

# **COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2009**

## **OREGON CHILD DEVELOPMENT COALITION**

September 2009

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present the results of a Community Assessment (CA) for Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. A CA is the collection and analysis of information on the needs and characteristics of Head Start (HS) and/or Early Head Start (EDS) eligible children and families in a grantee's service area. Further, it identifies: issues and trends that impact families with young children; and programs and community resources available to meet the family needs. A completed CA is used to guide program planning and evaluation decisions.

The report is organized into several parts. Following the Introduction is information on Methodology. Then, an Oregon Community Assessment and Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) Overview section is presented. Here, geographic, economic and demographic information is provided about the state and the 12 Counties in which OCDC provides services. When it is deemed applicable, information about the entire USA is also included. Results from a parent survey are also included in this section. Following the Oregon Community Assessment and OCDC Overview section, assessments are presented for the 12 Counties OCDC currently serves: Clackamas, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Umatilla, Wasco, and Washington. Observe that Hood River and Wasco's assessments are combined as are Multnomah and Clackamas's assessments.

The county assessment sections are organized in the following way. First, a county overview is presented and then critical issues are discussed. A brief local geographic, economic and demographic review follows expanding on the information presented in the previous Oregon community assessment and OCDC overview section. Finally, strengths and needs are discussed (including local resources and other service providers) for the following areas: education; mental health and disabilities; health and nutrition; family services; childcare; and housing and transportation.

Following the 12 county assessments is a section on Expansion Opportunities, Conclusions and Proposed Changes. Under Expansion Opportunities, the topic of serving additional eligible, unserved children in the state is covered. This assumes OCDC is able to obtain additional resources and it is included to help inform the Board of Directors and Policy Council as they consider future agency directions.

The rationale for this report's structure, where assessments are presented for the counties, is that it promotes the inherent diversity of the local areas. The counties will benefit by this layout because it: facilitates greater communication among local community partners and stakeholders; streamlines data collection processes, grant writing and other reporting; and serves as a document for orienting new staff to the program.

Another benefit also exists for preceding the 12 County Assessments with the Oregon assessment and OCDC overview section. By doing so, data can be consolidated and presented just once in the report, thereby minimizing the document's length. Unfortunately, it also means



that readers of the individual assessments will need to refer back to tables and figures in that section. One further comment about the document's length is that there is an overabundance of data that could be included for the content areas required to be contained in a CA. It would be an overwhelming task for both the people preparing this document as well as those who read it, if all data OCDC has available were included. Hence, only the most salient data is presented for the CA content areas required by Head Start Regulations, in particular Title 45 CFR 1305.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT TEAM**

Community Assessment is an ongoing process throughout the year at OCDC. At the county level, local interactions with growers, families and community resources form the cornerstone of the assessment process. There are committees of parents who provide feedback and direction to the county on a continuous basis, and identify the needs and resources in their communities. Local participation in countywide activities such as the Commission and Children and Families Early Childhood Meetings and local growers' association meetings occurs in which anecdotal information is gathered and community needs and resources identified.

At the Central Office level, the ongoing process of gathering and summarizing data occurs throughout the year. As an example, for the 2009 CA, Program Directors and their management teams met frequently over the summer of 2009 to review the data that had been submitted and summarized for them, and to identify resources and needs in their various local settings. These county reports have been compiled and are now available for planning at the local level. Data contained therein has also been summarized to identify trends and issues for the agency as a whole and to inform this report.

During July of 2009, the Policy Council, consisting of representatives from the twelve counties where a majority of the Seasonal and Migrant families live and work, were asked to complete a survey of strengths and needs in their county and across the agency. These data were gathered and summarized during a regular PC meeting in August and are included in this report.

Along with the internal systems that are used over the year to support a community assessment, other data are also needed (e.g., migrant and seasonal farmworker estimates, US Census data, etc.) in order to determine migrant and seasonal patterns. The Executive Director and the OCDC governing board contracted with Jack DeWaard, MA, a former OCDC employee and recognized demographer to project the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their children. His analysis yielded data projections up until 2012 for Oregon and each of its 36 counties. Another consultant, Philip D. Olson, PhD, helped analyze the data plus organize and write the CA.

A team of key personnel were convened to: review and analyze information contained in the CA; prepare the CA document for the agency; and prepare the CA report to be included in the



MSSH grant application for 2009-12. Team members included: The Data Evaluation and Monitoring Manager, the ERSEA Specialist, the external consultant who helped prepare the CA, and the Director of Resources Development. The team met frequently over a two month period and will continue to meet in the beginning of the 2009-10 year to guide the community assessment for the upcoming year. They will work to implement the recommendations suggested in this document if approved by the Executive Management Team, the Policy Council and the Board of Directors.

## **DATA SOURCES**

Information contained in this report was obtained from different written documents including: U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Oregon Agricultural Information Network; Oregon Employment Department; Oregon Department of Education; Willamette ESD; Oregon Center for Health Statistics; Department of Business and Consumer Services; OCDC internal documents (e.g., 2008 PIR report); and brochures obtained from various state and county service providers (e.g., DHS, WIC).

Data were also obtained through person-to-person interviews and/or phone conversations with people both inside and outside OCDC during July 2008 through August 2009. For example, at each of OCDC's service areas the local director coordinated the activities for obtaining information about the strengths and needs in his/her county. This required obtaining external information from other agencies that provide services to eligible children and families in the areas of: education; mental health and disabilities; health and nutrition; family services; childcare; and housing and transportation. Another activity that each local director assumed was to interview his/her staff and often current parents, as well, about community needs. In addition, OCDC policy council representatives were surveyed regarding what they perceived to be key needs in their counties before the August 2009 Policy Council meeting. Also, at the Policy Council meeting their comments were discussed.

There were several limitations in the preparation of the CA. Data was not always available for each of the 12 counties OCDC serves due to the fact that OCDC information systems had combined data for two or more counties. In these cases adjustments were made when discussing the combined county data. Further, US Census data on the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their 0-5 year old children were not always available.

Due to the lack of availability of US Census data, Migrant Seasonal Head Start programs are required to develop their own estimation methodologies. These include direct methods such as surveying/counting at various points in a year the variable of interest (e.g., the number of migrant farmworkers in Marion County) and then extrapolating these numbers into an overall yearly estimate. Indirect methods can also be employed. Here, information is observed on variables that correlate (e.g., the number of acres of a certain crop planted in Marion County) with the variable of interest and then is used in a model and/or formula to estimate the variable of interest. With both direct and indirect methods a single estimate--a number--is generated. Of course, rarely is a generated estimate for some variable equal to the true value and, as such, it is either an overestimate or an underestimate. This is why interval estimate methods are suggested as an alternative to methods producing a single value. Interval estimates produce a lower value and



upper value--a range--in which the true value should exist, but generating an interval estimate requires much more information about migrant and seasonal farmworkers than currently exists.

Jack DeWaard employed an indirect estimation method to generate 2005 and 2008 OCDC estimates for this report, building upon the Alice C. Larson's 2002 estimates of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and family members as a base, and agricultural information from the Oregon Agricultural Information Network through Oregon State University.<sup>1</sup> Larson used an indirect (but different) method to generate Oregon county estimates for 2002. The method employed to generate 2005 and 2008 estimates used such county-level covariates as: poverty rate, unemployment rate, number of labor camps, total acreage of crops typically employing migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and migrant and seasonal farmworker counts from the prior year. Four separate models/equations were generated to predict: 1) the number of migrant farmworkers; 2) the number of seasonal farm workers; 3) the number of children ages 0 through 5 of migrant farmworkers; and 4) the number of children ages 0 through 5 of seasonal farmworkers.

There is one final note to be considered when estimating farmworkers, especially migrants. The demand for their services is very uncertain and depends on such factors as weather, and types and varieties of crops (e.g., different varieties of cherries). It is very difficult for estimation methods to fully capture these fluctuating factors. The most powerful predictor of MSFW populations is the prior year. In other words, the best way to gauge the size of MSFW populations for the future may be to look at the size during the year prior. The implications of this finding are not trivial. For instance, when cherry growers in Wasco County had a poor year in 2005, MSFW counts in 2006 were lower than normal. This validates the need for ongoing communication with growers and others in the local communities when making projections.

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<sup>1</sup> Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002*, Larson Assistance Services



# OREGON COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

## AND OCDC OVERVIEW

The Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC), founded in 1971, is a private nonprofit corporation that improves the lives of children and families through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) program. OCDC is governed by a Board of Directors, a State Policy Council and an Executive Management Team. Parents at the local level provide input and guidance through a Parent Committee at each service location. The agency structure consists of a centralized administration with site management/leadership teams.

The service area of the Oregon Child Development Coalition is the state of Oregon. Recruitment also occurs in areas in the adjacent states of California to the south, Idaho to the east, and Washington to the north which lie within acceptable distances of program centers and are not currently served by Migrant Seasonal Head Start programs in these states. *See the Oregon map before the Table of Contents page.* In general, recruitment in local areas is determined by three factors: (i) the location of growers, as the Oregon Child Development Coalition gives first priority to agricultural areas in each service area, (ii) the program center locations and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start Performance Standards.

During peak season OCDC operates 22 sites, runs a fleet of 44 buses, and employs over 1,100 employees in twelve Oregon counties. In 2008, OCDC served a total of 2,719 children. Of these, 1,803 children were classified as migrant children and 916 children were classified as seasonal children.

### **CRITICAL ISSUES**

#### **► IMMIGRATION**

“Labor is one of the greatest issues facing Oregon agriculture. [...] A critical challenge to agriculture is the potential loss of vitally important immigrant farm workers. If we lose our migrant workforce, the economic impact to Oregon will be in the billions of dollars.”<sup>2</sup> Oregon agriculture needs the US government to pass immigration legislation to ensure a necessary and legal agricultural workforce. Temporary guest worker programs are not workable under present laws.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Tom Fessler, Oregon Department of Agriculture, State of Oregon Agriculture, Industry Report from the State Board of Agriculture, January 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Oregon Department of Agriculture, State of Oregon Agriculture, Industry Report from the State Board of Agriculture, January 2009.



## ► ECONOMY

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2009 was 11.9 percent. Further, the Oregon rate was close to 12 percent for the five-month period from March to July, following a sharp run-up over the previous nine months. Oregon's unemployment rate in July 2008 was 6.3 percent.<sup>4</sup> Correlated with job losses are business failures and homeowner foreclosures. Economic growth may not occur until middle 2010.

## ► THE CHANGING AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE

In 2007, Oregon led the nation in the production of hazelnuts, blackberries, loganberries, black raspberries, boysenberries, onions (storage), grass seed (bentgrass, ryegrass, fescue and orchardgrass), potted azaleas and Christmas trees.<sup>5</sup> Oregon ranked second or third in the nation in the following 2007 crops: Peppermint, hops, spearmint, red raspberries, prunes and plums, snap beans for processing, Kentucky bluegrass seed, strawberries, blueberries, sweet cherries, pears, and green peas for processing.<sup>6</sup> Further, in an interview, OCDC's Executive Director reported that Oregon ranks second in the nation in nursery and greenhouse production.

Agriculture in Oregon is also changing because it is an incredibly complex industry that can't be explained easily. Factors impacting the industry include: worldwide food demand; production costs for such factors as fuel, fertilizer, and labor; and weather patterns. In 2007, blueberries set another record high production of 50 million pounds. Production of this crop has increased 100 percent in the past three years. There are signs, however, that the market is becoming saturated. Also in 2007, nursery and greenhouse production continued to top the list of agricultural sectors by becoming the first commodity to break the \$1 billion mark in farm sales. Changes in the demand for housing and erratic weather impact this sector. Erratic weather also proved to be a factor in other 2007 fruit and vegetable production. Cherries, pears, apples, grapes, tomatoes and many other produce items experienced large yield declines due to alternating hot and cold weather changes during the growing season.<sup>7</sup>

The supply of the different types of farm labor in the state has also been changing recently. The estimated number of migrant farm workers—laborers which typically are employed during intensive harvest periods, such as that for strawberries—has been dropping. Further, the estimated number of seasonal farm workers—laborers which typically are employed for longer periods of time, and so tend to be employed in nurseries and greenhouses—has been increasing. Possible factors influencing this change include: intense domestic and international competition among berry growers; reduction in acreage by berry growers; fruit tree acreage and price declines; and families electing to establish roots in local areas and looking for more stable employment.

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<sup>4</sup> State of Oregon, Employment Office, Salem, OR, August 17, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Oregon Department of Agriculture, State of Oregon Agriculture, Industry Report from the State Board of Agriculture, January 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Oregon Department of Agriculture, State of Oregon Agriculture, Industry Report from the State Board of Agriculture, January 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Oregon Department of Agriculture, State of Oregon Agriculture, Industry Report from the State Board of Agriculture, January 2009.



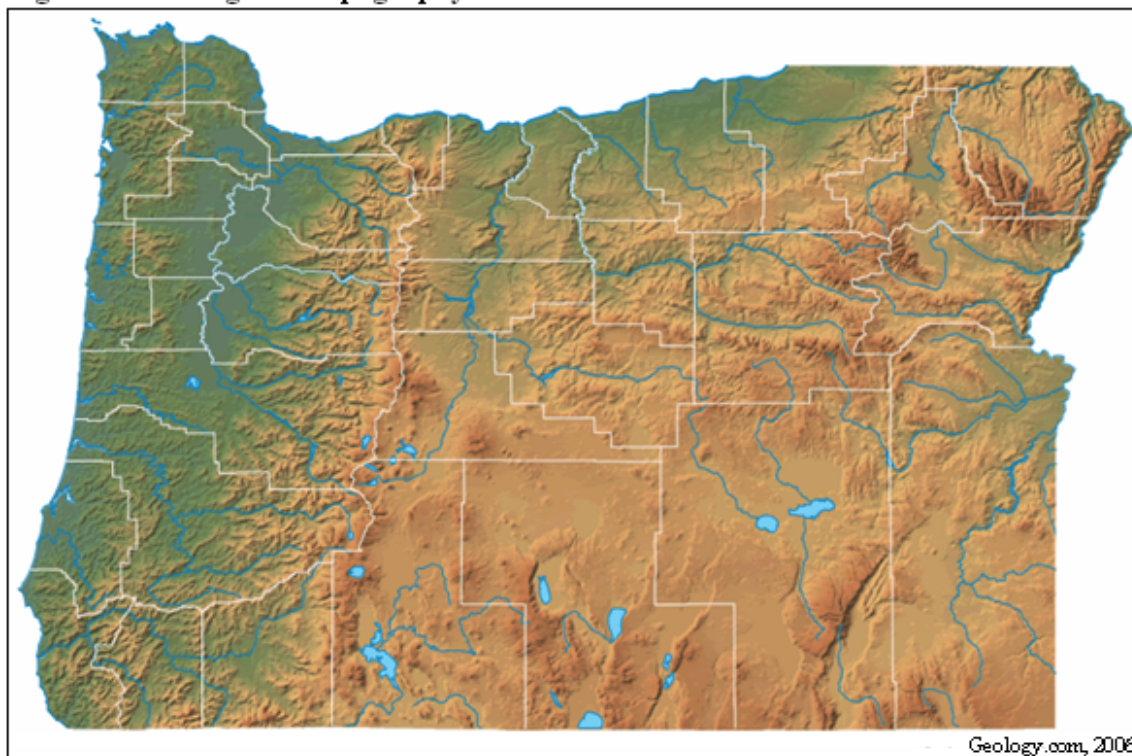


## **OREGON AND OCDC PROFILE**

### **▶ GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Oregon covers 98,386 square miles, the 9<sup>th</sup> largest state in the nation. On February 14, 1859, Oregon joined the federal union. But, Oregon's history and the story of its inhabitants are older than the 150 years that have passed since this date. Roughly 15,000 years ago, Oregon's first inhabitants occupied a region in south-central Oregon along a vast inland lake.<sup>8</sup> Changing environmental conditions necessitated population movements over time. Today, Oregon's most populated areas lie along the Interstate-5 corridor which stretches north-to-south through the fertile Willamette Valley and just west of the Cascade Mountain Range. See Figure 1.

**Figure 1.1 – Oregon's Topography**



The majority of those counties where the Oregon Child Development Coalition provides Migrant Seasonal Head Start services are located in the Willamette and Rogue River Valleys, a stretch of land which receives 30-60 inches of rain annually, ideal conditions for the crops grown in this area. Also, Oregon's landscape is quite diverse, evidenced by the 220 agricultural commodities produced in the state.

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<sup>8</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2009.



## ► ECONOMIC PROFILE

Oregon's economy as well as the entire US's economy is in a recession that began in 2008 and it could be the deepest and longest recession since the Great Depression. Table 1 includes unemployment rates for 2007, 2008 and July 2009 for the US, Oregon, and the 12 counties in which OCDC provides services. Note the large increases in most July 2009 rates when compared to the 2007 and 2008 periods, especially for Klamath and Jefferson Counties. Two exceptions are Polk and Marion Counties. Polk's rate averaged a rather high 9.0 percent for 2007 and 2008 and it increased to only 9.6 in July 2009. Only the US rate of 9.4 is less than Polk's rate. Polk's neighboring county, Marion, has a somewhat similar story. Marion's 8.0 percent 2007 average unemployment rate was high, but less than Polk's rate. Marion's rate has steadily increased, however, and its July 2009 rate is 2.1 percentage points higher than Polk's rate.

Predicting when the recession will end is difficult. Oregon's July 11.9 percent rate is essentially unchanged from the revised June value of 12.0 percent. Oregon's rate has been close to 12 percent for the five-month March through July period, a rate that has been one of the highest among the fifty US states. Some economists predict a powerful recovery by as early as the middle of 2010. Others foresee sluggish growth and a few say a prolonged slump is possible.

Employment numbers for 2006 and 2007 are also listed in Table 1 for the US, Oregon and the 12 OCDC counties. Total employment went up in all cases except for Jackson, Jefferson and Klamath Counties. Regarding employment in farming, slightly less than three percent were employed in this sector in the state in 2007. For the listed counties, Malheur and Hood River had the highest 2007 percentages at 14.85 and 11.14, respectively.

In addition to unemployment and employment numbers, Table 1 contains data on median per capita income for 2006 and 2007. Note that the 2007 US median per capita income is about \$2,700 higher than Oregon's median value. Further, three Oregon counties, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington, have 2007 median values about the state's median value of \$36,492. Umatilla country has the lowest 2007 median value of \$27,554.

Turn next to a discussion of immigration. An objective of many growers, and non-agricultural businesses alike, is to maintain a stable and fixed workforce. This is, however, a difficult task given the seasonality of agriculture work. Immigrant labor was first used in the southwest US to help build the railroad, and then again during World War II when the U.S. government enlisted the assistance of braceros – or farm laborers – to aid with the harvests while the country was at war. Fast forward to today and it is still evident that both the state and national economies depend on such labor.



**Table 1: Unemployment, Employment & Income**

	2007 Average Unemp. Rate*	2008 Average Unemp. Rate*	July 2009 Unemp. Rate*	2006 Total Employ- ment	2006 % Farm	2007 Total Employ- ment	2007 % Farm	2006 Median Per Capita Income	2007 Median Per Capita Income	2006- 2007 Median Per Capita % Change
United States	4.6	5.8	9.4					39,209	39,209	1.00
Oregon	5.1	6.4	11.9	2,304,410	2.95	2,320,043	2.92	35,562	36,492	1.03
Clackamas	5.7	6.6	11.0	224,335	3.65	225,644	3.62	44,191	45,653	1.03
Hood River	4.9	4.9	8.4	15,578	11.19	15,787	11.14	31,327	33,013	1.05
Jackson	4.9	5.8	13.2	120,441	2.26	120,370	2.24	33,945	34,803	1.03
Jefferson	5.5	6.0	15.7	8,964	8.76	8,818	8.85	25,431	25,945	1.02
Klamath	5.6	5.0	15.0	35,441	5.83	35,005	5.85	28,737	29,127	1.01
Malheur	9.6	7.8	11.2	18,344	15.15	18,674	14.85	22,574	22,567	1.00
Marion	8.0	9.8	11.7	177,424	4.63	179,559	4.61	31,455	32,048	1.02
Multnomah	9.4	5.3	11.4	575,441	0.25	582,125	0.25	41,148	42,157	1.02
Polk	9.0	9.0	9.6	27,616	7.25	27,627	7.17	29,526	29,459	1.00
Umatilla	7.3	6.5	9.9	39,848	7.97	40,065	7.88	26,592	27,554	1.04
Wasco	8.0	7.5	10.9	13,163	7.31	13,504	7.09	29,604	31,763	1.07
Washington	5.9	5.1	9.9	298,086	1.56	302,306	1.54	38,724	39,844	1.03
<p>* Average unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted.</p> <p>Sources: Unemployment: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2007 - 2008.</p> <p>Employment: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2006 - 2007.</p> <p>Income: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 - 2007.</p>										



How many migrant and seasonal farmworkers are employed in Oregon? The US Department of Agriculture generated 1997 estimates and Alice C. Larson<sup>9</sup> produced 2002 estimates. OCDC has calculated estimates for 2005 and 2008 (see Methodology). Two maps provide 2008 estimates for the number of migrant (see Figure 2) and seasonal (see Figure 3) farmworkers for all 36 Oregon counties. Table 2 provides a historical perspective on Oregon's migrant and seasonal farmworkers. More specifically, it contains the 1997, 2002, 2005, and 2008 farmworker estimates for Oregon and the 12 counties OCDC currently serves.

Before analyzing the Table 2 estimates, several comments are necessary. First, the 2008 estimates are probably the most important for OCDC because they are the most current and, hence, should have the most influence on planning OCDC service locations and the type of services offered at the locations. Of course, 2008 estimates or estimates in any given year would need to be discounted if unexpected events occurred that would not likely happen in say the next 50 years.

Second, even though the 2008 estimates are the most important, these numbers by themselves can be difficult to interpret because no information is available concerning what should be expected. Past time period estimates can be useful here. This is the reason for including historical data--e.g., 1997, 2002, and 2005 estimate--so that expectations can be developed regarding data patterns or trends. Third, one caveat with the historical data in Table 2 is that it was generated by different organizations using, to varying degrees, different methods. Because of this concern, OCDC plans in the upcoming years to validate or confirm the 2008 estimates by interviewing growers and other knowledgeable people.

In terms of analyzing Table 2 data, in 2008 there were an estimated 32,321 migrant farmworkers and 59,108 seasonal farmworkers in Oregon. Examining changes over the four time periods shows migrant farmworkers declining dramatically from an estimated 57,646 in 1997 to around the 26,000 to 33,000 range in 2002, 2005, and 2008. On the other hand, seasonal farmworkers have been increasing from an estimated 19,372 in 1997 to 59,673 in 2008, with the most striking increase occurring from 1997 to 2002. The 2008 estimate of 59,108 was a small decrease from the 2005 59,673 estimate.

Table 2 data for the 12 counties (as well for the previously discussed state data) show different patterns that probably result from the influences of several factors including: varying weather conditions; product competition, both domestic and international; changing production costs; and immigration issues. Clackamas's total migrant and seasonal estimates for the four time periods start high, at over 13,000 for 1997, and then drop to the high 8,000 to low 9,000 levels for 2002, 2005, and 2008. Hood River and Malheur's numbers increase from the 1997 to the 2002 period and then drop and hold relatively steady during 2005 and 2008. Jackson, Polk, Umatilla, and Wasco estimates are more stable over the four time periods.

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<sup>9</sup>Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002*, Larson Assistance Services



Figure 2: Estimated Number of Migrant Farmworkers in Oregon 2008

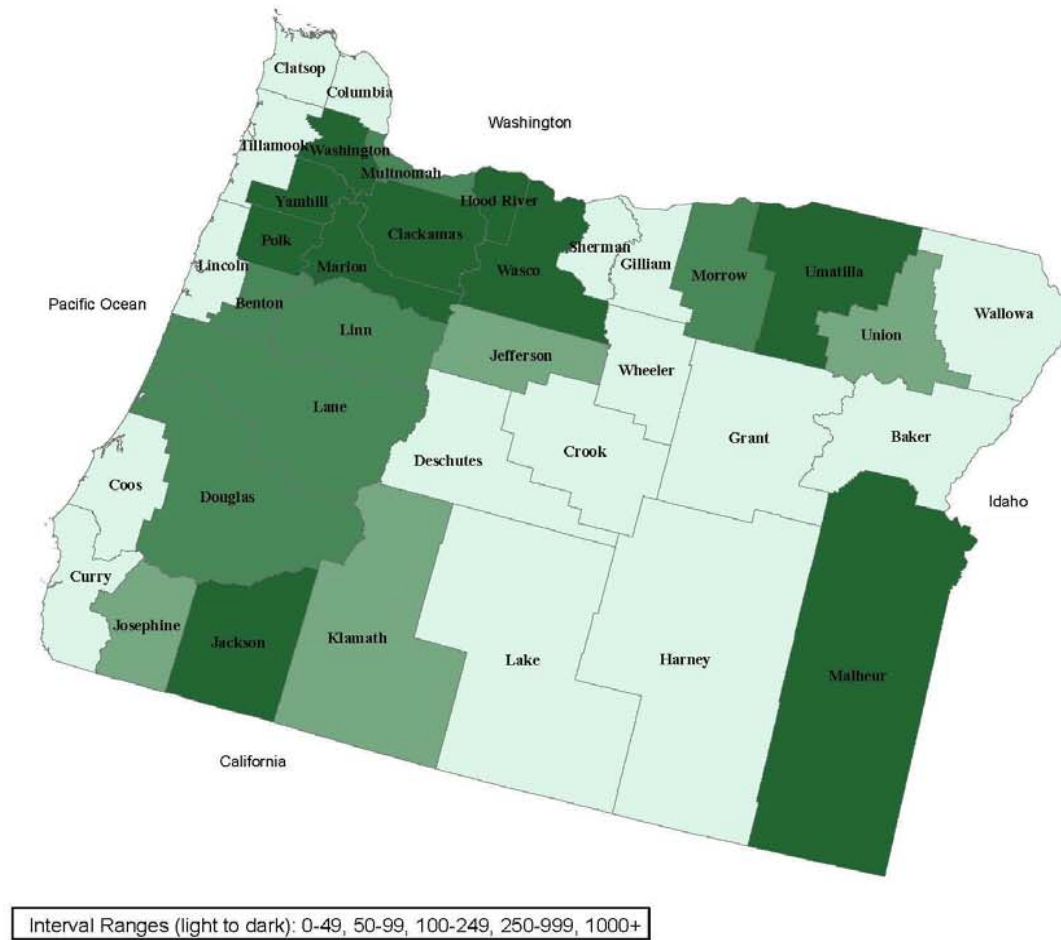
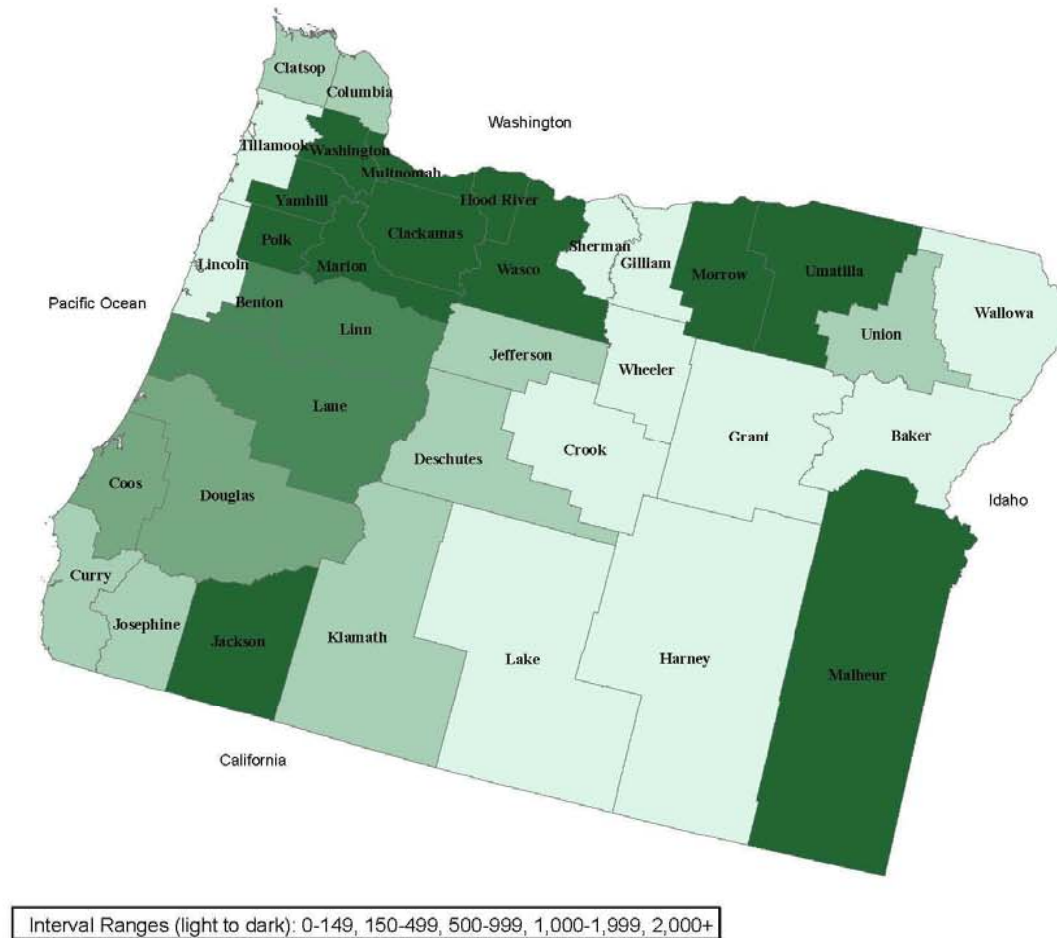


Figure 3: Estimated Seasonal Farmworkers in Oregon 2008





**Table 2: Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers Estimates**

	1997 MFW	1997 SFW	1997 Total MSFW	2002 MFW	2002 SFW	2002 Total MSFW	2005 MFW	2005 SFW	2005 Total MSFW	2008 MFW	2008 SFW	2008 Total MSFW
Oregon	57,646	19,372	77,018	26,435	47,385	73,820	32,726	59,673	94,404	32,321	59,108	93,437
Clackamas	9,429	4,122	13,551	3,491	5,396	8,887	3,075	6,167	9,243	3,036	6,122	9,159
Hood River	7,135	1,197	8,332	3,783	7,396	11,179	4,052	6,664	10,717	4,002	6,615	10,617
Jackson	2,901	834	3,735	1,769	2,953	4,722	1,632	2,792	4,425	1,645	2,819	4,466
Jefferson	843	265	1,108	399	621	1,020	368	555	925	371	557	928
Klamath	1,348	574	1,922	200	313	513	171	373	545	171	373	545
Malheur	1,765	821	2,586	1,678	2,501	4,179	1,455	2,133	3,588	1,459	2,131	3,591
Marion	11,467	5,449	16,916	4,943	10,733	15,676	4,684	12,117	16,802	4,520	11,731	16,252
Multnomah	1,971	861	2,832	642	980	1,622	667	1,535	2,203	625	1,491	2,118
Polk	2,191	848	3,039	1,400	3,134	4,534	1,403	2,934	4,338	1,410	2,935	4,346
Umatilla	3,823	1,369	5,192	1,519	4,493	6,012	1,330	4,533	5,864	1,338	4,540	5,879
Wasco	8,601	615	9,216	3,625	5,646	9,271	4,431	4,749	9,181	4,371	4,688	9,060
Washington	6,172	2,417	8,589	2,986	3,219	6,205	2,548	4,547	7,096	2,475	4,527	7,003
MFW = Migrant Farmworker, SFW = Seasonal Farmworker, MSFW = Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Includes those employed in field agriculture, nursery/greenhouse, and food processing. Totals vary due to rounding. Sources: Census of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1997, Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profile Study: Oregon 2002, Larson Assistance Services, Indirect estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers, OCDC, 2005 & 2008.												



