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Kids Count Data Center. 2013. Head Start Enrollment by Age Group. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates> Accessed July 2013.



The crop-based agriculture wage average in Oregon is \$21,973, with a low of \$10,217 in strawberries and a high of \$29,370 in potatoes.⁵ In 2011, the statewide average annual income was \$19,022 for OCDC families in Federally Funded programs and \$15,491 for OCDC families in State Funded programs.

The table below provides two overlapping estimates related to eligibility for OCDC’s Head Start Programs, children ages 0-5 living at or below the Federal Poverty Line and children ages 0-5 of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers. 2013 data provide more current estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW) in Oregon. These were used to re-calculate estimates of children of MSFW.

County	Estimated Head Start Income-Eligible Children, OCDC Counties		Estimated Numbers of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) Children, Ages 0-5		
	Child Poverty Rate (2011) ^{i,ii}	Est. Number of Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty	2013 Total MSFW Rank	% Change from 2002 Est.	2013 Est. Number of MSFW Children Ages 0-5 ⁱⁱⁱ
Clackamas	15.9%	3,296	4	-21.1%	2,571
Hood River	23.2%	341	3	-32.3%	2,766
Jackson	27.3%	3,268	9	2.2%	1,807
Jefferson	33.3%	514	20	-70.1%	172
Klamath	30.8%	1,198	17	1.0%	322
Malheur	35.0%	761	6	16.5%	2,187
Marion	30.6%	7,047	1	-27.5%	4,797
Morrow	23.0%	184	11	202.1%	1,265
Multnomah	26.1%	12,286	14	-5.7%	622
Polk	18.7%	842	10	2.4%	1,749
Umatilla	25.9%	1,413	8	-16.1%	2,056
Wasco	25.8%	401	7	-39.2%	2,075
Washington	16.0%	6,046	5	-14.0%	2,458
Oregon	23.4%	54,747		-12.9%	31,833

i. U.S. Census Bureau. 2012 “Estimates for Oregon Counties: Under age 18 in poverty, 2011,” Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/statecounty/data/2011.htm> Reported in Children First for Oregon. 2013. 2012 County Data Book: Status of Oregon's Children. www.cffo.org.
ii. U.S. Census Bureau, 2011. Macartney, S. and L. Mykyta. November 2012 American Community Survey. Poverty and Shared Households by State: 2011. American Community Survey Briefs. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/acsbr11-05.pdf>.
iii. OCDC calculation based on Larson, Alice C. May 2013. Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study, Oregon Update. Larson Assistance Services. www.oregon.gov/oha/OHPR/PCO/Pages/index.aspx.

Trends

Yamhill County’s significant increase (97.2%) of Seasonal Farmworkers raises it to the second highest county population of MSFW in the state (8,652). Morrow County saw the greatest

⁵ Oregon Department of Agriculture. 2013. 2013 State of the Agriculture Industry, Board of Agriculture Report. http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/pages/pub_bd_rpt.aspx



percent increase (202.1% to 3,459) in both Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker populations. In general, the numbers and information from county service provision indicate a continued decreasing number of Migrants offset by people “settling out” to become Seasonal Farmworkers.

Definitions of “Seasonal” vs. “Migrant” do not fit OCDC outreach worker reports about how families are living. In order to keep their children in a stable environment, one parent may migrate, or both parents may follow short-term migrant work, leaving their children behind – perhaps with family, perhaps with non-relatives. While one or both parents might be engaged in “migrant” work – with related family instability, the children might only qualify for “seasonal” programming because the whole family is not moving together.

Impact to OCDC: Estimates indicate extensive potential unmet need for wrap-around services to Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker families. Currently categorized “Seasonal” children may display developmental or emotional characteristics similar to those of “Migrant” children.

Recommendations: Look at implementing site-based services in Morrow County, possibly in Boardman. Prioritize determination of key locations for service provision in Yamhill County. Investigate possible partnership(s) with local colleges to provide short-term Migrant services during the orchard crop harvest in Cove, Oregon (Union County).

Conduct further, systematic assessment of how Farmworker families balance access to work against the needs of their children. Assess service delivery in Seasonal programs to determine service needs and solutions for children who have parents who migrate for work. Advocate for implementation of language/categorization that more accurately fits West Coast Farmworkers.

Other Child Development Programs

Costs for child care have increased while household incomes have decreased. The current cost of toddler care is about 60% of a minimum wage income.⁶ Quality, affordable childcare remains a priority across the state, with an emphasis on: infant/toddler care, late and weekend hours, and serving families earning above the maximum income for Head Start services.

Impact to OCDC: There is a statewide opportunity to address an increasing unmet need for quality, affordable early childhood care and education.

Recommendations: Develop business model for delivery of low-income childcare to families up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line that includes: infant/toddler care, late and weekend hours, and expertise in identifying and delivering services to children with disabilities (see below). Consider including care for older siblings, especially during non-school hours and breaks.

⁶ Weber, Bobbie. May 2013. Child Care and Education in Oregon and Its Counties: 2012. Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University. <http://health.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/occrp/pdf/state-profile-child-care-and-education-in-oregon-and-its-counties-2012.pdf>. Accessed June 2013. Citing data from: U.S. Census, ACS B 19126, 2011, 3-Year Estimate for Oregon inflation adjusted for 2012. Grobe, D. & Weber, R. 2012 *Oregon Child Care Market Price Study*. Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, OSU.



Number and Types of Disabilities and Related Resources

Oregon exhibits extreme deficits in the level of services provided to young children (ages 0-5) with identified disabilities. 72.1% of infants and toddlers with identified disabilities are not receiving service level standard care. 30% of low need preschoolers, 99% of moderate need preschoolers, and 96.5% of high need preschoolers are not receiving service level standard care in the state of Oregon.⁷ This level of deficit in service delivery does not touch the untold numbers of *unidentified* young children with disabilities.