Review again the prior Figures 2 and 3. Both figures show Yamhill County as being in the group of counties with the highest number of estimated migrant and seasonal farmworkers. This county is not one of the 12 currently being served by OCDC and will be discussed later in this report when covering expansion opportunities.

Table 3 contains information on Oregon's various agricultural commodities. Observe that both the total number of harvested acres and the gross crop sales has increased over the period. The specific crops worked by MSHS families are listed in Table 4 along with the number of months (i.e., the service length) that OCDC provides services to the children of the families.

**Table 3: Crop Outputs**

Oregon	Harvested Acres*		Gross Farm Sales (in 000s)		
	2007	2008		2004	2005
Grains	932,530	1,014,700	All Crops	\$3,452,694	\$3,496,244
Hay & Forage	1,078,290	1,070,838			
Grass & Legumes Seed	555,186	532,301			
Field Crops	111,040	110,140			
Tree Fruit & Nuts	86,397	88,882			
Small Berries & Fruit	20,784	21,004			
Vegetable Crops	106,092	103,278			
Specialty Products	11,969	12,404			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,902,288</b>	<b>2,953,547</b>			

\*Unit of production varies by commodity.

Source: Oregon Agricultural Information Network, 2008.

Regarding farms and farmworkers, there are about 37,000 Oregon family farmers who employ 30,000 workers during non-harvest periods. Those workers increase to nearly 100,000 in peak season, for an average annual workforce of about 58,000.<sup>10</sup>

One agriculture change that continues to grow in Oregon and elsewhere is that “Consumers today want to know where their food comes from and increasingly want to know how it is grown. Many are also committed to supporting the local economy and want access to the freshest food products available, helping to explain the growing interest in farmers’ markets, community supported agriculture, farm stands and other farm-direct marketing options. Farm-to-school program that focus on locally grown foods add to this momentum.”<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Oregon Department of Agriculture, State of Oregon Agriculture, Industry Report from the State Board of Agriculture, January 2009.

<sup>11</sup> Lynn Youngbar, Oregon Department of Agriculture, State of Oregon Agriculture, Industry Report from the State Board of Agriculture, January 2009.





Table 4: Crop listings for the Twelve Counties OCDC Serves and Approximate Number of Months of Migrant and Seasonal Services

County	Crops	Approximate Months of Services for Migrant and Seasonal Children*
Clackamas	Strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, wine grapes, nursery/greenhouse, Christmas trees	Seasonal: none Migrant: 3 months
Hood River	Apples cherries, pears, wine grapes	Seasonal: 7 mos. Migrant: 5 mos.
Jackson	Pears, wine grapes, nursery greenhouse, squash and pumpkins and peaches	Seasonal: 8 mos. Migrant: 4 mos.
Jefferson	Garlic, potatoes, vegetables/flower seeds, nurseries	Seasonal: 8 mos. Migrant: 4 mos.
Klamath	Potatoes, strawberry starts	Seasonal: 9 mos. Migrant: 3 mos.
Malheur	Onions, sugarbeets, potatoes, vegetable and truck crops	Seasonal: 8 mos. Migrant: 6 mos.
Marion	Strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, wine grapes, nursery/greenhouse, Christmas trees, root vegetables	Seasonal: 9 mos. Migrant: 4 mos.
Multnomah	Strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, wine grapes, nursery/greenhouse, Christmas trees	Seasonal: 10 mos. Migrant: 4 mos.
Polk	Strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, wine grapes, nursery/greenhouse, Christmas trees	Seasonal: 9 mos. Migrant: 4 mos.
Umatilla	Potatoes, apples, onions, watermelon, cantaloupe, muskmelons, squash, pumpkins, prunes, plums and peas	Seasonal: 8 mos. Migrant: 7 mos.
Wasco	Cherries	Seasonal: 10 mos. Migrant: 2 mos.
Washington	Strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, wine grapes, nursery/greenhouse, Christmas trees	Seasonal: 8 mos. Migrant: 5 mos.

\* Months indicate time in which services are offered rather than precise number of weeks.

Source: OCDC, 2009.

In Oregon, farmers' markets have grown from just 10 in the early 1990s to nearly 90. According to a recent study, in 2007 Portland's 14 farmers' markets had \$11.2 million in sales and accounted for 3 percent of all purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables in Multnomah County. The local economic impact of these purchases was \$17 million by keeping the money within the local economy. In the same study, two-thirds of the farmers interviewed wanted to expand their future operations. To be competitive in the farm-direct business, farmers need: product variety, quality, and the ability to lengthen their growing season. The benefits for growers who develop farm-direct outlets include cash payments and the opportunity to interact with their customers face-to-face. The farm-direct option can be a new business model for some segments of Oregon agriculture. Because this option tends to be labor intensive, availability of farm labor is a major



challenge for these growers. Rising costs of other inputs are other challenges.<sup>12</sup> This, then, is an example of how agriculture is changing in light of new markets.

## ► **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

The 2000 Census reported the population of Oregon to be 3,421,399 persons. From this, the Population Research Center at Portland State University and the Northwest Area Foundation estimated the population of Oregon to be roughly 3,737,549 in 2007 and 3,790,060 in 2008. From 2000 to 2008 there was a 10.8 percent growth. Table 5 displays the 2007 and 2008 estimates for Oregon and the 12 counties OCDC serves. Jefferson County and Malheur County were the only ones that did not increase in population. Polk's percentage change was the largest at 2.8 percent.

Table 5 also lists two poverty rates for Oregon and the 12 counties OCDC serves. The 2007 poverty rate for all ages across Oregon was 13.0 percent. For the listed counties, Jefferson and Malheur had the highest for all ages at 18.8 percent and 17.6 percent, respectively. Washington and Clackamas had the lowest at 8.6 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively. Regarding the other poverty rate in the table, the 2008 poverty rate for children less than two years old, the percentage across Oregon is 21.0 percent. For this particular poverty rate and the OCDC counties rankings, note that now Malheur has the highest rate at 37.5 percent, not Jefferson. The Jefferson rate is 23.4 percent and it was the fourth highest after Klamath and Multnomah. Also, the counties with the two lowest poverty rates for children less than two has changed from Washington and Clackamas to Wasco and Washington.

Another way to assess the number of children living in poverty is to examine the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced lunch in Oregon's public schools. Table 5 includes these numbers for the 2007-2008 academic year and they confirm the picture established when analyzing the previous data for highest and lowest poverty levels. That is, for this measure Jefferson, Malheur, and Klamath also have the highest poverty percentages at 75.6 percent, 66.7 percent, and 61.6 percent, respectively, and Clackamas and Washington have the lowest.

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<sup>12</sup> Oregon Department of Agriculture, State of Oregon Agriculture, Industry Report from the State Board of Agriculture, January 2009.



**Table 5: Population, Poverty Rates, Ethnic Composition, & HS/OPK Eligible Children**

	2007 Total Pop.	2008 Total Pop.	2007 Poverty Rate All Ages	2008 Poverty Rate <1-2	2008-09 Free/ Reduced Lunch % Eligible Children	2008 Pop. Age 0-4	2007 Hispanic Pop.	2008 Hispanic Pop.	2007-08 % Change in Hispanic Pop.	2008 HS/OPK Eligible Age 0-3 Children	2008 HS/OPK Eligible Age 3-5 Children	2008 % HS/OPK Unserved Age 0-5 Children
Oregon	3,735,549	3,790,060	13.0	21.0	*	234,168	397,278	416,044	4.72	30,247	18,444	72.1
Clackamas	375,107	380,576	9.2	15.5	31.1	23,002	26,212	27,768	5.94	2,093	1,341	78.2
Hood River	21,200	21,536	12.7	16.1	56.7	1,540	5,550	5,755	3.69	161	96	47.1
Jackson	199,003	201,138	13.4	19.4	48.5	12,123	17,674	18,469	4.50	1,369	808	61
Jefferson	20,628	20,512	18.8	23.4	75.6	1,663	4,306	4,271	-0.81	214	131	43.2
Klamath	66,408	66,425	15.9	28.3	61.6	4,150	6,057	6,105	0.79	702	384	63.7
Malheur	31,013	30,907	17.6	37.5	66.7	1,962	8,585	8,581	-0.05	518	307	65.7
Marion	310,100	314,606	15.2	21.5	58.6	22,392	68,413	71,609	4.67	3,089	2,273	75.6
Multnomah	699,186	714,567	15.0	24.5	50.0	44,858	73,185	77,415	5.78	6,806	3,922	72.1
Polk	75,008	77,074	10.8	21.3	45.6	4,278	8,382	8,841	5.48	598	284	81.3
Umatilla	73,237	73,526	15.1	15.9	59.0	4,789	13,835	14,200	2.64	483	320	49.3
Wasco	23,705	23,775	14.6	10.8	46.2	1,490	2,825	2,929	3.68	103	71	32.8
Washington	519,794	529,216	8.6	15.0	35.1	38,419	76,581	80,515	5.14	3,659	1,774	76.4

Sources: Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 - 2008.  
 Poverty Rate (All ages): U.S. Census Bureau, 2007.  
 Poverty Rate (<1-2): Oregon Department of Education, 2008.  
 Free/Reduced Lunch: Oregon Department of Education, 2008 - 2009.  
 Hispanic Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 - 2008.  
 Age 0-4 Population: Population Research Center, Portland State University, 2008.  
 Head Start/Oregon PreKindergarten (HS/OPK): Oregon Department of Education, 2008.



## ► **DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED 0-5 YEAR OLD CHILDREN<sup>13</sup>**

Table 5 lists the 0-4 year old population for 2008 in Oregon and the counties OCDC serves. Multnomah contains the largest number of 0-4 year old children and Umatilla has the smallest number. In addition, the table contains 2008 data on: the numbers of Head Start and Oregon PreKindergarten (HS/OPK) eligible 0-3 year old children; the number of HS/OPK eligible 3-5 year old children; and the percent eligible 0-5 year old children unserved. Regarding the percentage unserved, Polk has the highest percent (81.3) followed by Clackamas (78.2), Washington (76.4), Marion (75.6), and Multnomah (72.1).

In the sections that follow, the Oregon Child Development Coalition will further refine the estimates in Table 5 to provide estimates for the number of unserved, eligible Migrant and Seasonal Head Start children in Oregon.

## **RACIAL & ETHNIC COMPOSITION**

### ► **POPULATION & ANCESTRY**

In Table 5, 2007 and 2008 data on the number of Hispanics is displayed for Oregon and the counties OCDC serves. Clackamas, Multnomah, Polk, and Washington each had increases over 5.0 percent. In two counties, Jefferson and Malheur, the Hispanic population decreased by small percentages.

Turning to Hispanic children in the US, Hispanics in 2009 made up 22 percent of all children under the age of 18--up from 9 percent in 1980--and as their numbers have grown, their demographic profile has changed. Fifty two percent of the nation's 16 million Hispanic children are now "second generation," meaning they are the US-born sons or daughters of at least one foreign-born parent, typically arriving in the US in 1980 or later from Mexico, Central America and South America. About 11 percent of Latino children are "first generation"--meaning they are foreign-born. And 37 percent are "third generation or higher"--meaning they are the US-born children of US-born parents.<sup>14</sup>

In 1980, only three-in-ten Latino children were second generation, while nearly six-in-ten were in the third generation or higher. These changes are significant because many social, economic and demographic characteristics of Latino children vary based on their generational status. One important finding, by the Pew Hispanic Center analysis of US Census Bureau data, is that first and second generation Latino children are less likely than third or higher generation children to be fluent in English, and to have parents who finished high school. Further, they are more likely

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<sup>13</sup> Note, estimates in this section are presented to highlight the need for Head Start services in the general low-income population. In a later section, additional estimates will be provided which estimate the number of unserved, eligible children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

<sup>14</sup> Richard Fry and Jeffrey S. Passel, "Latino Children: A Majority Are U.S.-Born Offspring of Immigrants," May 28, 2009, Pew Hispanic Center.



to live in poverty. They are, however, less likely than third or higher generation Latino children to live in single parent households.<sup>15</sup>

## ► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS<sup>16</sup>**

Table 6 displays the number of 2008 children enrolled by county in OCDC's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. Note that Hood River and Wasco County data are combined and that Clackamas County data are included with either Marion County or Multnomah County depending on where the child resides. Data for these counties was combined because many children in these counties received services in their partner county due to the service site location in the partner county being closer than the one in their residing county. The combined Hood River and Wasco service area served the most children (505) followed by Washington County (453). Table 6 also lists the number of funded migrant and seasonal slots in each county as well as the percent of funded slots served.

**Table 6: 2008 OCDC Enrollment**

Counties	2008 MHS	2008 SHS	2008 Total MSHS	2008 MHS Funded	2008 SHS Funded	2008 Total MSHS Funded	2008 MHS Percent	2008 SHS Percent	2008 Average MSHS Percent
Hood River/Wasco	384	121	505	395	91	486	97%	133%	104%
Jackson	74	53	127	60	36	96	123%	147%	132%
Jefferson	42	61	103	63	38	101	67%	161%	102%
Klamath	49	80	129	40	88	128	123%	91%	101%
Malheur	215	99	314	257	55	312	84%	180%	101%
Marion	306	63	369	178	124	302	172%	51%	122%
Multnomah	140	129	269	168	126	294	83%	102%	91%
Polk	88	49	137	100	38	138	88%	129%	99%
Umatilla	206	107	313	196	90	286	105%	119%	109%
Washington	299	154	453	388	102	490	77%	151%	92%
Total	1803	916	2719	1845	788	2633	98%	116%	103%
Note: 130 slots were authorized for conversion from Migrant Head Start (MHS) to Seasonal Head Start (SHS) due to migration issues, new driver's license requirements, high gasoline cost and weather.									
Source: Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.									

Other 2008 PIR data follow. Of the 2,719 enrolled children, 1,267, or 47 percent, were 0-3 years old and 1452, or 53 percent, were 3-5 years old. Further, in terms of ethnicity 2,691 (99 percent)

<sup>15</sup> Richard Fry and Jeffrey S. Passel, "Latino Children: A Majority Are U.S.-Born Offspring of Immigrants," May 28, 2009, Pew Hispanic Center.

<sup>16</sup> Data is taken from the *Program Information Report*, 2008, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



were of Hispanic or Latino origin and 28 (one percent) were of non-Hispanic or non-Latino origin. Regarding race, 2,621 (96 percent) were white and 94 (three percent) were American Indian or Alaska Native. Finally, the enrollment numbers by primary languages were: 2,532 (93 percent) for Spanish, 97 (four percent) for English, 70 (three percent) for Native Central American, South American, and Indigenous languages of Mexico, and 20 (one percent) for unspecified.<sup>17</sup>

## ► **DATA ANALYSIS: 2008 ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED MIGRANT/SEASONAL CHILDREN**

The Oregon Child Development Coalition has developed a method for estimating the number of children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Oregon using Alice C. Larson’s 2002 estimates of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and family members as a base, and agricultural information from the Oregon Agricultural Information Network through Oregon State University.<sup>18</sup> Two maps provide 2008 estimated information for the number of migrant (see Figure 4) and seasonal (see Figure 5) eligible children ages 0-5 for all 36 Oregon counties. Further, the 2005 and 2008 migrant and seasonal estimates for Oregon and the 12 counties OCDC serves are listed in Table 7. The 2008 Oregon estimates were 4,464 migrant children and 14,154 seasonal children. When compared with 2005, the Oregon migrant estimate increased by 44 children (one percent) and the seasonal estimate increased by 243 children (two percent).

Comparing Table 7 data for the years of 2005 and 2008 “migrant” children estimates for the counties OCDC serves shows little change for all counties. Note, also, that Klamath County and Jefferson County’s estimated 2008 eligible migrant numbers were the two lowest, at 19 and 42, respectively. These numbers by themselves, however, do not tell the whole story. Other important county information suggests these counties have high needs. Jefferson and Klamath have the two highest July 2009 unemployment rates of 15.7 percent and 15 percent, respectively, for the 12 counties OCDC serves (see Table 1) and have high poverty rates (see Table 4).

As with the migrant numbers, “seasonal” county children estimate changes from 2005 to 2008 show little change (see Table 7). Marion County had the greatest increase in number of children (45) and Clackamas was second with an increase of 25 children.

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<sup>17</sup> Oregon Child Development Coalition, PIR report, 2008.

<sup>18</sup> See Appendix C1.3.



Figure 4: Estimated Number of Children <1-5 of Migrant Farmworkers in Oregon 2008

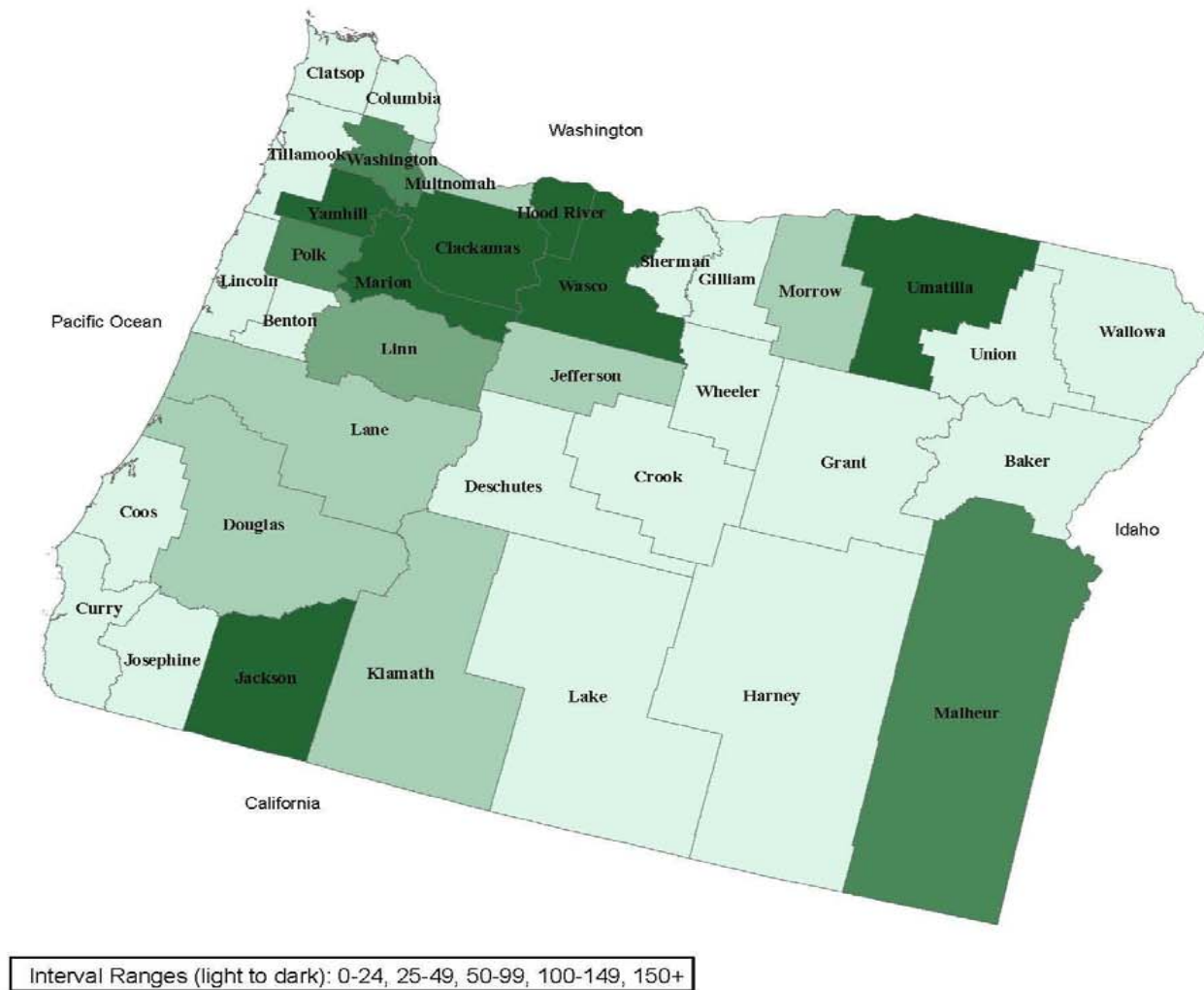
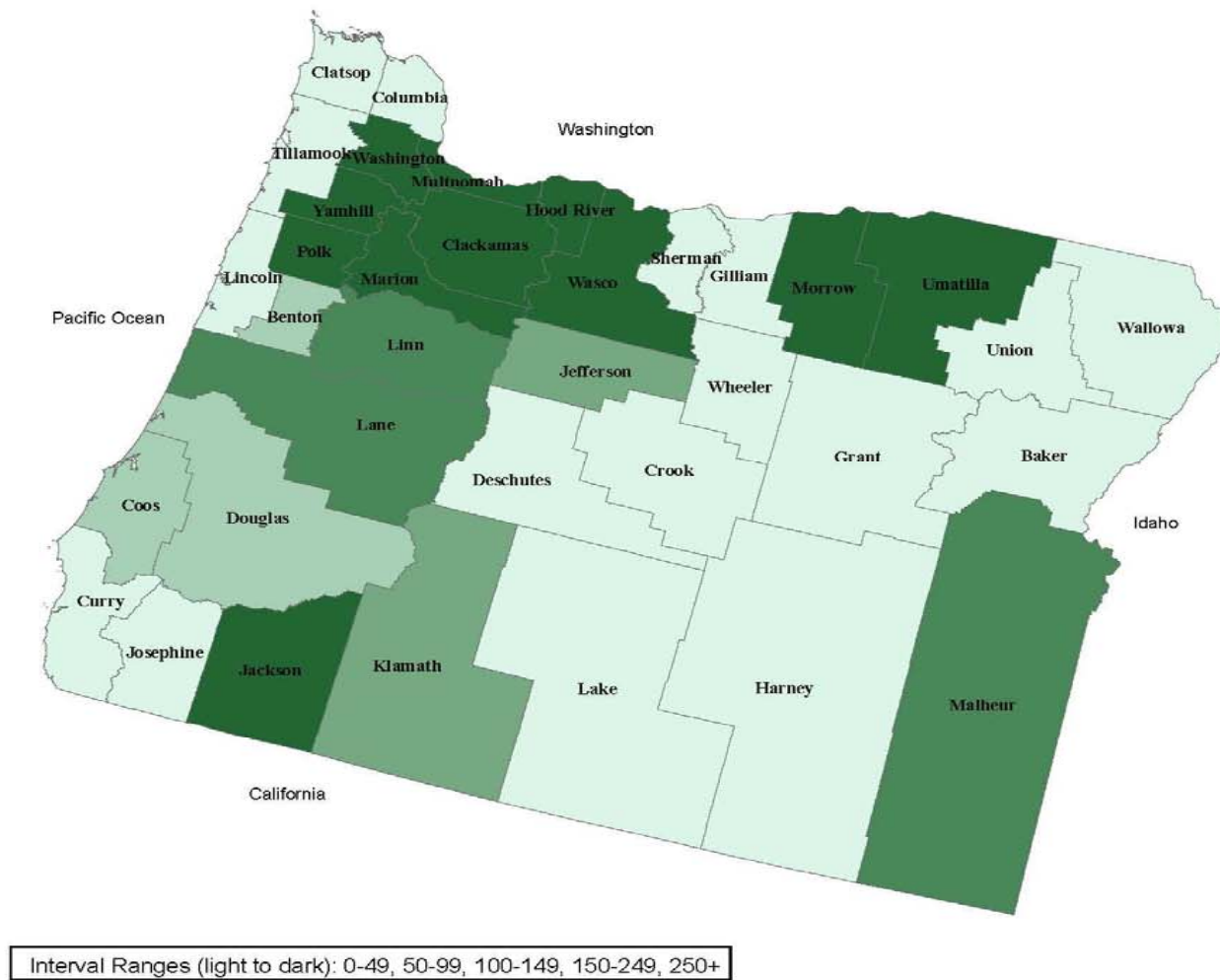




Figure 5: Estimated Number of Children Ages <1-5 of Seasonal Farmworkers in Oregon 2008





**Table 7: Migrant & Seasonal Children Ages 0-5 Estimates**

	2005 Migrant Children Age 0-3	2005 Migrant Children Age 3-5	2005 Total Migrant Children	2005 Seasonal Children Age 0-3	2005 Seasonal Children Age 3-5	2005 Total Seasonal Children	2005 Total M/S Children	2008 Migrant Children Age 0-3	2008 Migrant Children Age 3-5	2008 Total Migrant Children	2008 Seasonal Children Age 0-3	2008 Seasonal Children Age 3-5	2008 Total Seasonal Children	2008 Total M/S Seasonal Children
Oregon	2,311	2,109	4,420	7,257	6,654	13,911	18,331	2,337	2,127	4,464	7,385	6,769	14,154	18,618
Clackamas	232	210	446	741	670	1,415	1,861	235	212	451	753	682	1,440	1,891
Hood River	292	264	560	838	755	1,598	2,158	295	264	565	850	764	1,618	2,183
Jackson	112	108	225	317	306	629	854	114	108	228	328	315	648	876
Jefferson	18	18	41	62	63	131	172	19	19	42	62	66	134	176
Klamath	7	6	19	36	36	76	95	87	7	19	37	37	78	97
Malheur	86	80	171	273	255	534	705	86	80	172	273	255	533	705
Marion	361	337	703	1,415	1,322	2,742	3,445	366	341	712	1,439	1,344	2,787	3,499
Multnomah	57	47	109	223	187	415	524	55	46	105	222	187	414	519
Polk	100	91	196	349	319	673	869	102	93	199	359	326	690	889
Umatilla	87	85	178	511	502	1,018	1,196	91	88	184	519	511	1,034	1,218
Wasco	326	289	622	671	596	1,272	1,894	329	292	626	678	602	1,285	1,911
Washington	197	175	378	620	549	1,173	1,551	197	174	376	632	559	1,195	1,571

Totals vary due to rounding.

Source: Indirect estimates of migrant and seasonal children ages 0 - 5, OCDC, 2005 & 2008.



One county OCDC does not currently serve is Yamhill County. Both of the two prior Figures 4 and 5 show it as being in the group of counties with the highest number of estimated eligible children. This was expected as earlier in this section Figures 2 and 3 showed Yamhill County as being in the group with the highest number of estimated migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Yamhill will be discussed further later in this report.

It is now possible to estimate the 2008 number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children for the state by subtracting the number of migrant and seasonal Head Start children currently being served by OCDC from the total eligible migrant and seasonal estimates. In 2008 OCDC served 2,719 eligible children (see Table 6) of which 1,803 were migrant children and 916 were seasonal children. Subtracting 1,803 from the Table 7 total estimate of 4,464 produces an **estimated 2,661 (60 percent) unserved, eligible migrant children for 2008**. Subtracting 916 from the Table 7 total estimate of 14,154 generates an **estimated 13,238 (94 percent) unserved, eligible seasonal children for 2008**.<sup>19</sup>

*Overall, 40 percent of eligible migrant children and six percent of seasonal children were served in 2008 by the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.*

Results of the above analysis indicate that the Oregon Child Development Coalition could serve both more migrant and seasonal children assuming greater capacity to do so. Where these services should be located, however, depends a great deal on where the greatest county unserved need exists.

Estimates exist for the number of eligible, unserved migrant and seasonal children for all 12 counties OCDC serves. To determine the 2008 county unserved numbers, however, the number of children served in each county is needed. These numbers are not available for all 12 counties as Hood River and Wasco counties are combined and Clackamas County data is contained in either Marion or Multnomah depending on where the child resides. In these cases, estimates for the number of eligible, unserved children can only be generated for the combined counties. Data for the number of estimated eligible migrant children in these counties also had to be combined so that the same combinations could be compared. Consider Hood River and Wasco. In 2008 these two counties served 384 migrant children (see Table 6). To determine the total eligible migrant 2008 Hood River and Wasco children, the Table 7 estimate for Hood River of 565 needs to be added to Wasco's number of 626, for a total of 1,191. As evident, comparing the 384 number served with the 1,191 total estimated eligible means more children could be served in these counties. This and other county data are listed in Table 8 and it will be reviewed briefly here and discussed further in each of the following individual county assessment sections.

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<sup>19</sup> Note, the population of unserved seasonal children should not be taken at face value as seasonal children are able to be served by both the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program, as well as other regional Head Start programs.



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
<b>Oregon</b>	≈4,464	1,803	≈2,661	≈14,154	916	≈13,238
<b>OCDC Counties</b>						
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
<b>Total OCDC Counties</b>	≈3,679	1,803	≈1,876	≈11,856	916	≈10,940
<b>Total Unserved Counties</b>	≈785	0	≈785	≈2,298	0	≈2,298
<b>Selected Unserved Counties</b>						
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



Continuing with other migrant children estimates listed in Table 8, the greatest unserved need exists for the Marion, Multnomah, and Clackamas service area with 822 estimated unserved. The next greatest unserved need exists for the Hood River and Wasco area with 807 estimated unserved children. For one county, Jefferson, the estimated eligible number of 42 equaled the number served.

There are three counties where the total eligible estimates did not exceed the number served. Klamath's total eligible estimate was 19 versus 49 that were served. Malheur's total children estimate was 172 versus 215 served. Umatilla's total estimate was 184 versus 206 served. One reason this situation may have occurred is that these counties not only serve children in each of their Oregon counties but also children in an neighboring state, and the out of state children served were not included in Oregon children estimates. See the map located before the Table of Contents. A second reason may be that the estimation method employed by OCDC produced underestimates for these counties. The high mobility of migrant and seasonal families makes it difficult to predict their numbers. The fact that the migrant and seasonal population reached full enrollment and was served in those areas is the best indication of need. This also reflects the importance of ongoing dialogue with growers to anticipate crop rotation and crop production plans since this influences migration. The "networks" among Migrate workers who use cell phones to communicate weather and crop information influence the number of migrant families who arrive in an area as well.

As shown in Table 8, the total eligible seasonal children county estimates exceeded the number served in 2008 except for Klamath County where the estimated eligible number was less than the served number by two children. The combined Marion, Multnomah, and Clackamas area, with an estimated 4,449 unserved children, has the greatest need followed by the combined Hood River and Wasco area with 2,782 and Washington County with 1,041. Validating the estimated eligible numbers is important for verifying the current estimation equations.

## **► DATA ANALYSIS: FUTURE ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED MIGRANT/SEASONAL CHILDREN**

In addition to meeting the 2008 needs of the 12 counties OCDC currently serves (see Table 8), which are considerable--1,876 unserved migrant children and 10,940 unserved seasonal children--OCDC could consider looking beyond these 12 counties. There are an estimated 785 eligible migrant children and an estimated 2,298 seasonal children in these unserved 24 counties.

Table 8 also contains information on selected unserved Oregon counties of high needs. Yamhill County has the highest need, by far, based solely on the estimated number of eligible migrant (393) and seasonal (832) children. Further information on expansion opportunities will be provided later in this report.

## **PARENT SURVEY**

A parent survey was conducted in the spring of 2009 to provide feedback for the program on the services it provides and to identify perceived needs of parents. Survey respondents totaled 351 parents. However, not all respondents answered all questions on the survey. The survey

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consisted of a demographic item asking for name, county and date that the parent completed the survey followed by nine questions. After reviewing the questions, they were subcategorized into three areas: child related information, parent participation, and access to external resources.

The child related information category included the following areas: nutrition and health, and mental health. The parent participation category included: supporting parents in their participation around decisions regarding their child, activities that encourage parent volunteerism and participation, materials and activities that enhance a parent's sense of feeling welcome in the classroom, and suggestions for classroom activities/opportunities to provide information on observations and assessments. The access to external resources category included the following areas: transition, and receiving referrals plus accessing resources in the community.

## ► **RESULTS**

The specific survey questions (translated from Spanish into English) and the survey findings are presented in Table 9. Within the first category of child related information there were more positive responses under the mental health (87%) area than in nutrition and health (79%). Within the category of parent participation the two areas related to volunteering and feeling welcome were rated positive 90% or above. Evaluation and programming had the lowest positive rate at 73%. In the last category of accessing external resources, resources and referrals rated over 90% while transition was given a 40% "yes" response. Factors associated with the data and possible reasons for high and low responses are discussed next.

## ► **DISCUSSION**

There were many positives to be noted from the parent survey. Most parents (87%) felt heard regarding mental health concerns about their child and most (90%) felt welcomed in the program/classroom. Ninety-one percent felt encouraged to volunteer and participate in the program. Parents were also very positive (91%) about referrals to resources in the community. Regarding items where there were less positive ratings, the results could have been impacted by the design of the survey and the wording of the questions. For example, only 73% of parents responding indicated they "knew how parents are supported to participate in decisions regarding evaluation and individual program planning" and approximately half of the parents did not respond to this question. Some parents may not have understood the wording of the question or its intent. The transition question was scored the lowest by parents but this response may not be a concern if the parents were simply saying they had not transitioned their child rather than rating the assistant they received.

There were several construct issues that may have influenced outcomes. Some survey items contained two parts. This could have created uncertainty as to which part the parent was rating. Specifically, the transition question asks if parents have transitioned their child in or out and then asked if they were assisted with the transition. This same pattern is repeated around referrals where parents are asked if they received referrals and then asked if the resources were helpful.



Table 9: Parent Survey Categories, Questions, and Outcomes

<b>Survey Categories and Related Questions</b>	<b>Ratio of “Yes” to Total Responses</b>	<b>% of “Yes” Responses</b>
<b>Child Related Information</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did you meet with program staff to discuss child nutrition and health?</li> </ul>	266/337	79%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you feel you were heard by staff when you had concerns about your child’s mental health?</li> </ul>	266/307	87%
<b>Parent Participation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you know how parents are supported to participate in decisions regarding evaluation and individual program planning?</li> </ul>	153/311	73%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the program have activities that allow any parent to volunteer and participate?</li> </ul>	274/300	91%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has the program developed materials and activities that enhance a parent’s sense of feeling welcome at the program?</li> </ul>	259/287	90%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have you been invited to make suggestions for classroom activities and given the opportunity to increase your child observation skills and share in assessments?</li> </ul>	249/296	85%
<b>Access to External Resources</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has your child transitioned in or out program? If yes, how did the program assist your child with the transition process?</li> </ul>	82/206	40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What kinds of resources or referrals has the program helped you access. Did the resources you received meet your needs?</li> </ul>	261/286	91%

## **SUMMARY**

While the many changes Oregon is currently experiencing would appear to keep migrant families from traveling to and working in the state, individual counties continue to see influxes of migrant workers depending on crop conditions, agricultural innovations, and other considerations such as the social climate around the immigration debate. What also emerges from this assessment and overview is that the state of Oregon would benefit from additional resources to serve migrant and seasonal families.

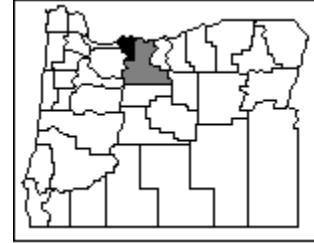
Following this section are individual assessments for the current OCDC Counties where specific needs, and resources to meet these needs, are discussed covering such areas as: adult education, early childhood education, health and social services, housing and transportation. A final section covers Expansion opportunities, Conclusions, and Proposed changes.



# HOOD RIVER & WASCO COUNTIES

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco 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 Hood River and Wasco Counties served a total of 505 children in 2008. In the two counties, 384 children were classified as migrant and 121 children were classified as seasonal.



The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco Counties currently employs a center-based option, serving children from three locations in Parkdale and Odell, Oregon, both in Hood River County, and The Dalles, Oregon, in Wasco County. The short-term program in Hood River County runs 18 weeks from June through October, operating eleven classrooms, 5 days per week from 6 am to 4 pm. The long-term program in Hood River County runs 23 weeks from October through May, operating two classrooms, 5 days per week from 8 am to 2 pm. The short-term program in Wasco County runs 4 weeks from June through July, operating twenty-two classrooms, 6 days per week from 5 am to 5 pm. The long-term program in Wasco runs 32 weeks from August through May, operating five classrooms, 5 days per week from 8 am to 2 pm.

The service area includes the entirety of Hood River County, Wasco County, and the southern portion of Washington State's Klickitat County in and around Bingen, Washington, and White Salmon, Washington, an area currently unserved by a Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in that state. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) program center locations, (ii) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco Counties serves the predominantly agricultural areas of these counties, and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start Performance Standards.

### **CRITICAL ISSUES**

#### **► CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE**

Changes in agriculture continue to impact the community, families, and programs. As new orchards in the Dufur area and further south and east come on line, and as later varieties gain favor and come into production, there has been a growing need to extend services for the summer Migrant program in Wasco. Fortunately, in 2007, and 2008, funding has been available for this expansion of approximately three weeks. The need for services throughout July and into August will continue and potentially grow and extend into the full second or even third weeks of August. There is also a need for a satellite site to run during this program in Mosier, Oregon. It was initially anticipated that the bell curve of need for workers would lower as the harvest





lengthened, but observations reveal that during a good crop year, there is still a peak need in late June and early July for nearly 7,000 workers, and then there is a continued need for a lower number into the late or “second” harvest.

The changing market has also affected local agriculture, with demands for quality and size becoming more and more stringent, and salability decreasing each year. There have been several years, including 2009, where hundreds of tons of fruit are thrown away due to sudden loss of market and buyers backing out.

### ► **SERVICE AVAILABILITY/ECONOMIC DOWNTURN**

Incomes are lower with the downturned economy, and agriculture employment has suffered as well with poor markets in the last couple of years leading to fewer jobs and less demand for farmworkers. This leads to increased levels of need among families which has been evidenced through dramatic increases in the number of families seeking services through TANF, food stamps and food boxes, etc. (Reported at the Hood River Commission on Children and Families Meeting, spring 2009)

Several local businesses in Wasco County have closed completely, including Copper’s Hardware Store, Courtesy Home Furnishings (Rent to Own), LeBreton’s Shoes, Gayer’s Jeweler, and Albertson’s grocery store. Albertson’s will be a particular loss as the company helped provide milk and meat vouchers and discount supplies for Migrant Farmworker Food Boxes during cherry harvest. In Hood River, all three car dealerships have closed completely.

Many key programs that provide services to local families, especially those who are low-income and high need, are going through major program cutbacks and are losing some program services altogether. In particular, services we have seen affected include Early Intervention which provides services to young children with disabilities and their families, parenting education, mental health services, Migrant Education programs, public library access, reduced medical and dental services at local clinics, and health outreach services cut through both La Clinica del Carino and The Next Door. (This topic has been discussed over the past 12 months at Families First Network/Commission meetings)

### ► **AFFORDABLE HOUSING, ESPECIALLY IN HOOD RIVER COUNTY**

The lack of affordable housing mentioned in the 2006 Community Assessment has continued and increased. Added to the lack of independent affordable housing, farmworkers have had increased difficulty in obtaining housing as OSHA regulations have led to less farmworker housing being available through agricultural employers.





## **COUNTY PROFILE**

### **► GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Hood River County and Wasco County span 533 square miles and 2,396 square miles, respectively.<sup>20</sup> Each is bordered by the Columbia River to the north. These areas offer ideal conditions for tree fruit given the combination of temperature, elevation and slope. Hood River County receives an average of 30 inches of rain annually, while neighboring Wasco County receives roughly 15 inches of rain annually. Average temperatures range from 33 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to well above 73 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. Geographically speaking, aside from differences in square mileage, Hood River County and Wasco County are quite similar. The elevation at the county seat for each is approximately 100 feet above sea level. Both counties have access to the Columbia and other rivers in the area. Both counties also have access to the Cascade Mountain Range and Mount Hood (11,249') to the south. The counties have varying community characteristics with Hood River County tending to embrace its proximity to the large city of Portland, Oregon, some 60 miles away and Wasco County tending to be more isolated with long-term residents having more extensive roots and networks in the community.<sup>21</sup>

### **► ECONOMIC PROFILE**

Table I (all tables are contained in the earlier Oregon Community Assessment and OCDC Overview section of the Community Assessment) provides the following economic information. The 2007 median per capita income for Hood River County was \$33,103. The total number of individuals employed in the Hood River County in 2007 was 15,787 with 11.14 percent in agriculture. Unemployment in Hood River County has moved from 4.9 percent in both 2007 and 2008 to 8.4 percent in July 2009.

In Wasco County, the 2007 median per capita income was \$31,763. The number of individuals employed in 2007 was 13,504 with 7.09 percent employed in agriculture. Wasco County's unemployment was higher than Hood River's with 8.0 percent unemployed in 2007, 7.5 percent in 2008, and rising to 10.9 percent in July 2009.

While manufacturing, retail, and service work continue to be the major employers in the two counties, both Hood River and Wasco Counties are key players in Oregon's agricultural economy. In Hood River County, the labor peak corresponds to the apple and pear harvests, with general orchard maintenance occurring during the winter and spring months. In Wasco County, the situation is different and much more intensive. During the months of June and July, roughly 6,000 mobile, migrant farmworkers arrive in Wasco County for an intensive 3-6 week cherry harvest. It is of notable interest that the pool of farmworkers in Wasco County is almost entirely composed of migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Should that pool decline or dry up, agriculture would suffer. Growers could no longer maintain a viable business due to an inadequate labor supply. Over the past few years growers have been exploring several options for extending the

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<sup>20</sup> Oregon Blue Book 2009.

<sup>21</sup> Esther K. Smith, 'Country Girls' Build Value in Fruit Grown in the Gorge, July 26, 2006, Hood River News.



cherry growing season by several weeks. One such option involves the use of a range of cherry cultivars such that the harvest is extended over a longer period (e.g. from 4-6 weeks to 6-8 weeks, etc.). Cherry growers in Wasco County have considered extending the harvest in order to provide an incentive (i.e., more hours of work) for families to travel to the area. Additionally, growers are using innovative pruning techniques - central leader pruning - and placing trees a shorter distance apart to increase density and productivity. These improvements allows for cherry growers to plant more but this increase is linked to and dependent upon the labor of migrant and seasonal farmworkers as cherries require hand picking. Accordingly, whereas growers in other counties throughout the state are attempting to stabilize acreage while increasing sales, growers in Wasco County have expanded their operations into the Dufur and Mosier.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Data from Table 5 indicate the total population of Hood River County in 2008 was 21,536 up by 1.58 percent from 2007. Table 5 also indicates the total number of children under age four in Hood River County in 2008 was 1,540.

The US Census and Oregon Department of Education data indicate the number of individuals living in poverty in 2007 in Hood River County was 12.7 percent.<sup>22</sup> The poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 15.5 percent and for children birth to two years of age it was 16.1 percent.<sup>23</sup>

Table 5 reported the total population of Wasco County in 2008 to be 23,775 in 2008, an increase from 23,707 in 2007 which represents only a .30 percent increase in population. Table 5 also indicates the total number of children under the age of four in Wasco County in 2008 to be 1,490.

The percent of the total population of people living in poverty in Wasco County was 14.6 in 2007. The poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 13.4 and for children ages birth to two years it was 10.8 percent.<sup>24</sup>

Additionally, Table 5 data indicates that during the 2008-2009 school year, 56.7 percent of students in Hood River County schools and 46.2 percent of students in Wasco County schools were eligible for free or reduced lunch. These figures are important to note for the reason that 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/shelter.

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<sup>22</sup> US Census Bureau and Oregon Department of Education

<sup>23</sup> ODE Annual Estimate of Eligible 3-4 year olds and birth -2 year olds, 2009

<sup>24</sup> Data is taken from the *Program Information Report*, 2008, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

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## ► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS<sup>25</sup>**

Table 5 displays the Hispanic composition of the population in Hood River County and Wasco County. Hood River County has a sizeable Hispanic population. Hood River is reported as having a population of 5,500 Hispanic residents in 2007 and 5,755 in 2008 which represents a 3.69 percent increase. Table 5 also shows that in Wasco County there are an estimated 2,825 persons of Hispanic origin living in the County in 2007 increasing to 2,929 in 2008 representing an increase of 3.68 percent.

In 2008, 505 children in Hood River County and Wasco Counties were enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program based on income eligibility or public assistance. Overall, program participants in the counties 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 program participants were primary Spanish speakers, as well as an increasing number of indigenous language speakers in Wasco County. Indigenous languages are typically spoken by those program participants from the Oaxaca region of Mexico and include the languages of Mixteco and Trique.

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

The Oregon Department of Education estimated there to be 619 total children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Hood River County and 530 total children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Wasco County for 2008.<sup>26</sup> To estimate the total number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 year old children, the Oregon Department of Education multiplied the total number of children in each county by the poverty rate in 2008 for Hood River and Wasco County, 15.5 percent and 13.4 percent respectively. Thus, the 2008 total number of eligible Head Start children in Hood River County was 96 children; and the total number of eligible Head Start children in Wasco County was 71 children.<sup>27</sup> Note that Head Start and OPK programs in Hood River County served 119 children in 2008 and that 160 were served in Wasco County.

Because the 2008 number served by Head Start and OPK programs exceeded these eligible numbers, this need for services is being met. The same cannot be said, however, for the Migrant/Seasonal population. 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 Hood River County and Wasco County.

## ► **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

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<sup>26</sup> Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

<sup>27</sup> Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.



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.<sup>28</sup> Table 2 contains the estimated number of MFW and SFW for four years across an 11 year period from 1997 to 2008.

As can be noted, in Hood River there were 7,135 migrant workers in 1997 and only 4,002 in 2008. In addition there were estimates of 1,197 seasonal workers in 1997 and 6,615 seasonal workers in 2008. Overall the estimated number of MSFW in 1997 was 8,332 increasing to 11,179 in 2002 and decreasing to 10,617 in 2008.

Table 2 indicates that in Wasco County the estimated "total" number of MFW and SFW from 1997 to 2008 remained nearly constant but there was a large shift in migrant to seasonal workers. It is estimated that in 1997 there were 8,601 MFW in Wasco County and 4,317 in 2008. Estimates indicate there to have been only 615 SFW in 1997 with an increase to 4688 in 2008. These figures help explain and support the changes during recent years in the options and weeks of services offered in the two counties.

The estimates for 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 notes there were 560 migrant children and 1,598 seasonal children in Hood River County in 2005. The 2008 numbers of migrant children expanded to 565 and the numbers of children from seasonal families expanded to 1,618. Likewise, there were an estimated 622 migrant children and 1,272 seasonal children in Wasco County in 2005; while there were 626 estimated migrant children and 1,285 children of seasonal families in 2008.

Table 8 contains the number of estimated eligible, served, and estimated unserved for each county where services are provided by OCDC. **In Hood River/Wasco Counties the estimated combined number of eligible migrant children is 1,191 and the total number of migrant children served is 384, meaning 807 migrant children are estimated to be unserved. In Hood River/Wasco Counties the estimated number of eligible seasonal children is 2,903 and the total number of seasonal children served is 121, meaning 2,782 seasonal children are estimated to be 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 subsection to demonstrate that program management, staff and parents of program participants actively participated in the construction and development of this document.

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<sup>28</sup>Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



## EDUCATION

### Adult Education

In the period of 2005 - 2007, 43.3 percent of the residents in Hood River County age 25 years or older, had a high school degree or less level of education, with 29.7 percent of residents in the same age range in Hood River County having earned a bachelor's degree or higher. In Wasco County, 46.2 percent of the residents 25 years or older had a high school degree or less level of education. Within the same age group, 19.4 percent had earned a BA or higher in Wasco County.<sup>29</sup>

Data on the educational attainment of parents of program participants from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's 2008 Program Information Report (PIR) show that 59 percent of parents served in Hood River County have less than a high school degree.<sup>30</sup> The following is a breakdown of some of the agencies providing education services to children and families in Hood River and Wasco Counties. In the area of adult education:

- The Columbia Gorge Community College provides the Gorge Literacy program. This program is free and provides basic skills, GED, AHSD, ESL and Spanish GED classes in Hood River and The Dalles.
- The Columbia Gorge Community College also offers professional and technical programs, including early childhood and family studies.
- The Hood River County Library supports learning and personal development through general membership, cultural programs and other community gatherings.
- The Dalles-Wasco County library provides residents with access to information and materials.
- The Mid-Columbia Health Resource Center identifies as a public library, but with a special collection in the areas of health and medicine.

Representatives from the above agencies agree that in the area of adult education, additional classes are needed for non-English speakers to acquire college level writing skills.

Overall, providers noted that resources are limited, particularly for those families living in south Wasco County where outreach and educational opportunities are sparse.

A number of families enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program are coming from rural Mexico. Along with the need for mentoring and ESL classes, the development of an INEA Literacy Program in the community has become a major goal. Such a program was started in Mexico and essentially works to provide basic skills training as a bridge, allowing students to first obtain the Spanish GED and then advance into ESL and other classes. Thus, in the words of one provider, "current efforts regarding workforce training and skill development...could be further enhanced ... [and furthermore] ... OCDC could serve as the lead agency to address [this]." OCDC in Hood River and Wasco Counties has completed the basic classes needed to

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<sup>29</sup> Northwest Regional Foundation, US Census Bureau.

<sup>30</sup> Program Information Report, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.



serve as hosts for the INEA program. Computer and training support to open an INEA program for parents and community members would be a huge benefit.

## **Early Childhood Education**

In the area of early childhood education, other Head Start programs in Hood River and Wasco Counties include the Mid-Columbia Children's Council. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco Counties has and continues to develop interagency agreements with these providers to facilitate recruitment, trainings, transitions, etc.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- The Mid-Columbia Children's Council (Region X Head Start) serves three and four year old children in the counties. Since there is a new director of this program OCDC is in the process of reviewing and updating an interagency agreement.
- A collaborative agreement exists with the local Migrant Education program to provide preschool services through contracts
- Columbia Gorge Community College's Department of Early Childhood and Family Studies includes OCDC sites in their ECE class environments tour.
- The Hood River County Library provides a number of children's services, including programs for Spanish speaking parents.
- The Dalles-Wasco County library employs a bilingual staff member, providing onsite outreach (e.g., story times) in both English and Spanish.
- In partnership with the public libraries, First Book provides literacy support and free books to families. The Early Words literacy training program has been also accessible for staff.

## **MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES**

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show in Hood River/Wasco that 7% of the children enrolled in the program were determined to have a disability. Primary disabilities included health, multiple, non-categorical developmental delays, and speech or language impairments.<sup>31</sup>

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

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco Counties works collaboratively with the local Educational Service District and the Wasco School District to accommodate referrals of children with disabilities. However this agency has experienced budget cuts and reduction in services due to the depressed economy resulting in limited availability of staff for evaluating children and providing direct services.
- The Mid-Columbia Center for Living provides mental health counseling and addiction services and are experiencing major budget cuts and reductions in services. In addition they report a shortage of bilingual or Spanish speaking counselors.

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<sup>31</sup> Program Information Report, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.  
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- The Mid-Columbia Health Resource Center provides information, lectures and educational materials to the general community and has worked to reach out to the Latino population by investing in relationships with local churches and faith groups.
- Membership on the Local Interagency Coordinating Council allows the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco Counties to advocate for early intervention services.
- Next Door Inc provides mental health and counseling services, working with Center for Living to provide individual counseling services.
- Mid-Columbia Child and Family Center provides services to high needs individuals.
- The Wasco County Prevention Coalition provides bilingual education and outreach, focusing on drugs and alcohol.
- Youth Think in Wasco County to support families and youth in preventing drug and alcohol use.
- Providence Gorge Counseling and Treatment Center (counseling with sliding scale payment)
- Swindell Center – resource center for families dealing with mental health issues, disabilities, and major health issues.

Overall, the need for children’s mental health services exceeds the availability of care. Also of interest is that providers noted that there is a general shortage of culturally and linguistically appropriate materials covering such topics as depression, thereby acting as a barrier to minority groups in not only receiving care but, also, in simply learning about mental health and healthy habits. While relationships with both Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education programs have strengthened, the numbers of children enrolled with IFSPs are the highest for the 12 OCDC counties and increasing. This is particularly true for the long-term Odell program where over half of children enrolled have a current IFSP.

## **HEALTH & NUTRITION**

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Program Information report show that 448 out of 505 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Hood River and Wasco Counties in 2008 with health insurance<sup>32</sup> Those with health insurance were primarily covered by The Oregon Health Plan. For those without health insurance Oregon Child Development Coalition worked with families to reduce the number of children without health insurance. The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing health and dental services to children and families in Hood River and Wasco Counties. The number of families receiving WIC services in Hood River and Wasco counties was 295.

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing services:

- The Hood River County and Wasco/Sherman County Health Departments provide core public health services, including family planning, disease prevention, investigation, immunization, environmental health, home visiting, and maternal child health.

<sup>32</sup> Program Information Report, 2008 & 2009, Oregon Child Development Coalition.  
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- La Clínica del Cariño is a community and migrant health center in Hood River and The Dalles, serving nearly 3,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Hood River and Wasco Counties annually. They are currently seeking grants to make-up for budget cuts and reduced services, needs to expand to meet medical, dental and mental health needs of community.
- CACOON is a multi-disciplinary team that supports children with major health and disability concerns.
- Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital provides a range of services including nutrition, home and occupational health, and emergency services. The hospital also operates a family birth center and provides interpretation for clients. The hospital also provides a mobile medical unit to provide onsite medical care, medications and prescriptions, health education and outreach, and to help families to establish a medical home.
- Mid Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles, Oregon, provides a variety of medical services, including women's health services and visiting home health.
- The Mid Columbia Medical Center also operates the Health Resource Center which functions as a medical library for the community, issuing some 1,300 new memberships annually and attracting community members to regular lecture events.
- Next Door Inc provides Nuestra Comunidad Sana, a culturally relevant health promotion and disease prevention service to the Columbia Gorge Latino community.
- A Kidz Dental Zone provides screening and dental services to children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.
- OSU Extension Office provides nutrition education through parent meetings and nutrition classes, although they too have seen reduced services due to budget and the nutrition program has essentially been eliminated from the Wasco County office.
- Gorge Grown farmer's market has developed in Hood River County and offers fresh produce to families – accepting EBT cards and will match the first \$5 spent by families.

Providers have noted that, in general, low-income and farmworking families need better access to health care, starting with culturally and linguistically appropriate information and resources covering diet, pesticides, obesity, type II diabetes and sexually transmitted diseases. Families still need these services, but the outreach and low-income programs that supported these efforts are being affected by budget shortages and cuts. Even when the information is available, agencies struggle to get it out to the target population. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco Counties continue to use parent meetings as a platform to educate parents while involving other providers.

## **FAMILY SERVICES**

The number of families who received emergency/crises intervention (addressing an immediate need for food, clothing or shelter) was 54 in Hood River and Wasco Counties.<sup>33</sup> Figures from the Children First for Oregon show 141 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cases in Hood River County and 177 TANF cases in Wasco Counties. Additionally, the number of cases

<sup>33</sup> Program Information Report, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.  
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for food stamps in Hood River was 1,283 and Wasco Counties was 1,537. <sup>34</sup> In 2008, Children First reported figures estimating the number of child abuse victims in Hood River County to be 32 children (5.6 per 1,000 children) with 56% of the victims under the age of six and in Wasco County to be 103 (17.5 per 1,000) with 51% of the victims under the age of six. <sup>35</sup>

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing family and social services to children and families in Hood River and Wasco Counties.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco 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 Hood River and Wasco Counties providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Helping Hands Against Violence provides shelter services in Hood River County, providing a 24-hour hotline with collect calls accepted.
- Haven From Domestic Violence provides shelter services in Wasco County, providing a 24-hour hotline with collect calls accepted.
- Mid Columbia Community Action also provides clothing, temporary lodging, weatherization, rent and utility assistance, tax preparation, and information and referral services. Roughly 30 percent of the client base is Hispanic, with roughly 5 percent of these as migrant farmworkers and 20 percent of these as seasonal farmworkers.
- FISH Food Bank is staffed with members from local churches and faith groups, providing food boxes to 700-800 families annually. They estimate that roughly 50 percent of those receiving assistance are migrant and seasonal farmworkers.
- Next Door Inc provides a range of services to strengthen children and families, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Columbia Gorge CASA, Community Attention Homes program, the Crisis Shelter, Families First, Nuestra Comunidad Sana, Latino outreach, new parent services, and other youth and family services. (Some of these services are being affected by budget cuts, in particular in the area of Parenting Education)
- HOPE Program – housing, emergency voucher programs, etc
- We refer back and forth and share resources with Mid-Columbia Children’s Council.
- Salvation Army and St. Vincent De Paul.
- Columbia Gorge Safe Kids provides a Car Seat Coalition.
- RAMAS Committee “Resources Available for Migrant Access to Services” a committee of community programs and providers led by OCDC, that meets every spring to prepare for the influx of migrant families who come to the area to work in the intensive cherry harvest.
- Columbia Gorge Child Advocacy Center opened in August 2009 to serve area children who are victims of abuse or neglect.

Resource shortages have impeded the ability of providers to assist permanent residents with housing and utilities assistance during the winter months when agriculture slows down.

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<sup>34</sup> Children First for Oregon, 2008.

<sup>35</sup> Children First for Oregon, 2008



Likewise, outreach has been impeded as well, with one local provider indicating that it has been difficult to promote information and services. Outreach continues to be an area that loses funding first, leading to under-utilization of services, especially among the neediest families.