Impact to OCDC: With such extreme deficit in service provision at the state level, the resources to address the needs children with disabilities may be insufficient even working with local and regional community partners and local education authorities.

Recommendations: Assess the current percent of children with disabilities served with service level standard care by OCDC programs. Prioritize training, technical assistance, and coaching to identify disabilities and to improve standard level service delivery to children with disabilities. Set target goals for incremental year by year improvement of service level standard care delivery rates.

Health, Education, Nutrition, and Social Service Needs

Inability to Meet Basic Needs

1. Capacity to meet basic needs is impacted by high underemployment rates and lingering above-national-average unemployment rates combined with high costs. Over 2/3 (69%) of Oregon families in poverty have at least one parent who works.⁸
2. Transportation issues impact the ability of OCDC families and staff statewide to access food, healthcare, social services, and educational opportunities. Challenges include: limited or *no* public transportation, limited or unavailable services in some areas, and the continued high cost of gas.
3. Farmworker housing presents challenges from substandard living conditions to inability to comply with heightened OSHA regulations. With many families struggling to find access to affordable, safe housing options, homelessness remains a high concern.
4. Obesity and Food Insecurity present flip sides related to overlapping concerns of: the increasing cost of food and other basic needs, food insecurity, food deserts, and increasing use of SNAP and food banks. Since 2010, SNAP use has continued to climb in Oregon to a

⁷ Calculated using data from: Oregon Department of Education. 2012. Annual Performance Progress Report for Fiscal Year (2011 – 2012). <http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/data/2012appr.pdf>

⁸ Oregon Center for Public Policy. July 27, 2013. Fact Sheet: Working But Still Poor. <http://www.ocpp.org/2013/06/27/fs20130627-working-still-poor/>. Accessed August 2013. Analysis of 2011 American Community Survey data.



monthly average of about 800,000 people receiving assistance by the end of 2012.⁹ At the same time, the monthly average numbers of people receiving Emergency Food Box assistance has also increased to an estimated 270,000 people per month in Oregon and Clark County, Washington, 92,000 (34%) of whom were children.¹⁰ Oregon Food Bank reports a range of reported reasons for seeking food assistance. Over half of recipients (56%) ran out of SNAP and almost half (48%) named high food costs.¹¹ People experiencing food insecurity may tend to eat high calorie, low nutrition “filler foods” in order to fill their bellies, because these are more affordable, or because these are what they receive in Emergency Food Supports. The result can be malnutrition leading to health problems, obesity, diabetes, and other chronic health conditions.

Statewide healthcare concerns include: increasing use of or requests for mental health care for issues such as stress and the impacts of domestic violence, and the interconnections between substance abuse and domestic violence / child abuse.

Impact to OCDC: The families OCDC serves – as well as their broader communities – are experiencing extreme levels of need for access to *basic resources* across a number of indicators.

Recommendations: Continue to strengthen partnerships and participate in state and national leadership to address food insecurity. Investigate possible partnerships to address Transportation needs to increase access to food, healthcare, social services, and education. Provide Training, Technical Assistance and Coaching to OCDC staff on recognizing and responding to Hunger/Food Insecurity and Homelessness. Investigate possible partnerships to address low-income Housing needs.

Resources to Address Needs – and Their Availability and Accessibility

Federal- and State-Based Changes Impacting Program and Service Delivery

1. In order to meet the Federal Spending Cuts known as “Sequestration,” OCDC will reduce slots in four counties (primarily in Migrant Programs), decrease some facilities-related funds, and refrain from filling some open positions at the Administrative Office.
2. Oregon is implementing statewide changes in education and early childhood systems and management that will impact Head Start, as well as child care more generally. From 2013 to 2014 Oregon will initiate Early Learning Hubs which will guide and oversee the delivery of early learning care and education systems and processes in Oregon. Additionally, Oregon is piloting the QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) in 2013 for statewide implementation in 2014.

⁹ Oregon Food Bank. 2013. Profiles of Hunger and Poverty in Oregon: 2012 Oregon Hunger Factors Assessment. <http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/Advocate/~media/ICD41B095D8A41B09AEE2C73562E3C74.pdf>

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*



3. Oregon is transitioning to a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO system) of localized networks of health care providers created to serve those receiving health coverage under the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) / Medicaid.

Driver's Licenses, while inaccessible to undocumented immigrants since 2008, are becoming more accessible with acceptance of deferred action work permits as proof of legal presence enough to obtain a temporary driver's license as of January 2013 and new Driver's Cards to be issued to residents of one year starting in January 2014.

Impact to OCDC: Federal funds for OCDC programming have been decreased by sequestration. The impact of Early Learning Hubs, QRIS, and CCO implementation on OCDC service provision is yet to be determined.

Recommendations: Continue to participate in the development of the Early Learning Hub system. Assess competitive models through which OCDC can best be situated to respond to impending systems changes. Support OCDC families in learning about and obtaining Driver's Cards as appropriate.

Other Trends

Oregon's agriculture-related expenses are rising faster than agricultural sales growth, which may lead to staffing cuts, increased automation, and/or production changes. OCDC's 2013 Gower's Survey yielded mixed information impacted by varied crops and farm size. Some growers noted growth in crops, while others stability. No challenges crossed the region, but they included: rising cost of onions, rising cost of chemicals, "Obama Care", not enough workers, or not enough skilled workers.

Impact to OCDC: Changes in growers' business models could affect numbers of children of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers accessing services – for the short or long term.

Recommendations: Build upon relationships with growers to improve partnerships and maintain an awareness of changes in their business models.