In Hood River, there is a need for qualified staff in the health and education fields for interpretation and translation. Many local providers and businesses are reaching out to the Hispanic community. There appears to be more bilingual staff and better representation of the Latino population in a lot of local agencies. OCDC finds itself needing to interpret less and less for families in the community as more agencies and providers make an effort to open their services up more to the local Hispanic population.

A team that included Family Health Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco Counties agreed that partnerships are a priority with agencies in Hood River and Wasco Counties, as well as with agencies in other areas of the country that may provide assistance in tracking and serving the migrant population. For example, the Oregon Child Development Coalition has developed contacts with Yuba City Center's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program and Live Oak School's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program, both of which are located in California. Such partnerships ensure greater continuity, allowing the agency to more effectively track the needs and movements of families. This partnership continues to be developed throughout California and has been expanded to include areas further South from the Sacramento region, including Fresno, Stockton, and Visalia areas.

Other needs identified by the Family Health Supervisor include increased medical and dental coverage plus additional diapers and formula for families. Parents of program participants noted that they tend to rely on family and friends to assist with such needs, which can exacerbate the situation when income and other resources are stretched or, in some cases, non-existent for months at a time.

## ► **CHILDCARE**

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following information on child care in Hood River County in 2008. There were 768 slots in child care and education centers, and 256 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Hood River had 26 per 100 children. It was also reported that 60 children age 0-12 received state assistance, through DHS, with part of all of their child care costs.<sup>36</sup>

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership also provided data for Wasco County in 2008. There were 736 slots in child care and education centers, and 272 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Wasco had 25 per 100 children. There were 137 children age 0-12 who received state assistance, through DHS, with part of all of their child care costs.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.

<sup>37</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.



A breakdown of some of the agencies providing childcare and related services to children and families in Hood River and Wasco Counties follows.

- Through Columbia Gorge Community College, Child Care Partners makes referrals to local child care facilities (e.g., preschools, family child care, certified family child care and center based providers), provides information and access to subsidies to assist with payment for care, and makes available information regarding characteristics of quality child care. In special circumstances CCP works with local agencies whose clients need to access childcare due to a variety of needs, such as mental or emotional health issues, working with the case manager to find spaces that may be able to competently accommodate the child and family.
- Both counties' Commission on Children and Families funded positions with Child Care Resource and Referral to attempt to recruit more registered providers, in particular providers who speak Spanish and providers for infants and toddlers, though with only partial success. We continue to have a shortage of providers and in particular Spanish-speaking providers.
- Additionally, there are an unspecified number of exempt childcare providers in Hood River and Wasco Counties.

Data from the Oregon Child Care Division indicate that there is a limited number of Spanish speaking, certified home childcare providers in Hood River and Wasco Counties. Quality childcare is currently a need expressed by service providers from across the spectrum, including staff employed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco Counties. What is clear is that local and statewide efforts and investments in additional childcare slots and resources would effectively be an investment in the local workforce and, hence, in the local economy. Local growers indicate childcare for their employees remains a serious concern, especially in Wasco County where agricultural operations are dependent on the labor of farmworkers a labor pool that is already in tight supply. Attempts to recruit more providers and Spanish speaking providers have been largely unsuccessful.

## **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

The following is a breakdown of the various transportation providers and services in Hood River and Wasco Counties.

- Columbia Area Transit provides accessible, quality transportation services to the residents of Hood River County and the surrounding Columbia Gorge area, providing nearly 25,000 rides annually. Dial-a-Ride service is also available.
- The Wasco County Transportation Network provides transportation services to Wasco County residents. Dial-a-Ride services are also available. Roughly 17 percent of riders are children.
- Additional transportation services are available for clients with the Oregon Health Plan.
- Limited taxi services are available in both counties.



- The Hood River and Wasco County Commission on Children and Families has formed Columbia Gorge Safe Kids. This organization distributes car seats and provides installation training. It also provides bike helmets and water life jackets.

Local transportation providers have expressed concern around more effectively communicating with their riders. While many of their informational materials are in Spanish, providers have not yet established a core group of riders between Hood River and Wasco Counties. Providers spoke of the need to conduct a targeted needs assessment to identify commuting patterns (including those commuters to Portland) and adjust services so as to build trust with riders. Local transit options do little outreach and continue to be under-utilized; they do little or no outreach in Spanish.

Providers also express a need to communicate more effectively with local service agencies, indicating a desire to engage in joint planning processes to identify commonalities, available resources, and collaborative responses. For example, local transportation providers have seen a doubling of their funds this year and plan to use these dollars to both offset high fuel costs and provide additional services between the hours of 11 am and 2 pm to accommodate medical appointments. Toward this end, joint planning would allow the needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers to be placed at the forefront and gain more direct access into route planning, etc. In essence, transportation providers are currently looking to gauge whether there is interest in, and support for increasing ridership and the availability of services.

While the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Hood River and Wasco Counties continues to see a limited supply of certified school bus drivers in the area, the agency does what it can to continue building partnerships, currently working with the Car Seat Coalition to secure and install car seats for those in need. Likewise, the agency continues to develop and expand relationships with local school districts. These and other partnerships are of vital importance to children and families.

There were 132 labor camps in Hood River County for 2006 and 122 in 2008. The total labor camp occupancy was 1,683 in 2006 and 1,752 in 2008. In Wasco County there were 77 labor camps in for 2006 and 81 in 2008. The total labor camp occupancy was 4,619 in 2006 and 4691 in 2008.<sup>38</sup>

The following is a breakdown of the various housing complexes and housing services in Hood River and Wasco Counties.

- At least 6 apartment complexes in Hood River County, such as the Wyeast Vista Apartments, cater to low-income and migrant families. Overall, there are at least 215 units.
- The Mid-Columbia Housing Authority and Columbia Gorge Housing Authority provide safe, decent, affordable housing to low-income families in Hood River and Wasco Counties to the extent that it is available and both have very long waiting lists.

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<sup>38</sup> Agricultural Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2006-2008  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Community Assessment - Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program 2009  
State of Oregon and Counties



- Housing for People (HOPE) provides affordable housing and community development for residents of the Mid-Columbia River region. Its activities have centered largely on providing temporary emergency services and developing affordable housing. Completed housing projects include Wyeast Vista, a 24-unit apartment complex for farmworker families; White Salmon Seniors Apartments, 6 units; the Riverside Apartments, a 26-unit tax credit project; Bella Vista, a 28-unit tax credit project; and Queens Heights, a 48-unit tax credit project.

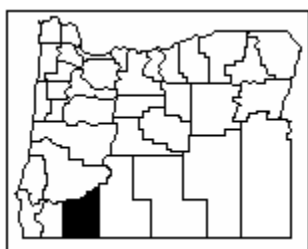


# JACKSON COUNTY

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County improves the lives of children and families through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start and Oregon Pre-Kindergarten 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 and Oregon Pre-Kindergarten program in Jackson County served a total of 96 MSHS children and 54 OPK children in 2008. Of the 96 MSHS children, 60 children were classified as migrant children and 36 children were classified as seasonal children.

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County currently employs a center-based option, serving children from one location in Ashland, Oregon. The short-term program runs 14 weeks from September through December, operating 6 classrooms, and 5 days per week from 6 am to 2 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from January through August, operating 3 classrooms, 5 days per week from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm and the OPK Program runs 32 weeks from September to June, operating 3 classrooms, 4 days per-week from 7:45 am to 11:45 am.



The service area includes the entirety of Jackson County, some 2,785 square miles. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County attends to those especially agricultural areas of Jackson County, (ii) the program center location and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start Performance Standards.

### **CRITICAL ISSUES**

#### **► GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The median price for a home in Jackson County in September 2006 was \$269,900.<sup>39</sup> Of course, the recent economic recession has reduced this value. In August 2009 the median price was \$190,000, down from the \$223,750 price in September 2008.<sup>40</sup> Although the 2008 and 2009 figures are less than the 2006 figure, home prices are out of reach for many Jackson County residents.<sup>41</sup> Except for the recent recession, one reason home prices have been high in recent years is in-migration to the area. Between 2000 and 2005, Jackson County gained 800 new residents from natural growth (i.e., births) and 14,000 new residents from in-migration, nearly

<sup>39</sup> *Jackson County Median Home Prices Fall First Time Since 1984*, September 12, 2006, Associated Press.

<sup>40</sup> Southern Oregon Multiple Listing Service, the Rogue Valley Association of Realtors, August 5, 2009

<sup>41</sup> Robert Plain, *More Apartments Changed to Condos*, September 13, 2006, Ashland Daily Tidings.



double the rate of in-migration for the state of Oregon.<sup>42</sup> Consequently, cities such as Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Medford and Phoenix are considering expanding their urban growth boundaries.<sup>43</sup> Accordingly, growers and agri-businesses are increasingly getting into the real estate business and leasing land, with some of the larger operations in the area evidently attempting to move out of the Medford city limits altogether.

## **COUNTY PROFILE**

### **► GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Jackson County is located in southern Oregon in the Rogue River Valley, spanning some 2,785 square miles. Elevation at Medford, the county seat, is 1,382 above sea level.<sup>44</sup> Average temperatures range from well below 37 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to well above 73 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The area receives approximately 20 inches of rain annually, including snow during the winter months.

The area is internationally known for its tree fruit, with household names such as Harry and David's and Naumes Inc. calling Medford, Oregon, home. The popularity of this area has had the affect of forcing difficult conversations between city and county officials as to how to accommodate growth while retaining Jackson County's distinct rural and agricultural identity.

### **► ECONOMIC PROFILE**

Table 1 (all tables are contained in the earlier Oregon Community Assessment and OCDC Overview section of the Community Assessment) lists the 2007 median per capita income for Jackson County at \$34,803. Other Jackson County economic information listed in Table 1 follows: the total number of individuals employed in 2007 was 120,370; 2.24 percent were employed in agriculture; and unemployment moved from 4.9 percent in 2007, to 5.8 percent in 2008, and to 13.2 percent in 2009.

Many industries in Jackson County are predominantly seasonal, which has the effect of raising the unemployment rate. Seasonal unemployment in Jackson County is largely a product of the area's agricultural industry. The months of July, September and October are when agricultural employment in Jackson is at its peak.<sup>45</sup> July is spent preparing orchards and vineyards, with September and October being the months during which tree fruit and wine grapes are harvested. Also of interest is that, unlike in other areas of the state, there is not a consistent demand for the labor of migrant and seasonal farmworkers throughout the year. In other counties (e.g., Umatilla County), the need for the labor of migrant and seasonal farmworkers can last up to 7 months. In

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<sup>42</sup> *Jackson County: Migration and Natural Change*, 2006, Northwest Area Foundation.  
Damian Mann, *Road Work Ahead*, September 13, 2006.

<sup>43</sup> Meg Landers, *Medford Weights Growth Changes*, April 27, 2006, Mail Tribune.

<sup>44</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2006.

<sup>45</sup> *2008 Oregon Agricultural Employment Estimates*, Oregon Employment Department.





Jackson County, the situation is much different and much more intense, especially during July and September.

While Southern Oregon is known primarily for its tree fruit, wine grapes are becoming increasingly common. Vineyard owners in Jackson County require the labor of migrant and seasonal farmworkers during the months of October and December to both harvest wine grapes and prune the vineyards for the following year. Unique to the Jackson County area is that tree fruit operations have slowly been consolidated over the years. Harry and David's, Naumes Inc, and Associated Fruit have essentially swallowed up their smaller competitors, and each operates its own packinghouse. Thus, when prices drop and supplies are high, these three operations are faced with the difficult decision of moderating production in a way that does not disrupt other parts of the business. A relatively recent development is the construction of a new production facility for Amy's Kitchen in Medford, which opened in November of 2006. This food production facility is already attracting seasonal farmworkers in the area,

In addition, Jackson County's growing population has created a shortage of available, affordable land. Consequently, cities such as Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Medford and Phoenix are considering expanding their urban growth boundaries.<sup>46</sup> According to one local grower, several of the larger agricultural operations in Jackson County are looking to move out of the Medford, Oregon area in response to such efforts. However, there continue to be conflicting reports about whether such changes and consequent reductions in tree fruit acreage will necessarily unfold.

In other areas of the state, enrollment in the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program is largely a product of the total number of harvested crop acres. In general, enrollment is not understood to be a function of total crop sales given that greater revenues do not necessarily imply a greater need for labor. In fact, often such gains imply that growers are successfully mechanizing production, reducing overhead (e.g., labor costs), and effectively regulating supply to increase prices and, consequently, sales. However, in Jackson County, the situation is atypical. The crops of Jackson County are agricultural commodities that can not be easily mechanized. For the most part, tree fruit and wine grapes need to be hand picked.

Consequently, adequate enrollment planning for the Oregon Child Development Coalition must attend to the issue of changing crop sales, as well as the ability of growers to continue mechanizing tree fruit production. Furthermore, Jackson's County's relatively explosive population growth over the past 10 years also warrants continued monitoring, as many low-income residents - including migrant and seasonal farmworkers - are being pushed into small pockets throughout the central part of the county.

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<sup>46</sup> Meg Landers, *Medford Weights Growth Changes*, April 27, 2006, Mail Tribune.



## ► DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Table 5 lists the total population of Jackson County in 2008 to be 20,138 up by 1.1 percent from 2007. Table 5 also indicates the total number of children under age four in Jackson County in 2008 to be 12,123.

Oregon Housing and Community Services organization reports that the 2007 number of individuals living in poverty in Jackson County was 12.7 percent. The 2007 poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 16.6 percent and for children birth to two years of age it was 19.4 percent.<sup>47</sup>

During the 2008-2009 school year, 48.5 percent of students in Jackson County were eligible for free or reduced lunch (see Table 5). This was up from 41 percent in 2005. These figures are important to note for the reason that 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.

## ► PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Table 5 displays the Hispanic composition of the population in all counties served by OCDC. Jackson County is reported as having a 2008 population of 18,469 Hispanic persons which represents an increase from 17,674 in 2007, an increase of 4.5 percent. Overall, the Hispanic population in Jackson County has grown over the past 10 years, and currently comprises the largest ethnic group in the Rogue Valley.<sup>48</sup> Jackson County's growing Hispanic population tends to be younger than the general population, with estimates revealing that Hispanics and Blacks under the age of 5 will outnumber non-Hispanic Whites by 2050.<sup>49</sup>

## ► 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.<sup>50</sup> Table 2 contains the estimated number of MFW and SFW for four years across an 11 year period from 1997 to 2008. As can be noted, in Jackson County there were 2,901 estimated migrant workers in 1997 and 1,645 in 2008. In addition there were estimates of 834 seasonal workers in 1997 and 2,819 seasonal workers in 2008.

Table 8 contains the number of estimated eligible, served, and estimated unserved migrant and seasonal children for 2008. **In Jackson County the estimated number of eligible migrant**

<sup>47</sup> ODE Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 year olds 2009

<sup>48</sup> Guy Tauer, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 8*, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>49</sup> Ray Collins and Angela Willson-Quayle, *Hispanics and Childcare: The Changing Landscape*, 2004, National Child Care Information Center.

<sup>50</sup> Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



**children is 228 and the total number of migrant children served is 74, meaning 154 migrant children are estimated to be unserved. The estimated numbers of eligible seasonal children is 648 and the total number of seasonal children served is 53, meaning 595 seasonal children are estimated to be unserved.**

Results of this analysis indicate that the Oregon Child Development Coalition could serve more migrant and seasonal children. Correspondence with the local Migrant Education office indicates that there is especially a need for additional Migrant Seasonal Head Start services in the areas of Central Point, Medford, and less so in White City.

## **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 subsection to demonstrate that program management, staff and parents of program participants actively participated in the construction and development of this document.

### **► EDUCATION**

#### **Adult Education**

Data from the Oregon Department of Education (2008-09) show total public school enrollment in Jackson County to be approximately 28,367<sup>51</sup> students annually, 23.6 percent of which are non-white.<sup>52</sup> Across all high schools in Jackson County, the total number of high school dropouts is 640 students with a 7.6 percent high school dropout rate over the past four years.<sup>53</sup>

In 2007, 41.7 percent of the Jackson County residents 25 years or older had a high school degree or less level of education, with 23.5 percent of residents in the same age range in Jackson County having earned a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>54</sup>

Data on the educational attainment of parents of program participants from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that 93 percent of parents served have earned a high school degree or less. Further, of all families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County, 16 are enrolled in either job training or school.

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

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<sup>51</sup> Oregon Department of Education, 2008-2009

<sup>52</sup> Oregon Department of Education, 2005-2006.

<sup>53</sup> Oregon Department of Education, 2005-2006.

<sup>54</sup> US Census Bureau.



- Southern Oregon University provides a range of degree and continuing education programs, including a focus on early childhood education through the Department of Education.
- Rogue Community College provides adult education classes such as tutoring and adult basis skills programs, including GED preparation, Adult High School Diploma (AHSD), and ESL courses
- The Job Council provides employment training, referrals and placements, working closely with local employers to identify potential employees who meet basic skill requirements.
- US Bank and the Rogue Valley Credit Union provide consumer credit counseling and financial information.

In relation to the final bullet point, during a focus group with parents of program participants, parents expressed an interest in learning more about how to establish a credit history. Parents are eager to begin setting down roots in the community and are looking for mechanisms that will facilitate this process and put them on a path toward home ownership.

According to the Parent Involvement Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County, parents have expressed in an interest not only in the area of learning how to establish a credit history, but also in additional ESL classes in the Medford, Oregon, area. Current efforts are being made to ensure that parents continue to be involved with planning the days and times during which such classes are offered, as well as which days and times work for local partners in the community. In the past, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County has collaborated with Rogue Community College, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, WIC, and Project Listo. Additionally, OCDC's main community partner in the area of Parent Education is SOLES, Southern Oregon Language Education Services. SOLES provides OCDC parents with low-cost education opportunities in the area of literacy, computers, citizenship, English and GED, among others.

## **Early Childhood Education**

Other programs that serve the migrant population include Migrant Education for the Southern Oregon ESD. In 2008, 1,067 received services thereby demonstrating the continued need for the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in this area.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- The Southern Oregon Child and Family Council (Region X Head Start) and the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County have developed an interagency agreement to join strategies in such areas as recruitment, transitions, health, disabilities, training and technical assistance.
- Southern Oregon University and Rogue Community College provide curriculum on cultural competency. Public school teachers are encouraged to take the course, which offers a public school endorsement.



- The Early Childhood Partnership Group shares early childhood resource and conducts limited projects including developing community early childhood brochures and videos.
- Project Listo is a literacy program for the whole family, which provides: a supportive pre-school environment in Spanish for 3, 4, and 5 year-olds; a multi-age literacy based classroom for school-age siblings; childcare for infants and toddlers in a culturally and developmentally appropriate environment; English as a Second Language (ESL) and basic literacy classes in Spanish for parents; and shared literacy activities for children and parents.
- The Job Council began to offer a Spanish Early Literacy Mentor Program at the close of 2006 to assist early childhood and childcare providers in the community. The program has proven valuable in helping providers access available resources to upgrade site safety and learning tools. As of August 2009 the program is without a mentor. They hope to re-staff the mentor(s) soon.
- The Southern Oregon Education Service District provides a range of education and support services to children, families and local providers.
- Since the fall of 2008, Rogue Community College offers Bi-lingual early childhood education.
- The Jackson County Library systems works closely with OCDC to provide participatory activities for children. The programs offered are Wobblers, Babies-in-the Library and Preschool Story Time which serve infants through five year olds.

Interviews with representatives from several of the above agencies found that there is currently a need to continue building the stock of bilingual educators in Jackson County. Specifically, it was noted that teachers with degrees earned in other countries often experience barriers when attempting to teach in the United States. Many times, these individuals have decades of experience in early childhood education, but lack a degree from a U.S. institution. The need for quality, bilingual educators was also expressed by the Education Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education, in conjunction with the Southern Oregon University, is offering a grant to earn a Masters Degree in the area of language acquisition and teaching English as a Second Language. The SOTELD (Southern Oregon Teachers of English Language Development) grant is offered yearly.

Early childhood providers also cited as a strength the “working relationship” with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County. According to the Education Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County, additional efforts are being made to expand and maintain these community partnerships, as well as increase representation on the Early Childhood Partnership Group, a direction that is consistent with the need to build greater name recognition and increase visibility in the community, as discussed by one local early childhood provider.

In a focus group with parents of program participants, aside from the expressed need for additional hours of Migrant Seasonal Head Start services per day, there was some confusion expressed by parents as to the difference between the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program and the local, regional Head Start program operated by the Southern Oregon Child and Family Council. Thus, there is currently a need to speak to this distinction in a way that keeps various



target audiences in mind - parents, community partners, potential funders, and other key stakeholders.

## ► MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report indicated five children were determined to have a disability. The primary disability identified included four children with speech and language delays and 1 child classified as non-categorical.<sup>55</sup>

The following is a breakdown of some of the agencies providing mental health and disabilities services to children and families in Jackson County.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County shares an interagency agreement with Asante Health Systems to provide disabilities and related services to children and families.
- Contracted mental health services are provided by La Clinica del Valle to children and families enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.
- Jackson County Mental Health provides mental health services to children and adolescents with mental health disorders. Following assessment, treatment interventions are identified which can include cognitive behavioral therapy for anxiety, depression, eating disorders and trauma, and various forms of parent-child and family interventions including Parent Child Interaction Therapy. Psychiatric assessment and medication management are available and used in conjunction with psychotherapeutic strategies. They also provide Intensive Community-based Treatment Supports based on a wraparound model to families with children with serious emotional and behavioral disorders to enable them to stay at home and in school. Parent's active involvement in their child's treatment and their support of behavioral changes in the family are usually an essential part of the success of any treatment.<sup>56</sup>

The Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County several needs were expressed which were noted to guide the formation and development of partnerships in this area over the next year. First, additional efforts are being made to ensure that contracted mental health services from La Clinica del Valle continue to be provided to children on site. And, secondly, additional efforts are being made to ensure greater coordination with Asante Health Systems such that transportation services are provided to enrolled children by the disabilities services provider to and from the program center.

Also of interest was the expressed need for speech therapies in Spanish. Evidently, Asante Health Systems has experienced low retention of Spanish providers, with current speech therapies provided only in English. Thus, additional efforts are need to expand partnerships in this area. Likewise, parents of program participants also noted that adult quality mental health services in Spanish are quite limited in the community. Parents did highlight the fact that that

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<sup>55</sup> Program Information Report, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.

<sup>56</sup> Jackson County, OR Website August 2009





Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County does provide support in this area; however, there was little knowledge of services outside of what the agency provides.

## ► HEALTH & NUTRITION

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information report show that 108 out of 127 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Jackson County in 2008 with health insurance<sup>57</sup>. Of those with health insurance, 106 were covered by The Oregon Health Plan. For those without health insurance Oregon Child Development Coalition worked with families to reduce the number of children without health insurance. The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing health and dental services to children and families in Jackson County. The number of families receiving WIC services in Jackson County was 82.

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

- The Jackson County Health Department provides core public health services, including family planning, disease prevention, investigation, immunization, environmental health, home visiting, and maternal child health.
- La Clinica del Valle provides medical, dental, and mental health services, including screenings, immunizations, and dental work. They also provide outreach workers - or *promotoras* - to make home visits to work with parents and children, as well as oversee the Healthy Start program to support positive parenting and improve health support systems. Overall, roughly one-half of their patients are of Hispanic origin.
- Southern Oregon Pediatrics provides medical services to children and families in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start and Oregon Prekindergarten Programs (OPK).
- Providence Medford Medical Center provides health, pediatric and emergency services to Jackson County residents, including Providence Birth Place, a family-centered maternity care program. Providence also operates the Kid's Clinic.
- The Family Practice Group provides medical services to children and families enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start and OPK Programs.
- The Community Health Center provides primary health services and targeting vulnerable populations in Jackson County, including the medically uninsured or underinsured, the unemployed or underemployed, and those for whom English is not their primary language.
- WIC provides a nutritionist to work with children and families enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start and OPK Programs.
- Local dentists - Dr. Dennehy, Dr. Cochran, Dr. Hampton and Dr. Shiskin - provide dental screenings for children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start and OPK Programs.
- Melanie Breidenthal is a dental hygienist who works with children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start and OPK Programs.

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<sup>57</sup> *Program Information Report, 2008 & 2009*, Oregon Child Development Coalition.





Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest medical and dental needs of children and families in the Jackson County area. Primary needs identified include (i) the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate programs to educate parents on preventive care, (ii) the need for additional low or no cost services in light of the growing number of uninsured clients, (iii) and the need to speak to the current immigration situation in light of the fact that many families are apprehensive about obtaining services that might, in the future, jeopardize their chances for citizenship.

The common theme in the above paragraph is the need for continued education, with local providers highlighting not only the benefits of a train-the-trainer model, but also a train-the-parent model as a way to build capacity among those in need and as a way to reach out to vulnerable populations that may otherwise be inaccessible. While the growing number of uninsured clients may not appear to invite a discussion of education, according to the Family and Health Services Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County, there are in fact many families who are eligible for the Oregon Health Plan but who would benefit from additional information around the reapplication process and changing providers so that families retain OHP coverage. According to other service providers, addressing these two issues may provide a platform to bring in legal experts from the community to educate clients about those benefits that are available to them despite their legal status given that, according to providers, clients prefer the advice of “experts” (e.g., legal experts) as opposed to advice provided by intake or case workers.

In the light of the issues discussed above, as a starting point, the Family and Health Services Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County is currently looking to develop and disseminate a medical information packet to be distributed to families in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start and OPK Programs. Of notable interest is that this packet would contain information that is relevant to the health needs of the entire family. During a focus group with parents of program participants, it was revealed that parents are often frustrated by the inability to secure appointment times and that quality of care in the community tends to vary by provider. Thus, the development of this information packet would address these issues, providing families with additional resources to manage their health needs.

## ► FAMILY SERVICES

The number of families who received emergency/crisis intervention (addressing an immediate need for food, clothing or shelter) was 2 in Jackson County.<sup>58</sup> Figures from the Children First for Oregon show 1,394 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cases in Jackson County. Additionally, the number of cases for food stamps in Jackson County was 12,190.<sup>59</sup> In 2008, Children First reported figures estimating the number of child abuse victims in Jackson County to be 760 children with 53% of the victims under the age of six.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Program Information Report, Oregon Child Development Coalition 2008.

<sup>59</sup> Children First for Oregon, 2008.

<sup>60</sup> Children First 2008



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

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County 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 Jackson County providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Shelter services in Jackson County are provided by Community Works.
- Access Food Share boasts 19 food pantries, 7 emergency meal programs and 15 supplemental programs. Each month, 33,080 food boxes are distributed, serving some 6,410 individuals.<sup>61</sup>
- Other food banks in the areas include the Ashland Emergency Food Bank and Buen Provecho Food Bank
- A program of Community Works, Sexual Assault Victim Services provides crisis intervention, advocacy, information and referral, and support group services to Jackson County residents.
- The Job Council has a social service team that provides clothing referrals, referrals, and food bank information. In the past, it has also provided the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County with a small resource support fund.
- The Hispanic Interagency Committee shares resources, networks and updates around current programs that can support Hispanic families.
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church receives referrals for families with immigration concerns.
- The Northwest Seasonal Worker Association provides advocacy and related services.
- Local churches and faith communities provide additional support in the form of volunteers and gift cards.
- The Unete Center for Farmworker Advocacy and Immigrant Rights brings in various volunteers from partner agencies to organize the annual *Dia del Campesino*.
- Centro Hispano and Cross Cultural Communication Center continue to be a strong voices in the community, assisting with interpretation and translation.
- The Center for Nonprofit Legal Services provide no and low cost legal services to those in need.
- John Amaguer and Martha Rangel provide additional legal services in family law, contracts, immigration, simple wills and other civil law matters.

Representatives from several of the above agencies have determined the greatest family services needs Jackson County are in the areas of housing, energy and food assistance. Particularly, it was noted, families are finding it increasingly difficult to manage the cost of living in light of high housing costs and the areas population growth. Another issue that was discussed was families' *perceptions* of barriers in accessing services. In light of fears around documentation issues, families in the community are concerned that many service agencies are tied to the government. Thus, should families apply for food assistance, for example, they worry that they will either ruin their chances for future citizenship or be deported altogether. What becomes clear, then, is that

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<sup>61</sup> *Regional Food Banks at a Glance*, 2005, Oregon Food Bank.



families are in need of additional information and resources pertaining to their rights and those services that are available to them.

The Family and Health Services Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County emphasized the need to advocate for families by increasing their visibility and representation in the community. Local service providers, as well, also spoke to the need for continued advocacy, suggesting that the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County continue to be involved in collaborative outreach efforts.

## ► **CHILDCARE**

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following information on child care in Jackson County in 2008. There were 3,747 slots in child care and education centers, and 2,173 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Hood River had 18 per 100 children. It was also reported that 1,229 children age 0-12 received state assistance, through DHS, with part of all of their child care costs.<sup>62</sup>

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

- Operated by the Job Council, Childcare Resource and Referral in Jackson County makes approximately 2,000 referrals annually. Approximately 5 percent of the requests for information are from primary Spanish speaking callers.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition monitors daycare food programs throughout Jackson County, as well as works with Spanish speaking childcare providers
- Sixteen (16) certified childcare centers operate throughout Jackson County, most of which are located in Medford, Oregon.
- Approximately 280 family childcare homes operate throughout Jackson County, with many of these located in Medford, Oregon. 66 of these providers are bi-lingual with the majority being primary Spanish speakers.<sup>63</sup>

An interview with a representative from the Job Council's Childcare Resource and Referral revealed that there is currently a need to focus on building the capacity of new and existing, *quality* childcare providers to ensure that providers are viewed as professionals in the community. A common scenario is that parents sometimes do not pay for received childcare services, thereby frustrating home childcare providers who, subsequently, decide to quit their business.

While collecting data for this assessment, a focus group was conducted with 9 home childcare providers in Jackson County. Providers were adamant about the fact that parents do not view them as professionals, refusing to pay and failing to call if hours of care need to be changed. While providers understand that parents need more hours of care - generally from 6:15 am to 10

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<sup>62</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.

<sup>63</sup> Jackson County Job Council August, 2009

pm - they stand at the receiving end of an exchange that leaves them with caring for children long past agreed upon hours.

When asked to describe the most pressing issue affecting childcare providers *in one word*, there was unanimity among childcare providers that *professionalism* is the most important issue. Providers were also given the opportunity to share insights about how to remedy this situation. What emerged was a discussion around the need for greater direct involvement in communicating additional training needs to Child Care Resource and Referral and the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Food Program. Additionally, providers are looking for trainings that are specific to infants, toddlers and pre-kindergarteners, as well as and trainings that cover skills around relating to parents.

In the light of above discussion, it was not surprising when parents of program participants enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program also spoke to the limited stock of quality childcare in Jackson County. Parents noted that the costs did not reflect quality in many cases. Parents also noted that greater capacity is needed, especially among Spanish speaking childcare providers.

## ► **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

Transitioning from a discussion of childcare to one of transportation and housing, in the area of housing, the Oregon Department of consumer and Business Services reported 16 farm labor camps in Jackson County in 2008 with a occupancy total of 608. This represents a decrease from 2006 where 17 labor camps with an occupancy total of 574.<sup>64</sup>

The following is a breakdown of housing and related services in Jackson County.

- Jackson County Housing Authority owns 10 apartment complexes that provide low income housing. At least two apartment complexes - Lilac Meadows and Anderson Vista - cater to farmworker families. Overall, there are at least 78 units in these two complexes alone.
- There are 81 manufactured home parks in Jackson County, with the majority of parks located in Ashland, Central Point, Medford and White City. Total capacity is 3,460 spaces.
- There are 16 farm labor camps in Jackson County, the majority of which cater to single men. Total capacity is 540 persons. Twelve of these camps are located in the Medford, Oregon, and Talent, Oregon, areas.
- The Housing Authority of Jackson County provides a range of housing and assistance programs including voucher assistance, public housing, and home rehabilitation.

Interviews with service providers from across the spectrum found that there is currently a need for affordable housing in Jackson County. According to local service providers, it has been the

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<sup>64</sup> Agricultural Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2008.



population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Jackson County that has been hit especially hard.

Interviews with a number of respondents found that those migrant and seasonal farmworkers who currently lack documentation are unable to find housing. Farmworker housing developments in the area require proof of documentation, while many other apartment complexes have income requirements attached. However, by the nature of the work, migrant and seasonal farmworkers are not employed year round and earn little more than minimum wages. Thus, there is a gap that not only involves wages and the affordability of housing, but also the *availability* of housing to those without documentation.

In a focus group with parents of program participants, it was noted that families also experience barriers to securing housing when farmworker housing complexes adopt stringent definitions for what constitutes working in agriculture. One parent noted that she works in a fruit packinghouse; however, she was denied housing at a farmworker housing complex because she did not touch the fruit directly. Thus, this parent was forced to rent an apartment that was substantially more expensive, spending roughly 50 percent of their household income on rent.

Jackson County is also experiencing some growing pains in the area of transportation. The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing transportation services in Jackson County.

- Rogue Valley Transportation District provides public transportation weekday services in Jackson County, serving some 80,000 riders each month. In addition to fixed route service, Rouge Valley Transportation District provides Valley Lift services.
- Operated by Rogue Valley Transportation District, TransLink provides transportation services to patients covered by the Oregon Health Plan.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County works with ACT Oregon to promote access to car seats for migrant and seasonal families.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County continues to partner with other early childhood providers such as the Southern Oregon Child and Family Council toward the development of a substitute bus driver pool.

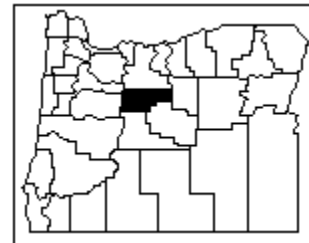
The Transportation Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Jackson County hopes that bus service can be expanded. Also, the Rogue Valley Transportation Authority is looking for ways to increase the number of fixed route riders. Interest has also been expressed in working with local organizations and participating in meetings and events for parents and clients that would not only provide them with more information about public transportation services in Jackson County, but which would also benefit the Rogue Valley Transportation Authority in increasing the number of fixed route riders.



# 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.<sup>65</sup>

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 a 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 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

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<sup>65</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2008.





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.<sup>66</sup> 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 were 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.<sup>67</sup> 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.<sup>68</sup> To estimate the total number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 year old children, the Oregon Department of Education multiplied the total number of children in each county by the poverty rate in 2008 for Jefferson County, 17.8 percent. Thus, the total number of eligible Head Start children in Jefferson County is 131 children<sup>69</sup> Note that Head Start and OPK programs in Jefferson County served 252 children in 2008. Because the 2008

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<sup>66</sup> Annual Estimates of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

<sup>67</sup> Steven C. Williams, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 10, Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties*. April 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

<sup>68</sup> Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

<sup>69</sup> *Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten*, 2009, Oregon Department of Education.



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.<sup>70</sup> 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.

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**

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<sup>70</sup>Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



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.<sup>71</sup>

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.
- 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.

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<sup>71</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



## 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.<sup>72</sup>

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 Mosaic Medical.
- Cindy Dahl, LCSW, provides independent consulting and direct service, including onsite observations and evaluations.

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<sup>72</sup> *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.



- Best Care provides community mental health, addiction and prevention services. They serve approximately 1,000 adults and 400 children annually.
- The Mosaic 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.<sup>73</sup> Of the families enrolled, 66 received WIC services.<sup>74</sup>

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.<sup>75</sup>
- 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.
- 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.

<sup>73</sup> *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.

<sup>74</sup> *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.

<sup>75</sup> Holly M. Gill, *Officials, Community Celebrate Clinic Opening*, Spring 2006, The Madras Pioneer.



## ► **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.<sup>76</sup>

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**

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.<sup>77</sup>

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.

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<sup>76</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.

<sup>77</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.



- 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.”<sup>78</sup>

## ► **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

There were no labor camps in Jefferson County during either 2006 or 2008.<sup>79</sup> 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.

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 medial 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.

<sup>78</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.

<sup>79</sup> Agricultural Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2006-2008  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Community Assessment - Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program 2009  
State of Oregon and Counties





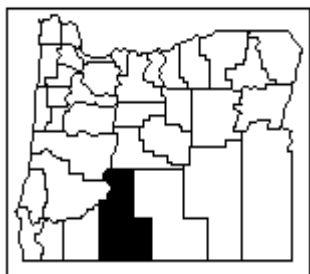
# **KLAMATH COUNTY**

## **COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT**

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County improves the lives of children and families primarily through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program, as well as other programs and initiatives, including a State Improvement Grant whereby the agency works in conjunction with local Klamath Indian tribes to address health and mental health issues.

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. In 2008, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County served a total of 129 children. Of these, 49 children were classified as Migrant children and 80 were classified as Seasonal children.

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County currently employs a center-based option, serving children from two locations in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and Malin, Oregon. The short-term program runs 10 weeks from the beginning of September through November 15, operating two classrooms, 5 days per week from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from March through November operating eight classrooms, 5 days per week from 8 am to 2 pm and from 9:15 am to 3:15 pm. Two Oregon PreKindergarten Head Start classrooms are also offered at the Klamath site. They operate four days per week from September through May. A Migrant Education Pre-K classroom is operated from June through August under a contract with the Southern Oregon Education Service District.



The service area includes the entirety of Klamath County, as well as the northern portion of California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, an area that includes the towns of Dorris, Newell and Tulelake. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) program center locations in Klamath Falls and Malin, (ii) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County serves the predominantly agricultural areas of Klamath County, and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start

Performance Standards.

### **CRITICAL ISSUES**

#### **► WATER USE**

Following a state of emergency in 2001, water supplies in the Klamath Basin are adequate. Accordingly, the Klamath Potato Grower's Association reports that the challenge comes in effectively managing water supplies in anticipation of future droughts and other events (e.g., protecting salmon downstream) that may jeopardize this resource.



The Klamath River Basin Restoration Agreement is in the negotiation process. It includes fisheries restoration and changes in delivery of irrigation water to the Klamath Restoration Project water users. The removal of four Hydro electric dams is a key element of the Agreement.

## ► **GANG ACTIVITY**

There has been an increase in gang activity in Tulelake, Newell and Klamath Falls. A gang task force is being formed by the Klamath County District Attorney's Office. The increase in tagging and vandalism has been attributed to splinter groups of the Sureños and Norteños gangs from California.

## **COUNTY PROFILE**

### ► **GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Klamath County is located in the south central portion of Oregon along the California border spanning 6,135 square miles. The county, named for the Clamitte Indian Tribe, was created in 1882 following the Modoc Indian War. The county seat, Linkville, was changed to its current name, Klamath Falls, in 1893.<sup>80</sup> Klamath Falls is situated 4,105 feet above sea level. Temperatures range from 21 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to well over 82 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The area receives approximately 14 inches of rain annually, including significant snow during the winter months, and is recognized for its diversity both in terms of the landscape and the abundant waterfowl.<sup>81</sup>

Unique to Klamath County is its location in the Klamath River Basin, a 5,700 square mile drainage area extending into northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties. The Klamath Project, as it is known, began in 1903 when the Bureau of Reclamation announced plans to dam the lower end of Upper Klamath Lake, thereby exposing fertile farmland throughout the Klamath Basin and ensuring enough water to irrigate some 200,000 acres.

Accordingly, the issue of water and water rights is an explosive political issue in Klamath County. Residents were reminded of this in 2001 when an irrigation ban was imposed to protect native salmon down stream and in 2005 when Governor Theodore Kulongoski signed Executive Order 05-02 declaring a state of emergency in Klamath County due to drought and low water conditions. However, as of January 2006, the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that summer water flows into Upper Klamath Lake would be approximately 132 percent of normal, thereby replenishing reservoirs and groundwater supplies.<sup>82</sup> Such estimates have been confirmed by the Klamath Potato Grower's Association, which is currently working on collaborative strategies towards effectively managing water supplies.

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<sup>80</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2008.

<sup>81</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2008.

<sup>82</sup> Matthew Preusch, *Surplus Rain, Snow Fills Klamath Basin with Hope*, January 25, 2006, The Oregonian.



## ► **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 Klamath County was \$29,127, which was below the median for Oregon (\$36,492) and the United States (\$39,209). Table 1 also shows: the total number of individuals employed in the Klamath County in 2007 was 35,005, with 5.85 percent in agriculture; and the July 2009 unemployment rate was 15.0 percent, triple the 2008 rate of 5.0 percent.

The early summer months - May, June and July - are spent preparing fields for planting potatoes. Other crops in the area include wheat, barley, hay, alfalfa and horseradish; however, with the exception of horseradish, most growers do not require the labor of migrant and seasonal farmworkers for these commodities. An additional labor peak during the month of October occurs due to the growing number of strawberry nurseries in the area. Strawberry nurseries are quickly changing the face of agriculture in the Klamath Basin - an area that includes both Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties. Due to the high profit margin, large strawberry nurseries in northern California are seeking to expand in and around Tulelake, California, area given recent efforts involving seasonal monitoring of temperature swings in the area over the past several years. Relative to other areas in the Klamath Basin, it is arguably the case that Tulelake offers the most ideal conditions for the expansion of strawberry nurseries.

## ► **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Data in Table 5 show the total population of Klamath County in 2008 to be 66,425 up by .03 percent from 2007, and the total number of children under age four in Klamath County in 2008 to be 4,150.

Table 5 also lists the 2007 number of individuals living in poverty (all ages) in Klamath County to be 15.9 percent and the 2008 poverty rate for children birth to two years of age to be 28.3 percent. The poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 21.7.<sup>83</sup> During the 2008-2009 school year 61.6 percent of students in Klamath County schools were eligible for free or reduced lunch (Table 5).

The Hispanic population in Klamath County grew from 6,057 in 2007 to 6,105 in 2008 representing a .79 increase in the county (Table 5).

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

The Oregon Department of Education estimates there to be 1,772 total children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Klamath County in 2008. 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

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<sup>83</sup> Oregon Department of Education: Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 year olds 2009  
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by the poverty rate for Klamath County, 21.7 percent in 2008. Thus, the total number of eligible Head Start children in Klamath County was 384 children.<sup>84</sup>

From this, the number of Head Start children served in Klamath County by Head Start programs is subtracted. Klamath Family Head Start served 362 children in Klamath County between 3 and 4 years of age. This means the number of 2008 unserved, eligible Head Start children was 22 children. Thus, 94.3 percent of eligible Head Start children were served in Klamath County.<sup>85</sup>

In the sections that follow, the Oregon Child Development Coalition will further refine these data to provide estimates for the number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

## ► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

In 2008, 129 children were enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start programs for Klamath County on the basis of public assistance or income eligibility. Of this total, 49 children qualified as migrant and 80 qualified as seasonal.

Table 5 displays the Hispanic composition of the population in Klamath County. Klamath is reported as having a population of 6,057 Hispanic residents in 2007 and 6,105 in 2008 which represents a .79 increase in one year.

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 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.<sup>86</sup> Table 2 contains the estimated number of MFW and SFW for four years across an 11 year period from 1997 to 2008.

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<sup>84</sup> Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2008.

<sup>85</sup> Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2008.

<sup>86</sup> Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



Table 2 indicates that in Klamath County the estimated total number of MSFW declined sharply from 1,922 in 1997 to 513 in 2002 and then grew to 545 for 2005 and 2008. The numbers show a shift in migrant to seasonal workers in the county. It is estimated that in 1997 there were 1,348 MFW in Klamath County declining severely to 171 in 2008. Estimates indicate there to have been a less severe decline in number of SFW, from 574 in 1997 to 373 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 Klamath County the estimated number of eligible migrant children was 19 and the total number of migrant children served was 49. The estimated numbers of eligible seasonal children was 78 and the total number of seasonal children served was 80.**

These numbers are mitigated by the fact that the migrant seasonal estimates do not include the Northern California counties of Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, where agreements to serve children from these areas have been established. Additionally, it should be noted that, due to the size of these two counties, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County is limited to serving those children and families who reside in or near towns along the Oregon-California border. Accordingly, of the total number of estimated children in these two counties, only a small fraction of these fall in the service and recruitment areas of the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County.

## **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, 93 parents reported their level of education on the enrollment form, with 68% being less than a high school graduate at the Oregon Child Development Center in Klamath County and 26 percent of the parents having graduated from high school or obtained a GED.<sup>87</sup>

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing education services to children and families in Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties. In the area of adult education:

- The Klamath Adult Learning Center located in Klamath Falls provides ESL and GED classes to adult learners. In 2005, they served 184 ESL learners and 526 students working

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<sup>87</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



towards high school completion or their GED, and are looking to partner with Klamath Community College to rent space and increase capacity.

- The Oregon Human Development Corporation and Work Connections provide skill-training opportunities, with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County partnering to provide classroom space.
- The Resource Center and the Tulelake Family Center provide information and referral services to families throughout the Klamath Basin. The Tulelake Family Center averages approximately 10 calls per week and also provides adult education opportunities through the local high school.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest educational needs of children and families in the Klamath County area. Of greatest importance was continued education and training around the acquisition of language and job readiness skills, especially in the outlying areas of Malin and Merrill. Other respondents indicated that, in some cases, families need assistance with more basic skills such as filling out forms for programs and assistance. These respondents also indicated that the community would benefit from joint training opportunities with the Oregon Child Development Coalition focusing on culturally and linguistically relevant topics.

The Education Manager for the OCDC in Klamath County revealed opportunities exist for continuing to educate the community about the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program and eligibility requirements. Specifically, many growers and ranchers are under the assumption that Migrant Seasonal Head Start is for Hispanic families only. Thus, it was noted that community education is needed to help the agency position itself as one dedicated to early childhood education for all farmworking children and families. It was also noted that the ability to increase partnerships with educational and non-educational entities is a vital step in beginning this process.

## **Early Childhood Education**

In the area of early childhood education, other Head Start programs in the Klamath County and northern California area include Klamath Family Head Start and the Modoc County Department of Education's Early Head Start program. OCDC in Klamath County has interagency agreements with these organizations to cooperate in identifying and referring children.

Other programs that serve the migrant population include Migrant Education at both the Klamath Falls City School District and the Klamath County School District.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- Klamath Family Head Start (Region X Head Start) and the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County have developed an interagency agreement to join strategies in such areas as recruitment, transitions, health, disabilities, training and technical assistance.





- Klamath Community College provides student interns to the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County to provide support and assist in the classroom. KCC will begin providing on site classes at OCDC for Winter Term 2010. The college also provides advisement for students wishing to pursue a BS degree through Concordia University or OIT.
- The Klamath Public Library offers Youth Services Story Times and a Story Van during the school year, as well as a summer reading program, with transportation assistance provided by Basin Transit Service.
- In past years, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County has been involved with the Klamath Early Literacy Partnership, providing a story-van and literacy workshops.

A focus group with parents of program participants revealed that parents view the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program as a quality education program and are most pleased with this feature. Parents are utilizing advisory committees to provide input into program development. Together with key staff they are looking into ways to increase parent participation.

## ► **MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES**

Data from the OCDC's Program Information Report show that 0 children in Klamath County were provided mental health services in 2008. Likewise, 7 children were determined to have a disability in 2008. Primary disabilities included speech or language impairments and non-categorical developmental delays.<sup>88</sup>

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing services - both in the areas of mental health and disabilities - to children in Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County shares an interagency agreement with Early Childhood Intervention – administered by the Klamath Falls City School District. The district administers both EI and ECSE programs.
- The Klamath Youth Development Corporation Klamath provides a contracted mental health consultant to provide on-site services approximately 7-8 hours per week.
- Modoc County Special Education provides screenings, assessments and referrals to identified children and families living in the area.
- Scottish Rite no longer has a bilingual Spanish speech pathologist.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County is collaborating with local Klamath Indian tribes on a State Improvement Grant which provides additional staff and utilizes a wraparound model to improve children's mental health. Grant completed
- OCDC staff are active members of the Early Childhood Partnership, a community based group that includes the Local Interagency.

<sup>88</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.





## ► HEALTH & NUTRITION

In 2008, 115 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Klamath County. Of these 115 had health insurance and 110 were on 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 Klamath County OCDC was 80.

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing health and dental services to children and families in Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

- The Oregon Health and Sciences University requires that first and second year medical students participate in weekly preceptorship programs, placing 5 students in Klamath County in 2004. For third year medical students, Klamath Falls is the site of two rural community health clerkships in family medicine and six in pediatrics.
- The Oregon Institute of Technology's Dental Hygiene Department currently offers \$6 screenings to the surrounding community, charging only for the price of supplies and utilizing dental students to perform the exams. In addition, an interview with the Oregon Institute of Technology found that the Dental Hygiene Department plans to develop a restorative dental care program in the next year. Such a program would provide Klamath County residents with low cost restorative care that is typically unavailable to those with limited income or without insurance.
- Klamath Falls' Sky Lakes Medical Center serves many residents in the Klamath Basin, including those who live in the Tulelake-Butte Valley area.
- Klamath Open Door Clinic provides medical screenings, physicals and dental checkups in Bly, Chiloquin, Klamath Falls and Malin. The clinic sees approximately 10,000 patients annually, an estimated 20 percent of which are primary Spanish speakers. In 2005, the clinic saw nearly 1,000 children under the age of 5. The clinic currently has a 2-3 week waiting list for medical appointments and is not accepting new dental patients.
- The Merrill Clinic is a local, rural community clinic serving residents residing in and around this area.
- The Tulelake Health Center serves children and families in and around this area, offering free health screenings as part of their women's health events.
- Butte Valley Clinic provides health services to families in Tulelake and Newell, California.

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information report shows that 94 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Klamath County in 2005 with health insurance, up by 13 percent from 2004.<sup>89</sup> Those with health insurance were covered by Medicaid. For those without health insurance (n=8 during 2005), the Oregon Child Development Coalition worked with families to reduce the number of children without health insurance by 40 percent following enrollment. Most children (n=67) receive services through a migrant community health center with common health conditions including anemia, vision problems, asthma and obesity.

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<sup>89</sup> *Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005*, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



## ► **FAMILY SERVICES**

The number of families receiving TANF funds was 1 in Klamath County OCDC.<sup>90</sup>

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 Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County 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 Klamath County providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Shelter services in Klamath County are provided by the Klamath Crisis Center.
- The Klamath and Lake Counties Food Bank boasts 17 food pantries, 3 emergency meal programs and 10 supplemental programs. OCDC provides food to families on a weekly basis through Food Bank Donations.
- The Mexican Consulate provides information and updates on immigration laws, as Oregon Law Center does not provide services in Klamath County, including legal aid and translation of leases and contracts.
- Ongoing product support is provided by local merchandisers, including Wal-Mart, Fred Meyer, Bi-Mart, Home Depot, Staples, and Albertsons.
- Three OCDC Family Advocates and two OPK fathers attended the "A call to Men" anti-violence Training of Trainers led by nationally recognized speaker Tony Porter.

Agency representatives from the above groups noted that families - especially primary Spanish speaking families - experience barriers when attempting to access services. Often families receive little assistance in navigating the variety of services available, including help with filling out forms and follow-up. This problem is further complicated by the fact that social service organizations do not share data systems, requiring families to fill out multiple sets of lengthy forms, often in a secondary language.

## ► **CHILDCARE**

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following information on child care in Klamath County in 2008. There were slots in 1,473 child care and education centers and 597 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Klamath had 18 per 100 children. It was also reported that 296 children age 0-12 received state assistance, through DHS, with part of all of their child care costs.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.

<sup>91</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.



The following is a breakdown of some of the agencies providing childcare and related services to children in Klamath County and northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

- Childcare Resource and Referral in Klamath County makes approximately 800 referrals annually. Approximately 10 percent of the requests for information are from primary Spanish speaking callers.
- The YMCA Child Development Center operates a childcare center for migrant families in Newell, California. The center has capacity to serve 8 infants, 12 toddlers and 24 pre-kindergarteners with an average annual waiting list of 12 children. In the next year or two, the center expects a renovation which will increase capacity; however, services will be suspended for approximately one year during this time.

## ► **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

Transitioning from a discussion of childcare to one of transportation and housing, Appendix C5.2 contains a map which displays the locations of childcare providers relative to farmworker housing complexes, manufactured home parks and farm labor camps for illustrative purposes.

On average, travel time to the nearest hospital in Klamath County is approximately 42 minutes.<sup>92</sup> Such statistics are common in Klamath County where medical and dental services are limited to Klamath Falls and other small towns. In addition, high gas prices over the past year have contributed to limited transportation options for families, as well as for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County in transporting children to and from site locations.

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing transportation services in Klamath County and in northern California's Modoc and Siskiyou Counties.

- Basin Transit Services provides transportation services in the Klamath Falls area, providing some 300,000 rides annually. They also provide Dial-a-Ride services, providing 20,000 rides annually. They make bus maintenance and washing services available to school districts and Head Start programs in the area. Basin Transit Services has also partnered with the Klamath County Public Library on a Read and Ride Library Initiative whereby riders earn free rides to and from the library for reading books.
- Operated by the Modoc Transportation Authority, the Sage Stage is a Dial-A-Ride service between such northern California cities of Alturas, Redding, Susanville, Tulelake and such Oregon cities as Klamath Falls. Commuters must reserve a spot at least one day in advance.
- With the assistance of ACTS of Oregon, there is a local community coalition that provides car seat education and technical assistance for families in the area.
- Additionally, families in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program living within a specified distance from program centers have elected to self-transport, thereby ensuring that bus services can reach those most in need of transportation services.
- Five OCDC staff are now Certified Car Seat Technicians.

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<sup>92</sup> 2005-2006 Areas of Unmet Medical Need in Rural Oregon, 2006, Oregon Health and Sciences University.  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Community Assessment - Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program 2009  
State of Oregon and Counties



The Transportation Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County revealed that the agency is continuing to work within the one-hour framework per the Head Start Performance Standards. Opportunities exist in the area of continuing to recruit qualified drivers. Additionally, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Klamath County continues to work with parents to develop routes, stops, and pick-up and drop-off times.

There were 2 labor camps in Klamath County for 2006 and 2 in 2008. The total labor camp occupancy was 43 in 2006 and 45 in 2008.<sup>93</sup>

- At least three apartment complexes in Klamath Falls - Applegate Trail Apartments, Crestview Commons and County Village - cater to low-income families. Overall, there are at least 128 units; however, it is noted that the former two apartment complexes also cater to elderly residents.
- There is additional low-income housing in Tulelake, including the Tule Park Apartments with 19 units of government housing.
- There are 49 manufactured home parks in Klamath County, 37 of which are located in Klamath Falls.
- There are two farm labor camps in Klamath County operated by Sierra Cascade Nursery and Crown Nursery. Together, these camps are able to accommodate 43 individuals.
- The Newell Migrant Camp is located in Newell, California, and is open from May through October and is able to accommodate 40 families (180 individuals). As of May 2006, the camp was over half full.
- The Klamath County Housing Authority provides Section 8 and public housing assistance to nearly 2,900 individuals annually with waiting lists for Section 8 housing ranging from 7-8 months.
- In addition to education and employment services, the Oregon Human Development Corporation provides weatherization services and housing opportunities.

Representatives from the above facilities were surveyed to determine the greatest housing needs of children and families in the Klamath County area. New affordable housing in the light of the area's growth ranked as the number one issue of concern. The Newell Migrant Camp reports that over half of its residents are in fact not true mobile migrants. Due to high housing costs in Tulelake and Newell, California, many families choose to move to the migrant camp when it is open to take advantage of the per day rent.

For those living at the Newell Migrant Camp, representatives from the camp have expressed interest in hosting local Head Start agencies, including the Oregon Child Development Coalition, for a sign up day for families arriving at the camp in order to expedite the referral and enrollment process.

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<sup>93</sup> Agricultural Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2006-2008  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Community Assessment - Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program 2009  
State of Oregon and Counties

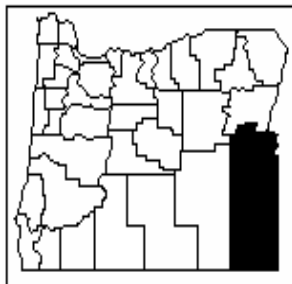


# MALHEUR COUNTY

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur 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 Malheur County served 269 children in 2008. Of these, 140 were identified as migrant children and 129 were identified as seasonal.

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County currently employs a center-based option, serving children from two locations in Ontario, Oregon, and Nyssa, Oregon. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from January through August, operating, 5 days per week from 8 am to 2 pm in Nyssa, Oregon, and from 9 am to 3 pm in Ontario, Oregon. There are 3 classrooms in Nyssa and 4 in Ontario. The short-term program runs 14.5 weeks from August through November, operating 14 classrooms, and 5 days per week from 6 am to 5 pm. When funding allows, extension weeks are given for 63 slots to begin June 1<sup>st</sup>. This program option allows us to provide services for families who work in agriculture during two of the high demand seasons in our area.



The service area includes the entirety of Malheur County, some 9,874 square miles. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County attends to those especially agricultural areas of Malheur County, (ii) the program center locations and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start Performance Standards.

### **CRITICAL ISSUES**

#### **► IMMIGRATION**

While raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents continue to be of concern in Malheur County, there have been no recent reports of actual raids. Growers and farmworkers are continually on alert for ICE raids and rumors of raids, but are not currently having the effects of such on employment and employment opportunities. The economic health and viability of this predominantly agricultural region is not as traumatized now as in past years.

Lack of citizenship is becoming more of an issue in Malheur County because farmworkers are now required to provide proof of citizenship when renewing their drivers license and CDL. As a result, farmworkers are losing their drivers license and CDL and are unable to legally drive cars and trucks.



## ► EMPLOYMENT

With the closure of the majority of the Amalgamated Sugar Company in Nyssa, Oregon in 2005, agricultural employment opportunities are more limited than prior years in Nyssa. Interest by Fry Foods, an Ohio food processing company, in expanding its operations to Nyssa, Oregon, has yet to materialize. In addition to all of the packing sheds in Ontario, Oregon, Partners Produce is operating their business 24/7, packing frozen chopped onions and onion rings. Dickens FineFood in Payette, Idaho does the same. This has opened up approximately 35 more jobs in this area.

## ► GANG RELATED ACTIVITY

With new recruits being sought among grade and middle school students in these areas, efforts are currently being directed toward educating parents, particularly single parents, of the warning signs of gang involvement.<sup>94</sup> The Malheur County District Attorney's Office has a new city and county gang ordinance modeled after that developed by the Portland Police Bureau which essentially works to create official gang designations as a way to restrict associations between gang members and people on probation.

## COUNTY PROFILE

### ► GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Malheur County is located in eastern Oregon, spanning roughly half of the state's eastern border with Idaho. Some 9,874 square miles, Malheur County is the second largest county in Oregon and roughly the size of the state of New Hampshire. Elevation at the county seat, Vale, Oregon, is 2,243 feet above sea level, with average temperatures ranging from well below 29 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter months to well above 90 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer months. The area receives approximately 10 inches of rain annually, including significant snow during the winter months, and is recognized for its diverse landscape, open rangeland, and agricultural operations in the Treasure Valley area.<sup>95</sup> When a canal system was put in place, the Treasure Valley became Malheur County's agricultural hub. Primary commodities produced in this area include onions, sugar beets and potatoes.

### ► 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 income in Malheur County was \$22,567 which falls well below the \$39,209 level for all of Oregon. In fact, Malheur's per capita income is the lowest of the 12 counties in which OCDC provides services. Table 1 also shows the total number of individuals employed in Malheur County in 2007 was 18,674 with 14.85 percent in agriculture. Of the 12 counties OCDC serves,

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<sup>94</sup> Andy Gates, *A Long-Term Challenge*, 2006, Argus Observer.

<sup>95</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2008.





Malheur has the highest percentage of workers employed on farms. Unemployment in Malheur County was 9.6 percent in 2007 and the rate decreased to 7.8 percent in 2008, but it increased to 11.2 percent in July 2009.

Malheur County - specifically Ontario, Oregon - serves as a retail trade center for both the entire county and neighboring Payette and Washington Counties in Idaho. There is a growing interdependence between Malheur County and western Idaho, noting that the four counties that are primarily responsible for "exporting" residents to Malheur County are all in neighboring Idaho. Likewise, 35 percent of all out-migrants from Malheur County moved to neighboring Payette and Washington Counties in Idaho. Thus, it is not surprising that Malheur County leads the state in the percentage of out-of-state workers employed and the percentage of workers working outside of Oregon.

Aside from the number of non-county residents filling ranks of the employed in Malheur County, employment in the area is highly seasonal, which has the effect of inflating the unemployment rate in this area of the state. The current unemployment rate in Malheur County is 11.2 percent, the second highest in the counties served by OCDC in the state. Higher unemployment in this area is generally attributed to one of three factors, namely (i) that the seasonal nature of employment means that there will naturally be several months during the year when unemployment peaks, (ii) that the local economy lacks diversity and so offers limited job opportunities and (iii) that economic growth in the state of Oregon has historically bypassed southeast Oregon. At any given point, migrant and seasonal farmworkers account for roughly one-third of all farmworkers in Malheur County. (I don't understand this statement. All farmworkers are either migrant or seasonal.

Number of persons employed in Agriculture by Month in 2008

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,310	1,330	1,440	1,660	1,830	2,170	2,202	2,060	2,150	2,140	1,780	1,510

Enrollment in the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program is more a function of harvested acres than total sales. As growers increase efficiency (i.e., farm less acreage and realize greater sales), it is often the case that crops are increasing mechanized as a way to reduce labor costs, thereby displacing agricultural workers. Interviews with management team members for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County revealed that growers are increasingly turning to machines for "topping" onions, as well as spraying fields to lessen the need for hand weeding later.

## ► DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Data shown in Table 5 reported the total population of Malheur County in 2008 to be 30,907 up by 1.45 percent from 2007. Table 5 also indicates the total number of children under age four in Klamath County in 2008 to be 1,962.



Oregon Housing and Community Services organization reports that the 2007 number of individuals living in poverty in Malheur County was 37.5 percent. The 2007 poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 34.2 percent and for children birth to two years of age it was 37.5 percent.<sup>96</sup> During the 2008-2009 school year 66.7 percent of students in Malheur County schools were eligible for free or reduced lunch (see Table 5).

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

The Oregon Department of Education estimates there to be 897 children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Malheur County in 2008. To estimate the total number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 year old children, the Oregon Department of Education multiplied the total number of children by the poverty rate for Malheur County, 34.2 percent in 2008. Thus, the 2008 total number of eligible Head Start children in Malheur County was 307 children.<sup>97</sup> From this, the number of Head Start children served in Malheur County by Head Start programs, 258 children, is subtracted. This means the 2008 estimated number of unserved, eligible Head Start children was 49 children. Thus, 84 percent of eligible Head Start children were served in Malheur County.

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

## **RACIAL & ETHNIC COMPOSITION**

### ► **POPULATION & ANCESTRY**

In general, Blacks, Asians and Native Hawaiians are underrepresented in southeast Oregon. The area also has fewer multiracial persons. That said, growth in Malheur County's Hispanic population is consistent with what is currently taking place across the state and throughout the nation. Roughly 1 in 4 residents in Malheur County is of Hispanic origin, the second highest such percentage in the state next to Morrow County.<sup>98</sup>

### ► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

In 2008, 314 children were enrolled in the Malheur Migrant Seasonal Head Start program based on income eligibility or public assistance. Overall, 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 Hispanic population in Malheur County was at 8,581 down from 8,585, representing a -.05 percent change from 2007 (see Table 5).

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<sup>96</sup> ODE Annual Estimate of Eligible 3-4 year olds and birth-2 year olds, 2009

<sup>97</sup> Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009,.

<sup>98</sup> Jason Yohannan, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 14*, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.



## ► 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.<sup>99</sup> Table 2 contains the estimated number of MFW and SFW for four years across an 11 year period from 1997 to 2008.

As can be noted, in Malheur County there were 1,765 estimated migrant workers in 1997. The number declined in 2002 and also 2005. The 2008 estimated number of 1,459 is about the same as the 2005 number. Over the 11 year period, then, there has been a decline in the estimated MFM. On the other hand, there were estimates of 821 seasonal workers in 1997 and 2,501 in 2002, showing a large increase. During 2005 and 2008, however, SFW declined somewhat to the 2,130 level, but it is still much higher than the 1997 level. The county trend appears to be shifting from migrant to seasonal workers.

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 the three year period 2005 to 2008. The table notes there were 171 migrant children and 534 seasonal children in Malheur County in 2005. The numbers of estimated migrant children remained nearly the same at 172 and the numbers of children from seasonal families also remained nearly the same at 533 in 2008.

Table 8 contains the number of estimated eligible, served and estimated eligible estimated unserved for each county where services are provided by OCDC. **In Malheur County the estimated number of eligible migrant children is 172 and the total number of migrant children served is 215. The estimated number of eligible seasonal children is 533 and the number served is 99, leaving 434 estimated unserved.**

One reason the number of estimated migrant children was lower than the number served is that the estimated number does not include children of families served in Payette County, Idaho, the neighboring county where families served by Malheur County reside. A second reason may be that the estimation method employed by OCDC produced an underestimate. The high mobility of migrant families makes it difficult to predict their numbers. The fact that the migrant population reached full enrollment and was served in those areas is the best indication of need. This also reflects the importance of ongoing dialogue with growers to anticipate crop rotation and crop production plans since this influences migration. The "networks" among Migrant workers who use cell phones to communicate weather and crop information influence the number of migrant families who arrive in an area as well.

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<sup>99</sup>Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



## **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 subsection to demonstrate that program management, staff and parents of program participants actively participated in the construction and development of this document.

### **► EDUCATION**

#### **Adult Education**

The median level of education in Malheur County is a high school graduate or high school equivalency, with 11 percent of the total population having earned a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>100</sup> Data on the educational attainment of parents of program participants from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's 2008 Program Information Report show that 73 percent of parents served have a high school degree or less. Of all families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County, and five are enrolled in either job training or school.

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

- Treasure Valley Community College provides community education classes and workforce training. Serving roughly 2,000 students with these courses and trainings annually, particular efforts are being directed towards ESL and GED courses offered in Nyssa, Ontario and Vale.
- Efforts and fundraising to save the Malheur County Public Library have been successful to date but funding will continue to be an issue for the library in Malheur County. Availability of the library ensures educational opportunities for children and families.
- 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 a job-training program while also working with local employers in the area.

In general, Treasure Valley Community College has expressed an interest in "developing things that people can actually use," meaning specialized trainings and other courses. In a team meeting that included the Family and Community Partnership Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County it was revealed that parents are looking to take advantage of those educational opportunities in the area, but many times are inhibited from doing so given that such classes conflict with dates of scheduled parent activities for the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.

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<sup>100</sup> DP-2: *Profile of Selected Social Characteristics*, 2000, United States Census Bureau.



## Early Childhood Education

In the area of early childhood education, other Head Start programs in Malheur County include that operated by the Malheur County Child Development Center (MCCDC). The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County continues to work with the Malheur County Child Development Center to strengthen Head Start services provided to low-income children and families. Likewise, in neighboring Idaho, the Western Idaho Community Action Partnership (WICAP) also operates a Head Start program and works in partnership with the Oregon Child Development Coalition. Agency representatives note that both MCCDC and WICAP have developed a strong partnership with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County, including HSAC involvement and shared participation in site reviews.

According to the Education Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County, greater efforts are being made to focus on language and literacy as well as science and math training and social and emotional development, with partnerships being developed and maintained with local Head Start programs and both public and private schools to support such efforts. This emphasis has resulted in much higher outcomes for our pre-school children and has contributed to a more successful transition to kindergarten with a higher success rate for the majority of the children.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County and the Malheur County Child Development Center continue to work together to strengthen Head Start services provided to low-income children and families in Malheur County.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County continues to work with Western Idaho Community Action Partnership's Head Start program to join strategies in such areas as recruitment, transitions, health, disabilities, training and technical assistance.
- The Malheur County Commission on Children and Families facilitates the Early Childhood Team, as well as oversees state and federal grants including Great Start funds. The Early Childhood Team has been effective in integrating services and providing information to all county agencies.
- Treasure Valley Community College's Early Childhood Department continues to develop bilingual curriculum in response needs identified in the community, including a new delivery plan for early childhood classes. They have developed curriculum for an Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education and are currently working with Boise State University for develop a Bachelor of Applied Science so staff can continue up their educational ladder and be in compliance with the educational requirements of the Head Start Act.
- The Malheur Education Service District provides a range of education and support services to children, families and local providers.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition has worked with and obtained signed agreements from local elementary schools that outline an effective transitions plan for children entering kindergarten. The Oregon Child Development Coalition staff participates in trainings provided by the public schools this past year. The two groups



have begun work on a longitudinal study to document the success rate of the children coming from the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program through the fourth grade.

There is a pronounced need within local school districts to recruit and retain qualified bilingual Parent Involvement Coordinators to foster greater parent involvement. While the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County has developed a transition plan with the Nyssa and Ontario School Districts, greater efforts are needed to see that parents become more fully involved in their child's education once in grade school, something that is partially facilitated by opportunities for involvement in the parent's primary language

Discussions with parents of program participants revealed that parents view the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program as a "safe," "educational," and a "helpful" environment. Parents at the Ontario, Oregon, and Nyssa, Oregon, centers expressed the need for additional hours of service per day and weeks of service per year. Additionally, parents noted that additional efforts are needed to promote greater parent involvement, especially at the Nyssa site. Parents were concerned that it has been the same parents who participate during activities and events and that the program would benefit from providing incentives and consequences for greater parent involvement or the lack thereof. In an effort to correct this concern, Malheur County staff has implemented a number of specific activities in an effort to bring in more parents including: Topic Tables at parent meetings, parent sub-committees in education, mental health and nutrition and health, and parent sponsored events such as The Day of the Child and Moving is Fun Day.

## **MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES**

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that 12 children in Malheur County were provided mental health services in 2008, each of these children also receiving referrals for additional services. Likewise, 6 percent of the children served were determined to have a disability.

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing mental health and disabilities services - in Malheur County.

- Lifeways provides mental health services to children and families in Malheur County, as well as those enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. In 2008, they started providing mental health play group for children in the Malheur program who were having social/emotional difficulties. These groups have been very effective for both the child and for the parents.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County contracts the services of The Family Place for mental health services on-site which includes classroom observations, teacher consultations, and parent consultation.
- The Early Intervention program in Malheur County provides additional disabilities services. Services are provided in English and Spanish.
- The Autism Center is a new organization dedicated to assist child with autism and their families. The Autism Center provides extra support for the child and for the family which includes observations, consultation, and support groups.





- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County also participates in monthly meetings with the Oregon Department of Human Services in Malheur County, focusing on individual family needs.

Representatives from several of the above agencies reveal that they are seeing an increasing number of young, Hispanic children that have witnessed domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, and homicides. Accordingly, providers such as Lifeways continue to work closely with the Oregon Department of Human Services and the Justice Department. They also continue to explore ways to create a safe environment for children, particularly those children in the foster care system. Currently, providers feel that they are not able to see as many children as they would like, nor are they able to spend as much time with each child as they would like.

In the area of disabilities, the Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County noted that there continues to be an emphasis on community partnerships to facilitate the referral and communication process with the local partners so as to reduce the wait for services. This is especially important as behavior issues (e.g., fighting, discipline, etc.) are coming up more and more these days. It has also been a challenge to promote parent follow through, something that also may be dealt with collaboratively. Accordingly, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County has been working closely with the Oregon Department of Human Services in the development of trainings and educational opportunities for parents on this issue.

Parents, too, are aware of the need for additional services, especially in the area of mental health. Parents are frustrated by the apparent lack of mental health services for older siblings. When pressed on this question, parents were uncertain as to whether such services existed in the community or whether they simply were unaware of them. In either case, continuing to educate parents may also prove to be a strategic move toward promoting greater parent follow through and community integration. Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County parents are showing more interest in their child's development and ask many more questions than they have in the past. Continued educations for parents about the appropriate development and mental health of their children is very important and something that is being emphasized in Malheur County.

## **HEALTH & NUTRITION**

Although Malheur County leads the state in the number of cases of West Nile Fever in recent years, The Malheur County Health Department reports that as of August 2009 there are no reported cases on West Nile Fever in this county. Further, there are no cases of Swine Flu. The County Health Department facilitates a Community Disaster Preparation Team that is ready to deal with any significant outbreak of West Nile Fever or Swine Flu.

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information report show that 257 or 70 percent of the children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Malheur County in 2008 with health insurance. Of those with health insurance, 209 children 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 and by



the end of the 2008 program year 26 more children were covered. Most children receive services through a migrant community health center and have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible medical care. In fact, following dental screenings in 2008, 65 children were identified as needing continued dental care, a service that was in fact provided for 44 of these children. Common health conditions continue to include anemia, obesity, asthma, and vision problems.

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

- The Oregon State WIC program serves 1,911 children under the age 5, up from 1791 in 2005 and 771 pregnant women annually.
- The Malheur County Commission on Children and Families oversees Child, Youth and Families funds, as well as Healthy Start funds, toward building the capacity of local agencies and organizations toward more effectively responding to the health needs of children and families in Malheur County.
- Treasure Valley Pediatrics provides pediatric services to 15,000 patients annually, 200 of which are children. They also operate the Community Connections Clinic, with a client base that is 80 percent Hispanic.
- Located in Payette, Idaho, Valley Family Health Care provides health and dental services, outreach, and education to low-income and migrant and seasonal children and families.
- The Malheur County Health Departments provide core public health services, including family planning, disease prevention, investigation, immunization, environmental health, home visiting, and maternal child health.
- Holy Rosary Medical Center provides a range of medical and emergency services, including childbirth services, pediatrics, and dietary care.
- Jody Stark provides medical services at a free clinic once per week.
- Sunshine Pediatrics provides pediatric medical services to children and families throughout the Treasure Valley.
- Dr. Dahle, Dr. Wettstein, Dr. Tipton, Drs. Lakes, Eastern Oregon Dental and Valley Family Health Clinic provide dental screenings and treatment to children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.

Representatives from the above agencies indicate greatest medical and dental needs of children and families in the Malheur County area. Primary needs identified were (i) the need for public transportation to and from appointments, especially for those mothers with sick children in need of emergency care, (ii) the need for local, pediatric dentists, as the closest pediatric dentist is located in Boise, Idaho, some 60 miles away, (iii) and greater parent and community education to ensure that families understand the need for hygiene and good health habits.

Also of interest was that local medical providers stressed the need for a more collaborative *transition* process for children and families entering the public schools. According to several providers, medical providers in the area witness such a breakdown when parent participation and follow through is less evident (e.g., in well child exams). The situation is such that children and families are transitioned into a public school system which is for the most part is not equipped to address their needs (e.g., bilingual personnel and opportunities for involvement, etc). Thus,



fatherhood involvement drops off, parents miss appointments, and ultimately medical providers are left with the fallout. To add further concern to this issue, the schools in Malheur County will have reduced hours for a Registered Nurse available to them due to budget constraints.

To address the collaborative transition process, medical providers indicated that it would be beneficial to continue to collaborate with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County in the transitions process. Continuing to bring a diversity of partners to the planning table, including medical providers, will not only promote consistency and continuity in working with children and families, but also ensures that a system of support and accountability are in place within local school districts. Thus, not only would the transitions process build the knowledge and skills of parents, but also the capacity of school districts and other agencies in the community.

The Family and Health Services Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County confirmed that efforts continue to be made to promote preventive schedules with health, dental, and nutrition and partnerships have been built and maintained to promote such efforts. While promoting and encouraging greater parent involvement continues to be an issue, internal efforts are being made to further integrate with Parent Involvement so as to move from a “provider” mentality to a “connector” mentality. A focus group with parents of program participants confirms this emphasis as parents highlighted the agency’s “resourcefulness” in equipping them with information and resources to address individual needs.

## **FAMILY SERVICES**

In 2008, 120 families received benefits under the TANF program, an increase from the previous year. In addition, the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program responded to a range of family needs, the most common being parenting education, marriage education services, child abuse and neglect services, domestic violence services, and mental health services. The Food Bank is unable to keep up with the demand for food in Malheur County.

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

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County 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 Malheur County providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Shelter services in Malheur County are provided by Project Dove.
- The Southeast Oregon Regional Food Bank operates 5 food pantries, 2 emergency meal programs and 2 supplemental programs.
- The Oregon Law Center has an office in Ontario, Oregon, providing legal services to low-income residents, including agricultural workers.



- Community Corrections has worked to translate all documents into Spanish to ensure that monolingual Spanish speakers currently in the system understand all processes and procedures.
- Oregon Rural Action is composed of individuals representing various local service providers and has partnered with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce at their weekly business lunch.
- The local Spanish speaking radio station – KWEI – continues to partner with the Oregon Child Development Coalition to share and disseminate information.

Families - especially primary Spanish speaking families - experience language barriers when attempting to access services in the community. This has lead some, Community Corrections for example, to address this issue by ensuring that all documents are translated into Spanish to ensure that monolingual Spanish speakers understand any and all legal processes and procedures that they may be involved in.

According to the Family and Health Services Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County, there has been a marked increase in the number of bilingual staff among local service providers, especially among hospitals and medical clinics. However, there remains some concern about there being limited resources for families in the community, particularly childcare resources as will be discussed in the following section. Likewise, parents of program participants expressed some concern about poor customer service when attempting to access services from local providers, with several parents indicating that they were interesting in learning more about how to file a complaint or grievance.

The County Director and the Family Services Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County reported that the there have been 10 reported incidents of child abuse in 2008 which is about the same as last year.

Lastly, in the area of recruitment, the ERSEA Supervisor noted that efforts are being made to continue developing relationships with local growers and food processors. Growers' and labor contractors from around the county are periodically asked to discuss their business needs, the role of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and ways to move forward collaboratively. These efforts continue to be directed toward engaging growers and food processors is important as there have been recent changes in ownership at Ontario Produce, as well as new businesses coming to town (e.g., Fry Foods), that may impact the number of migrant and seasonal families in the area in the future.

## **CHILDCARE**

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following information for Malheur County in 2008. There were 674 slots in child care and education centers, and 279 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Malheur had 17 per 100



children. It was also reported that 182 children age 0-12 received state assistance, through DHS, with part of all of their child care costs.<sup>101</sup>

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

- Childcare Resource and Referral in Malheur County makes approximately 115 referrals annually, working with and training 53 childcare providers each year. Recent cut backs in funding has left the Malheur County office under staffed and services reduced to the providers and families looking for child care.
- Seven (7) certified childcare centers operate throughout Malheur County, most of which are located in Ontario, Oregon.
- Approximately 21 family childcare homes operate throughout Malheur County, with many of these located in Medford, Oregon. Only 2 of these providers are primary Spanish speakers.
- The Malheur County Commission on Children and Families' Early Childhood Team is working on final plans for the opening a relief nursery for children of incarcerated parents in Ontario, Oregon.

The greatest childcare needs of children and families in Malheur County include (i) the need for more childcare slots, particularly for the population of infants and toddlers, (ii) the need for more Spanish speaking childcare providers, (iii) the need for, in the words of one respondent, "intense wrap around services for low-income families not falling in Head Start enrollment criteria," and (iv) safe environments for children before and after school.

To address the above concerns, Child Care Resource and Referral has worked to partner with Treasure Valley Community College's Early Childhood Education Department, Ontario High School's Teen Parenting Program, and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. To address the shortage of Spanish speaking providers, it was suggested that the Oregon Child Development Coalition continue to participate in the Caregivers Alliance and possibly help develop a Spanish track. Lastly, to address the training and development needs of new and existing providers, interest was expressed in (i) learning whether joint trainings could be implemented focusing on curriculum and time management, (ii) integrating with agency efforts around the Child Development Associates (CDA) certification process, and (iii) working collaboratively to target local businesses to raise awareness about the need for additional early childhood and childcare services in the community.

## ► **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

Transportation services in Malheur County increased dramatically in the spring of 2009 with the opening of the Snake River Transit system. This transportation system services the cities of Ontario, Oregon and neighbor Fruitland, Idaho. Families in these cities now experience one less barrier to the access of a variety of care and services Families living in more remote areas of the county and in Nyssa, Oregon will continue to see transportation services at a minimum. The

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<sup>101</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.



Malheur County Commission on Children and Families has long identified the lack of public transportation services as one of the primary barriers impeding the ability to improve rates of adequate prenatal care in Malheur County.<sup>102</sup> Likewise, parents of program participants also expressed frustration with the lack of public transportation services and the expense that accompanies having to purchase rides from acquaintances. The new transit system will be of great assistance to families who lack their own transportation.

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

- The Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services provides transportation to and from the grocery store and other errands, as well as medical appointments to as far away as Boise, Idaho.
- Snake River Transit public transit system began service to Malheur and Payette counties in early 2009. There are 24 stops in Ontario and 22 in Idaho.
- Two (2) local taxi services.

The Transportation Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County is doing what it can to address transportation needs in the community. Current efforts include partnering with the Malheur County Traffic Safety Commission to referral parents to car seat clinics every other month in conjunction with Head Start programs and other agencies in the area. To date, no car seat purchase program is in place; however, there is a contract in place with the Malheur County Health Department for a \$20 co-pay. Additional efforts are being made to work with State Farm Insurance agents and the local Chevrolet dealership.

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County continues to provide transportation services to children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. The agency currently retains two bus drivers in Malheur County and has done so for over 5 years. In light of such experience and accomplishments, the Transportation Coordinator in Malheur County has identified the need to continue building the capacity of the Malheur County Traffic Safety Commission to, most importantly, begin addressing the lack of public transportation in Malheur County by working with existing agencies to develop safety fairs, provide clinics on car seats, and continue to raise greater community awareness about this important issue.

There is no agency owned labor camp operating in Malheur County since the Malheur County Labor Sponsors closed the Vale site in 2006 and the Adrian site in 2008. A few farmers provide small cabins to support the needs of some of their migrant workers, but this is not common and the condition of such housing is generally sub-standard. Many migrant and seasonal families live in the apartment complexes owned by the Housing Authority of Malheur County in Nyssa and Ontario.

The following is a breakdown of some of the agencies providing housing and related services in Malheur County.

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<sup>102</sup> Malheur County Commission on Children and Families, 2006.  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Community Assessment - Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program 2009  
State of Oregon and Counties





- Several apartment complexes in Malheur County – Rio Vista, Sierra Vista, etc - cater to low-income families. Overall, there are at least 150+ units.
- There are 14 manufactured home parks in Malheur County, 10 of which are located in the Nyssa and Ontario areas.
- There is 1 farm labor camp in Malheur County located in Ontario, Oregon. Total capacity is 12 persons.
- The Housing Authority of Malheur County provides a range of services to low-income residents, including public housing, a Section 8 voucher program, a family self-sufficiency program, and housing projects for migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

During a focus group, parents of program participants were asked about their current housing needs. Many respondents indicated that they spend too much (>50 percent) of their monthly household income on rent, with several parents commenting on the cost of utilities during the winter months. What is more, however, is that the seasonality of agricultural work means that household income can vary substantially over the course of a year. Thus, it was not surprising when one parent estimated that nearly her entire paycheck went towards rent during two or three months out of the year when work tends to be scarce. Other parents indicated that they wished to occupy housing that was not substandard, stressing that their current dwelling did not have adequate air and ventilation.



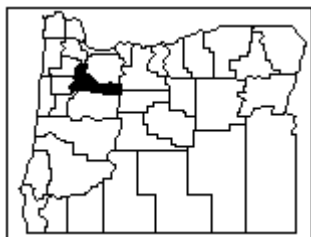
# MARION COUNTY

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County improves the lives of children and families primarily through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start and Oregon Head Start programs. 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. The program in Marion County served a total of 369 children in 2008. Of these, 306 children were classified as migrant children and 63 were classified as seasonal children.

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County currently employs a center-based option, serving children from three locations around the Woodburn and Silverton, Oregon, areas. The short-term program runs 13 weeks from June through August, operating 19 classrooms, five days per week from 5 am to 5 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from September through December and then from January through May operating 5 classrooms, 5 days per week from 9 am to 3 pm and from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County currently employs a center-based option serving children at two locations: one site in Woodburn, Oregon and one site in Silverton, Oregon. The short-term program runs 13 weeks from June through August, operating 24 classrooms, Monday through Friday, 5 am to 5 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from September through December and then from January through May operating 2 classrooms, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3 pm.



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

### **CRITICAL ISSUES**

#### **► POOR CROP CONDITIONS & CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE**

Extended periods of rain in California and extremely high temperatures in Oregon's Willamette Valley resulted in poor strawberry and raspberry crops. Additionally, a representative from the Oregon Employment Department has noted that migrant families are better connected these days, utilizing cell phones to keep in contact and informed about areas where growers are paying higher piece rates and daily wages. Moreover, many mobile migrant workers are electing to try their hand in construction given the booming housing market in California and Oregon, at least until the recession hit in late 2008, thereby reducing the supply of migrant farm labor.



## **COUNTY PROFILE**

### **► GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Spanning some 1,200 square miles, Marion County is located in the northwestern portion of Oregon and in the heart of the Willamette Valley, and is home to Salem, the state capital and Oregon's third largest city. Created 16 years before statehood, the county, originally named Champooick, was established in 1843 and was changed to its current name, Marion, in 1849 by the Territorial Legislature in honor of General Francis Marion.<sup>103</sup>

Average elevation in Marion County is 154 feet above sea level. Average temperatures range from 39 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to 63 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The area receives approximately 38 inches of rain annually, including rare snowfalls during the winter months, and is recognized for its fertile farmland, rich soil and the diversity of agricultural commodities produced in this area.<sup>104</sup>

Bordered by the Cascade Mountains to the east and the Willamette River to the west, Marion County is Oregon's most productive agricultural county, with over 200 different types of commodities grown and produced in the area. Like most counties in the Willamette Valley, Marion County continues to grow, with construction ranking as the top industry in the Salem MSA as of 2005.

### **► 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 Marion County was \$32,048 as compared to \$36,492 for Oregon and \$39,209 for the United States. Table 1 also shows the total number of individuals employed in Marion County in 2007 was 179,559 with 4.61 percent in agriculture. Unemployment in Marion County has increases from 8.0 percent in 2007, to 9.8 percent in 2008, and to 11.7 percent in July 2009.

Major industries in Marion County include state government, agriculture, food processing, education and wood products manufacturing. The labor peak corresponds with the [berry] harvests during the summer months, beginning with strawberries. Interviews with local strawberry producers revealed that strawberries were approximately 7-10 days late this year, noting that it takes 1,135 "heat degree days" - defined as the total number of hours during which the temperature falls above specific benchmarks - for strawberries to mature in the Willamette Valley, an area that includes Marion County. Following strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries are harvested, lasting into September and October when growers will transition into harvesting wine grapes and preparing for Christmas trees. Agriculture in Marion County is steadily moving towards the nursery and greenhouse industries and is one of the top counties for nursery and greenhouse sales in the state.

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<sup>103</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2008.

<sup>104</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2008.



## ► **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Data in Table 5 show the total population of Marion County in 2008 to be 314,606 up by 1.45 percent from 2007 and the total number of children under age four in Marion County in 2008 to be 422,392.

Table 5 also shows the number of individuals (all ages) living in poverty in 2007 in Marion County was 15.2 percent and that the 2008 poverty rate for children birth to two years of age was 21.5 percent. The 2008 poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 23.7 percent.<sup>105</sup> During the 2008-2009 school year, 58.6 percent of students in Marion County were eligible for free or reduced lunch (Table 5). 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.

Marion County's 2008 Hispanic population numbered 71,609 which accounted for 23 percent of the population (Table 5). Marion County is one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the state of Oregon, with the two largest minority groups being Hispanics and Asians.

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

The Oregon Department of Education estimated there to be 9,607 total children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Marion County in 2008.<sup>106</sup> To estimate the total number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 year old children, the Oregon Department of Education multiplied the total number of children by the poverty rate for Marion County, 23.7 percent. Thus, the total number of 2008 eligible Head Start children in Marion County was 2,273 children.

From this, the number of Head Start children served in Marion County by Head Start programs is subtracted. Head Start programs such as Community Action Head Start of Marion and Polk Counties, Kids and Company of Linn County (Kidco) Head Start, Salem-Keizer Pre-kindergarten Head Start, and Siletz Tribal Head Start served a total of 1,306 children in Marion County between 3 and 4 years of age. Thus, considering the number of eligible Head Start children served, the total number of unserved, eligible Head Start children was 967 children. This means only 57.5 percent of eligible Head Start children were served in Marion County.

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.

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<sup>105</sup> Annual Estimates of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

<sup>106</sup> Annual Estimates of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.



## ► PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

In 2008, 369 children were enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start programs for Marion County on the basis of public assistance or income eligibility. Of this total, 306 children qualified as migrant and 63 qualified as seasonal.

Overall, nearly 99 percent of the program participants in Marion County 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. Increasingly, the Oregon Child Development Coalition of Marion County has served indigenous families and continues to develop partnerships to support this population.

## ► 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.<sup>107</sup> Table 2 contains the estimated number of MFW and SFW for four years across an 11 year period from 1997 to 2008.

In Marion County the estimated total number of MSFW decreased from 16,916 in 1997 to 15,676 in 2002 and, then, increased to 16,802 in 2005 but decreased again in 2008 to 16,252. The numbers reflect a dramatic shift in migrant to seasonal workers in the county. It is estimated that in 1997 there were 11,467 MFW in Multnomah County declining to 4,520 in 2008. Estimates indicate there were only 5,449 SFW in 1997 but they increased to 12,117 in 2005 and slightly decreased to 11,731 in 2008.

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 703 migrant children and 2,742 seasonal children in Marion County in 2005. The number of estimated migrant children increased slightly to 712 and the number of children from seasonal families increased slightly to 2,787 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**

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<sup>107</sup> Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



**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, 258 parents reported their level of education on the enrollment form, with 67 percent having less than a high school education and 30 percent having a high school degree or GED for the Marion OCDC center.<sup>108</sup>

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

- Chemeketa Community College provides staff and parent trainings. The college's Economic and Training Development Center also provides GED and ESL courses to 60 students annually, as well as conversational and command Spanish to nearly 300 students annually. Chemeketa Community College has introduced a new curriculum, named English Now, for English learners. This curriculum includes ESL, computer, budgeting, parenting and many other classes.
- The Silverton and Woodburn Fire Departments and the Woodburn Police Department provide presentations and workshops, as well as field trip opportunities.
- Families are provided with information on how to get a library card and access resources at the library. Local libraries have DVDs and books in Spanish, Russian and English and computers are available for use.
- The Oregon Employment Department's WorkSource Oregon office provides a range of trainings and services for job seekers and employers.
- Somos Hispanics Unidos is a new non-profit organization focusing on literacy, ESL, domestic violence, citizenship and volunteerism.
- The Migrant Education program in Woodburn also provides free ESL and parenting classes to parents.

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<sup>108</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.





## Early Childhood Education

In the area of early childhood education, the Oregon Child Development Coalition has an interagency agreement with Head Start programs in the area, including Community Action Head Start of Marion and Polk Counties, currently funded to serve 650 children. The director of Community Action Head Start expressed an interest in sharing space with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in the Woodburn area, as they have currently lost their lease. Other programs that serve the migrant population include Migrant Education. Seasonal and age-specific enrollment counts are displayed in Salem-Keizer, Willamette ESD and Woodburn.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- Community Action Head Start of Marion and Polk Counties (Region X Head Start) and the Oregon Child Development Coalition of Marion County have developed an interagency agreement, which focuses on jointly implementing strategies in such areas as recruitment, transitions, health, disabilities, and training and technical assistance.
- Willamette Education Service District provides a range of education and support services to children, families and local providers.
- The Woodburn Public Library provides story times in English and Spanish to approximately 30 children each session. They also provide outreach to Head Start classrooms, having served 7 classes and 120 children over the past year. The Youth Librarian, is working closely with Woodburn Education Coordinator. Woodburn Reads, a committee dedicated to improving literacy in the Woodburn community is willing to provide grant money to start an in-house library at the Woodburn site and to provide families with books to keep.
- The Silver Falls Public Library provides visiting librarians who read to the preschool classrooms once a week.
- Silverton Education Coordinator is working on improving relationship with the Silver Falls Library to improve frequency of readings at the center. Classrooms have taken fieldtrips to the library. Librarian is invited to school events.
- Transition collaboration with local area schools include a yearly principal breakfast, Kindergarten transition activity nights, which Kindergarten teachers, Family Support Team Coordinator from Brooks and Eldriedge Elementary schools and other school staff attend and transition field trips to Lincoln, Washington, Nellie Muir and Heritage Elementary schools in Woodburn and Eugene Field, North Marion Primary and St. Mary's Elementary schools.

Additionally, it was noted that Marion County ranks as one of the highest in the state for the number of unserved, eligible Head Start children. Currently, the Oregon Child Development Coalition participates in joint trainings with other Head Start programs in the area. However, beyond trainings, it was noted that other programs in the community may also help to bridge this gap by bringing valuable resources to the table to serve a greater number of children, including the AWARDS program and the Oregon Library Association, as well as book vendors. One interviewee noted that: "Woodburn is heaven for children's programs." Thus, there is a need to identify new, collaborative strategies to serve a greater number of [migrant] children by locating and leveraging these resources.



The Education Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County believes opportunities exist for the Oregon Child Development Coalition to expand partnerships with local Head Starts and elementary schools, especially those within the Woodburn School District. Additionally, as relates to the above discussion, it was noted that opportunities exist for the agency to strengthen ties to public libraries. Strengthening such ties would both address the issue of broadening transition activities, but also potentially identifying and leveraging additional resources to serve children and families.

## ► MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

Access to care is limited by the fact that many Marion County residents are low-income. In fact, the Health Resources and Safety Administration has identified Marion County as a mental health professional shortage area due in large part to the number of low-income families in the area.<sup>109</sup>

OCDC is able to provide a limited number of consultations to parents, which are contracted through Life Strategies. Outside referrals are made to Marion County Health Department. The challenge with the County Health Department is that there is only one Spanish speaking Mental Health Consultant available. Therefore, parents often don't get services during the migrant short term season. Due to budget cuts, the County Health consultant has an increased case load.

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that 4 children in Marion County were provided mental health services in 2008. Likewise, 17 children were determined to have a disability, roughly 5 percent of enrolled seasonal children and 1 percent of enrolled migrant children in 2008. Of these 17 children, each was determined eligible to receive special education and related services. Primary disabilities included speech or language impairments and non-categorical developmental delays.<sup>110</sup>

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

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County shares an interagency agreement with Willamette ESD.
- The Marion County Health Department contracts a mental health consultant, providing mental health assessments for those children with the Oregon Health Plan. The mental health consultant also assists with a social skills group at the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Silverton location.
- OCDC contracts with Sandra Lucas (Life Strategies) as the Mental Health Consultant. Sandra provides classroom observations, individual observations, parent and staff trainings and parent and teacher consultations.
- Northwest Human Services operates the West Salem Mental Health Clinic and also has a program for the deaf and hard of hearing. They note that approximately 21 percent of their clients are served in a language other than English.

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<sup>109</sup> *Oregon Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA): Mental Health Designations as of 2/28/06*, 2006, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Professionals.

<sup>110</sup> *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition 2008.



- The Oregon Child Development Coalition has developed a relationship with Juntos Podemos, an agency in Salem which works with children with disabilities. Ana Iris will re-establish contact with them.
- The Children's Guild is able to accommodate referrals from the contracted mental health consultant in the event that the child does not have the Oregon Health Plan.
- OCDC Mental Health Coordinators work with Easter Seals and the Oregon Parent Training and Information Center (OrPTI) to provide resources to families. Staff from the training center has come to OCDC center to provide parent training.
- Education Supervisor established contact with Providence Swindells Child Center. OCDC contact info is listed in their data base. The center provides parents of children with disabilities with a Child Life Care Notebook and Organizer free of charge and offers classes to parents in English and Spanish on autism.

In light of the short duration of the migrant program, the Oregon Child Development Coalition and Willamette ESD have met to explore ways to increase efficiency in the evaluation process. Further meetings are planned to focus on recruitment for the following year. The Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County revealed that turnover within some community agencies have presented difficulties for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in ensuring the continuity of services. That said, necessary partnerships are in place and continue to be developed, especially in the area of recruitment and the evaluation process.

## **HEALTH & NUTRITION**

In 2008, 369 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Marion County and 257 had insurance. From these numbers, 220 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 Marion OCDC was 233.

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

- The Marion County Health Department provides core public health services, including family planning, disease prevention, investigation, immunization, environmental health, home visiting, and maternal child health.
- Partnerships exist with the Woodburn School District Student Health Advisory Council
- Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic operates Salud Medical Center in Woodburn, providing medical and dental services to children and families.
- Northwest Human Services operates three medical and dental clinics throughout the Salem area.
- Woodburn Pediatrics has recently begun attending HSAC meetings.
- The Community Outreach Clinic provides services to uninsured individuals.
- The Silverton and Salem Hospitals provide education and outreach, as well as emergency services to the general community.



- The Oregon Child Development Coalition of Marion County has a contract with Sue Plaster, RD to provide nutritional support to children and families who do not qualify for WIC.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition of Marion County has a contract with Linda Mann, RDH to provide monthly fluoride treatments to all children served.

Representatives from the above agencies have identified the greatest medical and dental needs of children and families in the Marion County area. Providers overwhelmingly emphasized difficulties around recruiting qualified doctors and pediatric dentists who are bilingual and bicultural. Additionally, providers noted the lack of access to specialists whom for any number of reasons - limited translation/interpretation services, inability to take Medicare and Medicaid patients, etc - are difficult to refer to. Lastly, providers emphasized the need to continue to educate low-income and farmworking families about services and are looking for collaborative approaches to do so.

Additionally, clinics experience high “no-show” rates because families are not invested in locating a medical home. Further, that families do not have a medical home has resulted in limited preventive care, with some one clinic reporting seeing more children with bottle mouth and a decline in oral care this year.

In 2008, following dental screenings, 49 children were identified as needing continued dental treatment and care. An interview with the Family and Health Services Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County revealed concerns around limited pediatric dental care in the area. In some cases dental providers want to accommodate referrals, but do not have a pediatric dentist on staff.

A parent committee meeting revealed that parents are frustrated by the fact that they cannot get medical and dental appointments when needed. Long waits translate into medical and dental risks and, consequently, costs associated with such risks. In addition to the long waiting periods for appointments, providers are frequently calling and rescheduling the appointments for later, causing more frustration and potentially larger medical costs. Parents also cited high costs associated with getting medication for children with asthma, noting that in some cases insurance plans do not cover this.

## ► **FAMILY SERVICES**

The number of families receiving TANF funds was 0 for Marion County OCDC.<sup>111</sup>

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.

<sup>111</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



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

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County 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 Marion County providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Marion Polk Food Share provides 34 food pantries, 18 emergency meal programs and 5 supplemental programs. Currently, Marion Polk Food Share is working on additional programs, including community gardens and *Grow A Row*. The agency is also exploring the possibility of locating a food pantry in Woodburn.
- Mid Willamette Valley Community Action Agency provides 10 core services focusing on information and referral and housing assistance, serving over 15,000 clients annually.
- The Oregon Employment Department provides information and referral services, as well as job placement and training in collaboration with other service agencies.
- Northwest Human Services operates the Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Project (HOAP) and the HOST Youth Family Program
- Representatives from the Oregon Employment Department and Pinos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) provide assistance with referrals and recruitment.
- La Pantera Radio Station assists in developing and airing public service announcements for recruiting purposes.
- Madera County Community Action Agency and Community Action Partnership of Kern County, California, provide assistance by helping with recruitment and transitions for families from California.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County and the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation have an interagency agreement for use of facilities, assistance with parent trainings, and providing meeting areas, as well as assisting with the recruitment process.
- Silverton Area Community Aid provides emergency energy and food assistance and also assists with recruitment.
- The Salvation Army, Woodburn's Children's Center, St. Luke's and AWARE Food Bank provide emergency food boxes.
- The Oregon Department of Human Services provides assistance in recruitment and parent trainings.
- St. Joseph's Shelter provides services to homeless families and assists with recruitment.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest family services needs of children and families in the Marion County area. Providers were in agreement that the three most important needs facing low-income and farmworking families are affordable housing, transportation and a lack of programs for children and families. Specifically, it was noted that high gas prices have contributed to families falling further behind, as they have to spend more of their household budget getting to work and appointments. Thus, at the end of the month, they are left with less and have to rely on emergency food programs and shelters.



The above considerations also point to the fact that wages are not adequate to keep up with even basic expenses. Thus, as discussed earlier, statistics show more children on free and reduced lunch. One provider pointed out that language barriers often inhibit qualified employees from moving up in their jobs and earning higher wages. Other providers cited the seasonality of agricultural work and the fact that many service providers are simply not open during the summer months; hence, families fall further behind during the summer months.

Several community partners noted a lack of safe programs and places for children and families for recreation. While the local libraries have strong community involvement programs, few youth centers (none in Silverton or Woodburn) exist, area pools are rapidly closing, and funding for day camps and after school programs is dwindling.

Interviews with the Family and Health Services Supervisor and ERSEA Family and Community Partnership Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County revealed that staff members are working to increase services to families, specifically in the area of parenting, ESL and GED courses. To facilitate this, interagency agreements are being created with local agencies to provide classes to parents at night and on weekends. Within the community, it was noted that staff are looking to identify and participate in more events so as to build name recognition and new partners.

## ► **CHILDCARE**

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following information on child care in Marion County in 2008. There were 5,538 slots in child care and education centers and 3,682 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Marion had 15 per 100 children. It was also reported that 2,541 children age 0-12 received state assistance, through DHS, with part of all of their child care costs.<sup>112</sup>

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

- Child Care Information Services in Marion County makes approximately 2,000 referrals annually. They also provide trainings to local childcare providers.
- There are 91 certified childcare centers and 463 family childcare homes operating throughout Marion County. In addition, there are an unspecified number of exempt childcare providers.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County works closely with the Woodburn Children's Center in the referral of children for care.

The Child Care Information Services is continuing to explore ways to recruit qualified providers. The declining center-based child care supply has moved this service to develop better materials to recruit home-based providers, including better quality trainings and other educational opportunities such as helping providers work towards their Child Development Associates (CDA) certificate.

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<sup>112</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.





## ► TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING

Marion County's size east to west is, in itself, an impediment to families. Those living outside of Woodburn and Salem often must transport themselves to work and appointments in town, assuming they have a car. Recent funding cuts have had the effect of reducing public transportation route coverage in the rural areas surrounding Woodburn and Salem, with one transportation provider acknowledging that their focus is not on serving low-income areas, but rather on serving commuters and retail routes.

In the Salem area, Cherriots, the local transportation provider, is currently hosting a series of focus groups aimed at understanding the need for more routes in the city limits. During an interview with the director, it was noted that they are interested in exploring strategies for increasing routes in northeast and southeast Salem given the number of "standees" during peak route times. Cherriots is also working to increase routes during non-peak times given that many riders often work second and third shifts.

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

- Cherriots provides transportation services in the Salem metro area. They are currently working to boost ridership on poorly performing routes, as well as increase services in targeted areas.
- Woodburn Public Transit provides 30,000 rides per year, with Dial-a-Ride services for the elderly and disabled, as well as volunteer Dial-a-Ride services for medical appointments.
- Chemeketa Area Regional Transportation (CARTS) is operated by Wheels Community Transportation, offering fixed route and Dial-a-Ride services in Marion County. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County shares an informal agreement with CARTS, providing parking space at the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Silverton location for busses.
- Salud Medical Center provides car seat training and installation to parents.
- First Student provides maintenance on vehicles.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest transportation needs in Marion County. Of interest is that transportation providers expressed that they have experienced difficulties communicating with their riders. Aside from developing materials in Spanish, they have struggled to return to the level of outreach and education that they once were able to provide prior to the funding cuts. Come next fall, Cherriots is looking for additional support from a ballot measure which would provide more outreach and customer service staff. The measure had failed the year prior due to less than 50 percent voter turn out.

There were 36 labor camps in Marion County for 2006 and 31 in 2008. The total labor camp occupancy was 1,152 in 2006 and 960 in 2008.<sup>113</sup> At least 15 apartment complexes in Marion

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<sup>113</sup> Agriculture Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2008.



County cater to low-income and farmworker families, including Nuevo Amanecer, Colonia Libertad and Villa Verdante. Overall, there are over 859 units.

- There are 79 manufactured home parks in Marion County, 9 of which are located in the Woodburn area.
- There are 29 farm labor camps in Marion County operated by multiple growers. Together, these camps are able to accommodate 1,073 individuals.
- The Farmworker Housing Development Corporation works to develop farmworker leadership for stronger and more secure families and communities through affordable housing, social services, education and economic development.
- The Marion County Housing Authority is in the middle of a 5-year plan designed to ensure the supply of affordable housing stock is available for low-income individuals and families whose housing needs are not being met.
- The Salem Housing Authority also works to provide housing and housing assistance to those in need.
- Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley also works to provide affordable housing.

In general, affordable housing is scarce for low-income and farmworking families in Marion County. A recent market study found that the need for farmworker housing in and around the Salem area is “profound and presently unmet.” This assessment also noted that farmworking families prefer housing that is in proximity to shops and services on Salem’s Lancaster Drive.

As a percent of household income, depending on whether work was available full-time, parents estimated that rent accounted for upwards of 50 percent of their household income, not including utilities. Also of interest is that while several families indicated that they would be migrating to areas such as Tacoma, Washington, Redding, California and Madera, California, several parents expressed an interest to stay in Woodburn for the year, highlighting the fact that more families are choosing to put roots down rather than migrate given a poor crop year in California and concerns over immigration.



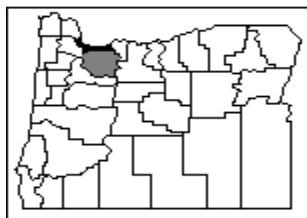
# MULTNOMAH & CLACKAMAS COUNTIES

## 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.”<sup>114</sup> Prior to the arrival of Americans and Europeans, approximately 1 million people inhabited this area, due in large part to the abundant supply of fish in the Willamette and Clackamas Rivers. 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.<sup>115</sup> 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 the abundance of landmarks and natural resources, including Mount Hood (11,249’), the Columbia Gorge, Multnomah Falls, and the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers.<sup>116</sup>

### **► 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

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<sup>114</sup> Oregon Blue Book 2008

<sup>115</sup> Oregon Blue Book 2008.

<sup>116</sup> Oregon Blue Book 2008.



\$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 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.<sup>117</sup> 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.<sup>118</sup> 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.<sup>119</sup> To estimate the total number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 year old children, the Oregon Department of Education multiplied the total number of children in each county by the poverty rate in 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.<sup>120</sup>

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.<sup>121</sup> State economists have also noted that the Hispanic population is the fastest growing minority group in this area, growing at a rate that, in Multnomah County, is ten times faster than the general population and, in Clackamas County, at a rate that is six times faster than the general population.

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<sup>117</sup> Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009

<sup>118</sup> Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009

<sup>119</sup> Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

<sup>120</sup> Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

<sup>121</sup> Amy VanderVliet, Regional Profile: Population in Region 2, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.  
Oregon Child Development Coalition





## ► 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 CHILDREN<sup>122</sup>

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.<sup>123</sup> 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**

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<sup>123</sup>Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



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.<sup>124</sup>

In general, state economists have noted that Multnomah and Clackamas County residents are typically better educated relative to residents in other areas of the state. However, what is also of interest is that roughly the same 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](http://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.

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<sup>124</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



- 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.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Community Assessment - Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program 2009  
State of Oregon and Counties



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 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.<sup>126</sup> 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

<sup>126</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.





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.<sup>127</sup>

- Oregon 211 provides information and referral services in the Multnomah and Clackamas Counties and is currently looking to improve outreach to the Hispanic population.
- El Programa Hispano serves 10,000 clients annually, advocating for those in need, focusing on information and referral and short term intervention. They also offer the Unica program, a domestic violence program with a crisis line, outreach and transition assistance.
- Snowcap provides food and clothing to migrant families and has partnered with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties to provide 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.<sup>128</sup>

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.<sup>129</sup>

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

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<sup>127</sup> Summary of Services Provided by Domestic and Sexual Violence Service Programs Funded by DHS, 2008, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>128</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.

<sup>129</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.



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

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.<sup>130</sup> TriMet also provides travel trainings and services through Ride Connection.
- Ride Connection offers individualized transportation services such as U-Ride, a shared ride system designed to provide a partial solution to the absence of public transportation in rural areas.

<sup>130</sup> *Ridership Statistics and Demographics*, 2006, TriMet



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

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.<sup>131</sup>

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

- At least 64 apartment complexes in Multnomah County, such as the Clara Vista Apartments, cater to low-income and migrant families. Overall, there are several thousand units; however, it is noted many of these are in areas that are not near agricultural areas.
- There are 98 manufactured home parks in Multnomah County, the majority of which are located in the eastern portion of the county.
- There are 5 farm labor camps in Multnomah County. Together, these camps are able to accommodate 476 individuals.
- At least 10 apartment complexes in north Clackamas County, such as the Sandy Vista Apartments, cater to low-income families. Overall, there are several hundred units, many of which are located in or near agricultural areas.
- There are 90 manufactured home parks in Clackamas County, the majority of which are located in the more rural areas of the county.
- There are 20 farm labor camps in Clackamas County. Together, these camps are able to accommodate 493 individuals.
- Since 1999, Caritas Housing Initiatives has acquired, renovated and built 80 units of housing for low-income and special needs populations, including Casa Verde in Canby, Oregon, and Rondel Court in Molalla, Oregon.
- The Housing Authority of Portland provides affordable housing options, public housing and the Section 8 Housing Voucher program.

<sup>131</sup> Agricultural Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2006-2008  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
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- 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.

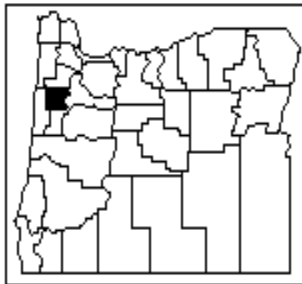


# POLK COUNTY

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Polk 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. The Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Polk County served a total of 138 children in 2008. Of these, 100 children were classified as migrant children and 38 were classified as seasonal children.

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Polk County currently employs a center-based option, serving children from one location in Independence, Oregon. The Short Term program is 13 weeks from June to September, operating 7 classrooms, both infant/toddler and preschool. In 2008, Polk received additional funding to operate a 15 week Short Term program for 2 additional service hours each day (8 hour day to 10 hour day). The Short Term program is offered 5 days a week from 6:15am to 4:15pm. The Long Term program runs for 32 weeks from March to November, operating 2 preschool classrooms, 5 days per week from 8am to 2pm.



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

### **CRITICAL ISSUES**

#### **► HOUSING**

Low income areas are going through a gentrification process where basically families are being pushed out. Family Service staff reports that Migrant families are moving into the Salem area where housing is more affordable. This essentially presents a challenge to transport children to the Independence location which is approximately 30 miles away. Although this is still happening, in 2007 an Agricultural Housing Development was constructed in Independence and quickly had a waiting list. There are 38 apartment units and they are at 90% full occupancy through the year. Families moved from Salem and the surrounding Polk County areas to this low income housing opportunity.



## ► **CHANGING MIGRATION PATTERNS**

As noted in the community assessment, the increased use of 'leased workers' may decrease the number of families that migrate to the area for agricultural employment. Consequently, families have chosen to seek work in cabinetry, restaurants, automobile mechanics, and agriculture work that does not qualify as Migrant or Farm Labor. Families continue to look for year-round work as opposed to seasonal and temporary agricultural work. In 2008, the cooler spring temperatures affected crops and migratory patterns for agricultural workers. According to the family applications completed in 2008, the majority of parents in agricultural work began later in the season than in previous years.

## ► **IMMIGRATION**

Local Farmers have reported employing more single men versus families. Much of this is due to the latest immigration scares and the fact that it is more safe to send one person from the family versus the entire family from crop to crop for harvest. As a result, only part of the family settles within the area and although in need of Migrant Head Start services, these families cannot qualify for the program. The flipside to this is that for the local families with only one parent working in agriculture, and with one parent traveling/moving with the regional crops (possibly as a 'leased worker'), families are not moving as a unit and therefore qualify as seasonal instead of migrant. The trend in Polk County is a reflection of the national trend. According to the USDA "Profile of Hired Farmworkers: A 2008 Update" agricultural production now occurs on fewer and often larger farms. And declining farm employment reflects these trends.

## **COUNTY PROFILE**

### ► **GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Spanning some 2,010 square miles, Polk County is located in the northwestern portion of Oregon and in the heart of the Willamette Valley, and is home to Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon. Created out of the Yamhill District in 1845, the county was named for President James Polk. The county seat, originally named Cynthia Ann, was changed to Dallas after then Vice President George Dallas.<sup>132</sup>

Average elevation in Polk County is 325 feet above sea level. Average temperatures range from 39 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to 66 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The area receives approximately 52 inches of rain annually, including rare snowfalls during the winter months, and is recognized for its fertile farmland, rich soil and the diversity of agricultural commodities produced in this area.<sup>133</sup>

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<sup>132</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2008.

<sup>133</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2008.





With the Willamette River to the east, Polk County has historically been considered part of small town America with its rolling hills and covered bridges. Only recently has the county experienced significant growth, causing some to speculate that Polk County is increasingly becoming a bedroom community for nearly Salem, Oregon's state capital.

## ► 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 Polk County was \$29,459 as compared to \$36,492 for Oregon and \$39,209 for the United States. Table 1 also shows the total number of individuals employed in Polk County in 2007 was 27,627 with 7.17 percent in agriculture. Unemployment in Marion County was 9.0 percent in 2007 and again 9.0 percent in 2008, but it increased to 9.6 percent in July 2009.

In 2009, in Polk County, Weyerhaeuser closed their manufacturing plant in Dallas, as cited in the *Statesmen Journal*. In another *Statesman Journal* article, Medallion manufacturing announced that it had reduced their workforce with layoffs and a reduction of employee hours. As of August 21, 2009, a Medallion employee informed OCDC staff that an 60 employees had been laid off. Additionally, the Central School District faced \$1.7 million in cuts resulting in program cuts, staff layoffs, hiring freeze, and/or a reduction of student days according to Central School District Budget Shortfall Information.

Another major employer closed both a veneer plant in Independence and a paper product plant in Salem. Further, a computer chip manufacturing plant in Dallas closed this year. Due to the economy, Polk County is experiencing a slower housing market. This has caused a reduction in construction related jobs. For example, lay-offs have been reported at a local cabinet making company and the workforce has been reduced to a 4 day work week with over 70% of the workforce on volunteer lay off.

## ► DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Data in Table 5 show the total population of Polk County in 2008 to be 77,074 up by 2.75 percent from 2007 and the total number of children under age four in Polk County in 2008 to be 4,278.

Table 5 also shows the number of individuals (all ages) living in poverty in 2007 in Polk County was 10.8 percent and that the 2008 poverty rate for children birth to two years of age was 21.3 percent. The 2008 poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 16.0 percent.<sup>134</sup> During the 2008-2009 school year, 45.6 percent of students in Polk County were eligible for free or reduced lunch (Table 5). 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.

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<sup>134</sup> Annual Estimates of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.  
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Polk County's 2008 Hispanic population numbered 8,841 which accounted for 11.5 percent of the population (Table 5). In 2007, the Hispanic population numbered 8,382.

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

The Oregon Department of Education estimated there to be 1,780 children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Polk County in 2008.<sup>135</sup> To estimate the total number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 year old children, the Oregon Department of Education multiplied the total number of children by the poverty rate for Polk County, 16.0 percent. Thus, the total number of eligible Head Start children in Polk County is 284 children.

From 284 children, the number of 2008 Head Start children served in Polk County by Head Start programs is subtracted. This number was 160. Thus, the total number of unserved, eligible Head Start children in 2008 was 124, or in terms of percentage, 43.7 percent.

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 Polk County.

#### ► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

In 2008, 137 children were enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start programs for Polk County on the basis of public assistance or income eligibility. Of this total, 88 children qualified as migrant and 49 qualified as seasonal.

Overall, nearly 99 percent of the program participants in Polk County 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. Increasingly, the Oregon Child Development Coalition of Marion County has served indigenous families and continues to develop partnerships to support this population.

#### ► **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

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<sup>135</sup> Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.



Network through Oregon State University.<sup>136</sup> Table 2 contains the estimated number of MFW and SFW for four years across an 11 year period from 1997 to 2008.

In Polk County the estimated total number of MSFW increased from 3,039 in 1997 to 4,534 in 2002 and, then, decreased to 4,338 in 2005 and increased again in 2008 to 4,346. The numbers reflect a shift in migrant to seasonal workers in the county. It is estimated that in 1997 there were 2,191 MFW in Polk County declining to 1,410 in 2008. Estimates indicate there were only 848 SFW in 1997 but they increased to 3,134 in 2002 and slightly decreased to 2,934 in 2008.

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 196 migrant children and 673 seasonal children in Polk County in 2005. The number of estimated migrant children increased slightly to 199 and the number of children from seasonal families increased slightly to 690 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 Polk County the estimated number of eligible migrant children was 199 and the total number of migrant children served was 88, leaving 111 estimated unserved. The estimated numbers of eligible seasonal children was 690 and the total number of seasonal children served was 49, leaving 641 estimated 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 usually used at the beginning of each subsection to construct a framework for specific strengths and needs. Internal data is then often 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, 103 parents reported their level of education on the enrollment form, with 61 percent having less than a high school education and 35 percent having a high school degree or GED for the Marion OCDC center.<sup>137</sup>

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

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<sup>136</sup> Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.

<sup>137</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



- The OSU Extension Service may lose their funding and not be able to provide services.
- The new Agricultural Housing Development in Independence offers adult education opportunities for both residents and non-residents. Some of OCDC's families are taking advantage of these classes.
- Adult education classes are offered by Chemeketa Community College at the local school district. Easter Seals is also offering adult GED classes, and nutrition, computer, and English classes. These classes are offered in collaboration with OSU Extension Office.
- OCDC and Colonia Amistad, a local farmworker housing center, have collaborated to offer parent education opportunities.
- OCDC, Chemeketa Community College, and Central School District partnered in 2008/2009 to offer computer literacy and English Now classes for adults enrolled in OCDC and the community at large.

## Early Childhood Education

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- Henry Hill Elementary School utilized two classrooms this school year to serve a bi-lingual kindergarten class and the Migrant Education Preschool. As stated in the March 2007 Central School Newsletter, Central School District schools are overcrowded and the District Administrative Council has been considering various ways to address capacity issues. Voters supported the passage of the November 2006 bond measure that will help the school district with resources to meet the growing need for more classroom space. Henry Hill Elementary school continued to utilize two classrooms in the 2007-2008 school year, but will not have the need in 2008-2009 school year due to modular classrooms the district added to the elementary school. As stated in the March 2008 Central Schools Bond News, the local district would like to acquire the OCDC building to meet their growing student population. In 2009, Henry Hill is not using any of the building space.

## ► MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

Despite the dearth of data, methamphetamine use is on the rise in Polk County. Mexican methamphetamine is most common, followed by Canadian pseudoephedrine.<sup>138</sup> Of interest are the linkages to birth outcomes and offenses/arrests as presented in the Health and Nutrition and Family Services sections of this document.

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that no children in Polk County were provided mental health services in 2008. Likewise, 15 children were determined to have a disability. Of these 15 children, each was determined eligible to receive special education and related services. Primary disabilities included speech or language impairments.<sup>139</sup>

<sup>138</sup> *Methamphetamine Part I*, 2006, Addiction Messenger. Oregon Health and Sciences University.

<sup>139</sup> *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition 2008.



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

- A contract is in place with a Mental Health Provider who is bi-lingual and has experience working with children. The Mental Health Provider contract includes on-site consultations for parents and staff. Parents receive calendar dates of the Mental Health Provider schedule. Although a contract is in place, there is no bilingual (Spanish) mental health professional available in Independence, Monmouth, or West Salem. Families have to travel to Salem to see a Mental Health professional and services are only available if families have OHP or other insurance. If a family is uninsured, there are no Mental Health services available for adults or children.
- The WESD's local high-needs classroom has been displaced from their previous location within Community Action Head Start's Independence center. The WESD has requested space within OCDC's facility for the 2008-2009 school year.
- In 2008, WESD (Willamette Education Service District) began leasing space in OCDC's building to offer specialized education classes to identified high need children. The WESD uses one of the Preschool classrooms and outside play space.
- Salem/Keizer School District Migrant Education program and OCDC have developed a partnership which focuses on recruitment & identification of 0-5 year old migrant children.
- In 2009, OCDC's Polk County center began developing a partnership with Family Building Blocks that could lead to mutually beneficial sharing of space at the OCDC facility in Independence.

The gap analysis study that the Polk County Commission for Children and Families has been working on indicated the need for more early identification of children with disabilities.

OCDC staff members in Polk County noted that improvements have been seen in the timeliness that WESD processes referrals. They also have stated there is a need for bi-lingual grief counseling. Current efforts include locating resources for families who need these services. Then, partnerships can be established.

## ► **HEALTH & NUTRITION**

In 2008, 137 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Polk County and 111 (81 percent) had insurance. From these numbers, 104 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 Marion OCDC was 91.

Statewide, since 2001, approximately 5.3 percent of female youth entering methamphetamine treatment were pregnant, representing at 5.1 percent increase in this population over the past 5 years.<sup>140</sup>

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<sup>140</sup> *Addiction Treatment Saves Money and Lives*, 2006, Oregon Department of Human Services.  
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Within Polk County, between the period 2001-2003 and 2003-2005, there has been a 85.7 percent increase in the number of total births where drug use was involved.<sup>141</sup>

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

- Northwest Human Services operates two clinics (sliding fee scale) in West Salem and Monmouth.
- The local Food Bank is only open two days a week from 9:00am-11:00am. Families OCDC serves have a difficult time utilizing this resource, however, due to work schedules and transportation issues
- The Oregon Health Action Campaign, in addition to working on legislative efforts around sliding scale fees, works to obtain free medications for clients and also assists clients in qualifying for OHP and hospital financial assistance programs.
- West Valley Hospital is building a satellite clinic in Monmouth to better serve the communities of Independence and Monmouth. The West Valley Hospital Monmouth site is open and serving the local communities. For emergency services, families still need to travel to Dallas or Salem.
- The Tooth Taxi came to Independence and served clients without insurance in both 2008 and 2009.

OCDC staff members in Polk County noted that Polk County Public Health does not offer prenatal care for uninsured pregnant women. The closest available services are in neighboring Marion County at a local migrant clinic that provides prenatal care on a scale income basis. The closest delivery hospital is in Salem (Birthing Center). Staff members also expressed concern that there is no pediatrician that takes OHP in the Independence/Monmouth area, just general practitioners and the local migrant clinic is not taking new patients. Further, there is no pediatric dentist in the Independence/Monmouth area who accepts OHP. Families have to travel to Salem for dental care.

## **FAMILY SERVICES**

The number of families receiving TANF funds was 4 for Polk County OCDC.<sup>142</sup>

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.

Polk County - SDA 3 - ranks as having among the highest number of foster homes in the state of Oregon (501<n<1,037). Statewide, in 2005, parent drug abuse was responsible for 62.4 percent (n=3,855) of entrants into foster care statewide, an increase of 22.3 percent from the previous year.<sup>143</sup>

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<sup>141</sup> *Birth Outcomes of Infants by Race and Ethnicity of Mother: Polk County, 2003-2005*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

<sup>142</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.

<sup>143</sup> *Foster Care Trends, 2005*, Oregon Department of Human Services.





In 2005, the rate of reported drug offenses in Polk County was 90.9 per 10,000 persons, the 10th highest rate in the state of Oregon.<sup>144</sup> This represents a 51.2 percent increase between 2000 and 2005.<sup>145</sup>

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

- An interagency agreement is in place with Child Care Information Services to refer families to local childcare options, both private and non-private.
- The SABLE House provides shelter services in Polk County to victims of domestic violence.
- Marion Polk Food Share provides 34 food pantries, 18 emergency meal programs and 5 supplemental programs. Each month, 62,390 food boxes are distributed, serving some 19,987 individuals.<sup>146</sup> Currently, Marion Polk Food Share is working on additional programs, including community gardens and *Grow A Row*.
- Polk County Healthy Start provides one-time and intensive home visitation services for first time parents.
- Mid Willamette Valley Community Action Agency provides 10 core services focusing on information and referral and housing assistance, serving over 15,000 clients annually.
- The Oregon Employment Department provides information and referral services, as well as job placement and training in collaboration with other service agencies.
- Northwest Human Services operates the Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Project (HOPE) and the HOST Youth Family Program, serving nearly 700 homeless clients in 2005.
- The Ella Curen Center in Independence is a dependable resource for families that are in need of food and diapers.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Polk County is involved with the Hispanic Advisory Committees of Polk, Linn and Benton Counties.

OCDC staff members in Polk County noted that the Hispanic Advisory Committee of Polk County is no longer active. They also reported that for less expensive furniture, clothing, and other resources, families must travel to either Salem or Corvallis.

## ► **CHILDCARE**

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following information on child care in Polk County in 2008. There were 758 slots in child care and education centers and 774 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Polk had 14 per

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<sup>144</sup> *Drug Laws Rates as Reported Offenses per 10,000 population for the Year 2005, 2007*, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.

<sup>145</sup> *Reported Offenses for Drug Laws: The Change in Rate per 10,000 population between 2000 and 2005, 2007*, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.

<sup>146</sup> *Regional Food Banks at a Glance, 2005*, Oregon Food Bank.

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100 children. It was also reported that 423 children age 0-12 received state assistance (through DHS) with part of all of their child care costs.<sup>147</sup>

A recent 2006 report estimates that the DHS childcare subsidy is adequate to purchase less than 50 percent of provider care in east Polk County.<sup>148</sup>

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

- CCIS (Child Care Information Services) stats indicate that there are 120 registered child care providers in all of Polk county. There are 35 within the 120 that are registered with Spanish being the primary language spoken at the child care site.
- Due to the cost of certified childcare, many of the families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Polk County choose to place their children in less expensive, non-certified childcare environments.

It was reported by an OCDC staff member in Polk County that, in 2008, many families requested putting siblings (ages 10-13) on Emergency cards as an authorized person to release a child to in the afternoon, instead of adult supervised care.

## ► **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

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

- Central School District no longer provides maintenance for school busses and vans. For 2007, busses will be serviced by Laidlaw in Dallas and the van will be serviced by a commercial business.
- OHP offers transportation for families to medical appointments, but the family must provide a car seat. Car seats are provided to families at local car seat clinics only if parents bring a car. So, for families that do not have a car it is difficult to obtain a car seat that is needed to receive transportation assistance from OHP. A challenging catch-22 for some families.
- The regional public transportation service, CARTS, schedule has very limited service to Polk County. This makes it challenging for families to use CARTS to access Salem resources (doctors, dentists, resources). Based on the current schedule it would take all day for a family to attend an appointment in Salem.
- CARTS does serve Monmouth and Independence, but the schedule is not user-friendly for the families OCDC serves. The *Statesman Journal* reported on January 16, 2009 that Saturday transit service will no longer be available. "Once Saturday service is gone," most riders said, "on Saturdays they'll need to take a taxi, carpool, catch a ride with a

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<sup>147</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.

<sup>148</sup> 2006 Oregon Childcare Market Rate Study, August 2006, Oregon State University Family Policy Program, Oregon Childcare Research Partnership.



friend-or use their feet. And it's a hardship for those who have no other form of transportation to get to work or to the doctor.”

Regarding housing, there were 4 labor camps in Polk County for 2006 and 4 in 2008. The total labor camp occupancy was 31 in 2006 and 49 in 2008.<sup>149</sup> It was reported by an OCDC staff member that most new home construction is higher end and the only new low-income housing is the Migrant Agricultural Housing Project which was completed in 2007 in Independence.

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<sup>149</sup> Agriculture Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2008  
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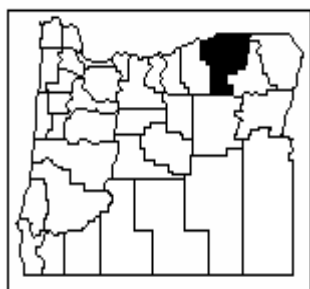


# UMATILLA COUNTY

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla 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 Umatilla County served a total of 313 children in 2008. Of these, 206 children were classified as migrant children and 107 are classified as seasonal children.

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



The service area includes the entirety of Umatilla County, some 3,231 square miles. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County attends to those especially agricultural areas of Umatilla County, (ii) the program center locations and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start Performance Standards.

### **CRITICAL ISSUES**

#### **▶ IMMIGRATION AND CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE**

While U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were not rumored to have visited Umatilla County this year, local growers continue to be concerned about the labor supply in light of changes in agriculture, especially in the Milton-Freewater area. Unlike in other areas of the state where agricultural operations are being consolidated, small farms in and around Milton-Freewater continue to be swallowed up by larger farms in the area without any transfer of ownership. The uncertainties surrounding the current immigration debate only promote the continued practice of leasing land. Currently, efforts are underway to help ensure the health and viability of the area's apple crop; however it remains to be seen whether such efforts will be successful. County commissioners decided to close the Milton-Freewater Public Health Clinic, which means that residents of this city will need to travel to Pendleton to receive services.<sup>150</sup>

<sup>150</sup> Tri-City Herald, June 20, 2009



The largest changes in the area with regards to agriculture have been the continual increase of vineyards. Also, even though 2008 was not a good year for the cherry harvest,<sup>151</sup> on 2009 there was a new line added to the cherry processing at Blue Mountain Growers, Inc, who partnered up with Orchard View Farms of the Dalles. The process is quite The Umatilla complex, including having cherries photographed with the Red Pearl Optical Sizers for accurate sorting, using one of the largest hydrocoolers in the Northwest, which allows for faster sorting and less bruising, and using the first mesh cherry bag machine in the world, which is a new and improved way of packaging the cherries for better marketing. This cherry line is a way of making sure agriculture continues to be sustainable for the future generations<sup>152</sup>.

## **COUNTY PROFILE**

### **► GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Umatilla County is located in northeast Oregon in the Columbia Plateau region of the state along the Columbia River before its turn north into Washington State. *Umatilla* means *water rippling over sand*, a testimony to the desert like environment in this area of the state. Umatilla County spans 3,231 square miles with elevation at Pendleton, the county seat, at 1,068 feet above sea level.<sup>153</sup> Average temperatures range from well above 32 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to well above 74 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The area receives approximately 13 inches of rain annually, including snow during the winter months. Growth in Umatilla County did not take place until 1881 with the arrival of the railroad and the development of large-scale irrigation efforts. What was once dry desert is now an ideal environment for growing potatoes, apples, onions and melons. Thus, Umatilla County boasts a strong agricultural base.

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

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<sup>151</sup> Union Bulletin, July 2, 2008

<sup>152</sup> Valley Herald

<sup>153</sup> Oregon Blue Book 2009.



## 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 Umatilla County was \$27,554 as compared to \$36,492 for Oregon and \$39,209 for the United States. Table 1 also shows the total number of individuals employed in Umatilla County in 2007 was 40,065 with 7.88 percent in agriculture. Unemployment in Umatilla County was 7.3 percent in 2007 and the rate decreased to 6.5 percent in 2008, but it increased to 9.9 percent in July 2009. Interestingly, in Hermiston, Hispanic-owned businesses are growing with its population.<sup>154</sup>

Food manufacturing is of particular importance to the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County, as many families served by the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program have ties to this industry.

Over the past year, Umatilla County continues to see a small reduction in harvested acres of potatoes, the county's most profitable commodity, in an attempt to increase demand and boost sales<sup>155</sup>. On the other hand, the overall agricultural sales have increased, putting Umatilla County as second on the list of the 2008 year.<sup>156</sup>

Monthly agricultural employment estimates are shown below. Note the labor peaks during the months of June and August. These dates correspond with, among others, the potato, apple and onion harvests taking place during these times.

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2,312	2,32	2,839	3,030	3,177	4,024	3,898	4,277	3,707	3,401	2,619	2,334

There is a relatively consistent need for the migrant and seasonal farmworkers from April through October. Parents have stressed the need for additional Migrant Seasonal Head Start services, specifically a short-term program that begins as early as April or May. A factor in this decision will be some key agricultural developments taking place in Umatilla that will ultimately determine if the need for labor from April through October will remain in the future. Growers are farming with greater efficiency and the need for additional labor will lessen. For example, in eastern Oregon's Malheur County, another potato growing region, growers are increasingly turning to machines for "topping" onions, as well as spraying fields to lessen the need for hand weeding later.

Other commodities include cherries and wine grapes, each of which do not show up in the Oregon Agricultural Information Network's database given the limited number of harvested acres. That said, both cherries and wine grapes are harvested by hand; thus the need for migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

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<sup>154</sup> The Oregonian, [www.oregonlive.com](http://www.oregonlive.com), April 19, 2009

<sup>155</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

<sup>156</sup> Salem News, [www.salem-news.com](http://www.salem-news.com), February 26, 2009





## ► **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Data in Table 5 show the total population of Umatilla County in 2008 to be 73,526 up by .39 percent from 2007 and the total number of children under age four in Polk County in 2008 to be 4,789.

Table 5 also shows the number of individuals (all ages) living in poverty in 2007 in Umatilla County was 15.1 percent and that the 2008 poverty rate for children birth to two years of age was 15.9 percent. The 2008 poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was 15.0 percent.<sup>157</sup> During the 2008-2009 school year, 59.0 percent of students in Umatilla County were eligible for free or reduced lunch (Table 5). Also noteworthy is that in Milton-Freewater, OR 71.8 percent of public school children were eligible for free and reduced lunch.<sup>158</sup> 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.

Umatilla County's 2008 Hispanic population numbered 14,200 which accounted for 19.4 percent of the population (Table 5). In 2007, the Hispanic population numbered 13,835.

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

The Oregon Department of Education estimates there to be 2,134 children between the ages of 3 and 4 living in Umatilla County in 2008.<sup>159</sup> To estimate the total number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 year old children, the Oregon Department of Education multiplied the total number of children in each county by the poverty rate in 2008 for Umatilla County, 15 percent. Thus, the total number of eligible Head Start children in Umatilla County is 320 children<sup>160</sup> Note that Head Start and OPK programs in Umatilla County served 431 children in 2008. Because the 2008 number served by Head Start and OPK programs exceeded the eligible number, it appears that the 320 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 Umatilla County.

## ► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

In 2008, 313 children were enrolled in the Umatilla Migrant Seasonal Head Start program based on income eligibility or public assistance, of which 206 qualified as migrant and 107 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

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<sup>157</sup> Annual Estimates of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

<sup>158</sup> Oregon Department of Education, 2008-2009.

<sup>159</sup> Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

<sup>160</sup> *Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten*, 2009, Oregon Department of Education.



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.<sup>161</sup> Table 2 contains the estimated number of MFW and SFW for four years across an 11 year period from 1997 to 2008.

In Umatilla County the estimated total number of MSFW increased from 5,192 in 1997 to 6,012 in 2002 and, then, decreased to 5,864 in 2005 and increased again in 2008 to 5,879. The numbers reflect a shift in migrant to seasonal workers in the county. It is estimated that in 1997 there were 3,823 MFW in Umatilla County declining to 1,338 in 2008. Estimates indicate there were only 1,369 SFW in 1997 but they increased to 4,540 in 2008.

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 178 migrant children and 1,018 seasonal children in Umatilla County in 2005. The number of estimated migrant children increased slightly to 184 and the number of children from seasonal families increased slightly to 1,034 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 Umatilla County the estimated number of eligible migrant children was 184 and the total number of migrant children served was 206. The estimated numbers of eligible seasonal children was 1,034; the total number of seasonal children served was 107, leaving 927 estimated unserved.** Because the number of migrant children served exceeded the estimated number, it appears that the 184 estimate was an underestimate of the true number of eligible 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 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.

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<sup>161</sup> Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



## EDUCATION

### Adult Education

Of the 253 OCDC Umatilla County parents who reported their level of education on the enrollment form, 62 percent had less than a high school education and 38% were high school graduates.<sup>162</sup>

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

- Blue Mountain Community College has developed an early childhood education program to help meet the educational needs of staff. They also allow the Oregon Child Development Coalition to use meeting rooms at the college to host trainings.
- Blue Mountain Community College also offers adult education classes such as tutoring and adult basis skills programs, including GED preparation, Adult High School Diploma (AHSD), and ESL courses, and Parenting classes.
- A consortium of community colleges headed by Portland Community College and in collaboration with Blue Mountain Community College provides early childhood classes in Spanish.
- The Hermiston Public Library provides a number of programs and related services, including general membership, an Elder Libraries program, the Teen Advisory Council, and the Ready, Set, Zoom! program.
- The Oregon Human Development Corporation (OHDC) has established a farmworker training program in Umatilla County, and their office is located in Hermiston.
- The Portland State University is offering bachelors degrees and early childhood long distance programs on-line.
- Eastern Oregon State University is also offering bachelors degrees and early childhood long distance programs on-line.
- The WIC program is offering classes to staff and parents in health and nutrition.
- ESD offers classes to parents who have children with disabilities.

An interview with the Family & Community Partnership Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County revealed the need for additional adult education courses. While Blue Mountain Community College does offer GED and ESL classes in Spanish, there is still evidence of an interest among some community members for driver's education courses in Spanish, as well as other courses such as sewing, cooking, mechanics, and woodworking. During this interview it was noted that the issue in the past has been the ability to promote greater participation in such courses as there needs to be a sufficient number of people interested before the course can be developed, but parents are more likely to take advantage of the classes when we provide childcare and offer the classes at the centers.

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<sup>162</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



The Associate Vice President from the Milton-Freewater branch of the Blue Mountain Community College has expressed her gratitude of the efforts made to collaborate in this endeavor.

## **Early Childhood Education**

Other programs that serve the migrant population include Migrant Education.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

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

Representatives from the above agencies have determined that to address early childhood education needs the county needs to first tackle such issues as transportation, access to medical and dental care, and employment training. Increasingly, early childhood providers have been frustrated by barriers - namely, health issues - that have impeded their ability in the classroom. One recent positive outcome is a new pediatric dental clinic in Hermiston with services for high needs children with severe dental caries.

During an interview with the WIC coordinator, who will be running the Healthy Start Program for the county, it was said that they would like to have an agreement with the Oregon Child Development Coalition to serve pregnant women and infants receiving services with our program.

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



transition into the public schools, given the different models of learning relative to a Head Start environment.

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

## ► **MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES**

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that 2 children in the Umatilla Center were provided mental health services in 2008. Likewise, 22 children were determined to have a disability in 2008. Of these 22 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.<sup>163</sup>

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

- The Umatilla Morrow Education Service District provides Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education services.
- The Walla Walla School District provides developmental screenings, assessments and observations for children that live in Washington state, using St. Mary's Hospital during the summer months.
- Contracted mental health services are provided on-site by Lifeways, Stepping Stones Consulting, and Environmentalist Inc.
- Parent-to-Parent is a monthly support group for families with children with special needs in Walla Walla, Washington.

Early childhood providers are seeing an increasing number of cases of children with autism and speech delays. Accordingly, additional efforts are being made by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County to grow partnerships that are not only able to accommodate children and families enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program, but which also work to build the capacity of local agencies to effectively respond to such needs.

The Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County noted that additional partnerships are being pursued with Lifeways, in their new office in Milton-Freewater, and the Washington School District for Early Intervention in

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<sup>163</sup> *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Community Assessment - Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program 2009  
State of Oregon and Counties



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

## ► HEALTH & NUTRITION

Data from the 2008 Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information report show that out of 313 children enrolled in the MSHS program in Umatilla County, 305 had health insurance in 2008 with the Oregon Health Plan.<sup>164</sup> Most children received services through a migrant community health center and have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible medical care. Of the families enrolled, 157 received WIC services.<sup>165</sup>

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

- The Umatilla County Health Department provides core public health services, including family planning, disease prevention, investigation, immunization, environmental health, home visiting, and maternal child health, but only in Pendleton two days a week.
- Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic operates the Hermiston Community Health Clinic and the Family Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, providing medical and dental services to children and families. The client base served is predominantly Hispanic and composed of primary Spanish speakers.
- Good Shepherd Health Care System provides health and emergency services in Umatilla County. Of the more than 75,000 visits received annually, more than 11 percent are from Hispanic patients.
- St. Anthony Hospital provides a range of services including nutrition, home and occupational health, and emergency services. The hospital also operates a family birth center and provides interpretation for clients.
- Dr. Nacacio provides dental screenings and treatment to children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program at the center in Hermiston, Oregon.
- Dr. Schroeder provides dental screenings to children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program at the center in Milton-Freewater, Oregon.
- Dr. Hamilton at Pediatric clinic in Hermiston, providing services for high risk dental caries.
- Tooth-Taxis from the Dental Foundation in Oregon and the Walla Walla, Washington area come out to the elementary schools to provide services, such as digital x-rays, fillings, cleanings, and varnishes.

In another interview with the Family Services and Health Services Supervisor for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County it was noted that there currently a great collaboration with a new pediatric dentists in the area. Families are still experiencing barriers in simply getting to local appointments, given limited public transportation in the area. Currently, efforts are focused on assembling information on transportation resources in the community and disseminating it to parents to assist them in getting to medical and dental appointments.

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<sup>164</sup> *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.

<sup>165</sup> *Program Information Report*, Oregon Child Development Coalition, 2008.





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

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

## **FAMILY SERVICES**

In 2008, 2 OCDC families in Umatilla County received benefits under the TANF program, and the agency responded to a range of family needs, the most common being parenting education, ESL needs, adult education, emergency/crisis intervention, and housing assistance.<sup>166</sup>

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

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County has developed an interagency agreement with the local Child Care Resource and Referral provider to facilitate referrals.
- The Oregon Department of Human Services has offices in Umatilla County providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Shelter services in Umatilla County are provided by Domestic Violence Services.
- CAPECO Food Share boasts 12 food pantries, 2 emergency meal programs and 2 supplemental programs. Each month, 20,620 food boxes are distributed, serving some 4,492 individuals.<sup>167</sup>
- CAPECO also provides community services to over 4,000 persons in need annually, including energy assistance, case management, emergency services, workforce training, and aging services.
- Other food providers include Bread Basket which helps families in need.
- AGAPE House provides food, clothing, other basic household needs, and housing.
- Adventist Community Services provides families with clothing, household items, and other basic family needs.
- Adult and Family Services also handles referrals for families in need.

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<sup>166</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.

<sup>167</sup> *Regional Food Banks at a Glance*, 2008, Oregon Food Bank.



- Wilcox Storage provides for families in need of furniture.
- Local school districts provide a Homeless Liaison for school age students.
- The Western Umatilla-North Morrow County Hispanic Community Project works to implement community projects that address the concerns of the Hispanic community.
- The Oregon Human Development Corporation provides education, job opportunities, and housing.

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

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

## ► **CHILDCARE**

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following information on child care in Umatilla County in 2008. There were 1,502 slots in child care and education centers and 794 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Umatilla had 18 per 100 children. It was also reported that 456 children age 0-12 received state assistance (through DHS) with part of all of their child care costs.<sup>168</sup>

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

- Operated by Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, Childcare Resource and Referral had 439 parent requests in the last 12 months, as of August 2009.
- Twenty-one (21) certified childcare centers operate throughout Umatilla County, most of which are located in Hermiston, Oregon.
- Approximately 71 family childcare homes operate throughout Umatilla County, with many of these located in Hermiston, Oregon, and Pendleton, Oregon. Four of these providers are primary Spanish speakers.

<sup>168</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.



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

Also of issue was the need to continue to position local childcare providers as *professionals* in the community. During a focus group with parents of program participants, it was noted that one childcare selection criteria parents are using is whether a childcare provider has some focus on education. Thus, Childcare Resource and Referral continues to focus on training, environment and business planning with childcare providers so as to build the level of professionalism among local childcare providers. Likewise, local childcare providers expressed an interest in receiving information from the Oregon Child Development Coalition about upcoming trainings and events that could benefit their business.

## **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

There were 2 labor camps in Umatilla County for 2006 and 2 in 2008. The total labor camp occupancy was 473 in 2006 and 475 in 2008.<sup>169</sup>

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing housing and related services in Umatilla County.

- Multiple apartment complexes, including Orchard Homes (140 total units) in Milton-Freewater, cater to low-income and farmworker families.
- There are 48 manufactured home parks in Umatilla County, with the majority of parks located in Hermiston, Milton-Freewater, and Pendleton. Total capacity is 1,396 spaces.
- CAPECO provides energy assistance services to families in need in Umatilla County, providing services on site in Milton-Freewater.
- The Housing Authority of Umatilla County provides a range of housing and assistance programs including voucher assistance and public housing.
- Foxwood Apartments, with 60 new apartments for low income families, opened in 2008.

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

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<sup>169</sup> Agricultural Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2006-2008  
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At the other end of Umatilla County, in Milton-Freewater, city officials noted that they have multiple housing programs available, with several programs where recipients work 30 hours per week to construct their own homes. Currently there are only a few slots left, but still participation is quite low, with many simply turning down the opportunity to build a new home, perhaps demonstrating that programs which require that participants miss work are not necessarily the most effective in addressing the need for affordable housing in Umatilla County.

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

- The City of Milton-Freewater provides public transportation services between Milton-Freewater and Walla Walla, Washington, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- Transportation services are available to those covered by the Oregon Health Plan.
- Taxi services available in both Milton-Freewater and Hermiston.
- For training purposes, the Oregon Department of Transportation provides core trainings for bus drivers and substitutes. Further, Oregon OSHA has worked with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Umatilla County to provide on-site evaluations, as well as with the Safety Committee in the area of operations and additional trainings.

During an interview, it was stated that limited community participation exists concerning transportation in the Umatilla County. An interest was expressed in bringing in a greater cross-section of community members to discuss how to implement services in the future.

During an interview with the Family and Health Services Supervisor it was noted that many families struggle with transportation, especially if they need to go from Milton-Freewater to Hermiston for services. If the family has a medical card for emergencies only, this does not cover transportation in general. More discussion is needed about providing transportation between Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, and Hermiston.



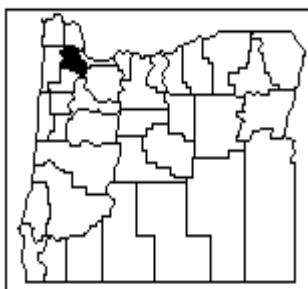
## WASHINGTON COUNTY

### COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Washington County improves the lives of children and families primarily through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start and Oregon Pre-Kindergarten Head Start programs, as well through as other programs and initiatives, including Even Start, whereby the agency works to promote family literacy.

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. In 2008, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Washington County served 453 total migrant and seasonal children and their families with 299 identified as migrant and 154 identified as seasonal. The program also offers an Oregon PreKindergarten Head Start program.

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Washington County currently employs a center-based option, serving children from five locations in and around Cornelius, Oregon. The short-term program runs 17 weeks from the end of May through September, operating 34 classrooms, 5 days per week from 5 am to 5 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from April through November operating 7 classrooms, 5 days per week from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm.



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

### **CRITICAL ISSUES**

#### **► POPULATION GROWTH AND ENROLLMENT**

Enrollment has been higher this year. Families arrived earlier than crops were ready and have remained in the program for the duration of the summer. Centers serving migrant camp families have been fully enrolled.



## **COUNTY PROFILE**

### **► GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Spanning 727 square miles, Washington County is located in the northwestern portion of Oregon near Oregon's largest city, Portland, and near the Oregon-Washington border. Once favored by Hudson Bay trappers for its beaver population, the county, originally named Twality, was established in 1843 and was changed to its current name, Washington, in 1849 by the Territorial Legislature in honor of President George Washington.<sup>170</sup>

Located west of the city of Portland, Washington County ranks as one of the three fastest growing counties in Oregon. This growth has been fueled by several factors. First, Washington County is situated between urban areas such as Portland and the less than one-hour drive to Oregon's scenic coastline. Second, industry leaders such as Nike, Intel and Tektronix call Washington County home making both Beaverton and Hillsboro two of Oregon's largest cities.

### **► 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 Washington County was \$39,844, which falls above the 50th percentile when compared with all other counties across Oregon. In fact, this figure ranks above both those for Oregon (\$36,492) and the United States (\$39,209). Unemployment (see Table 1) in Washington County has moved from 5.9 percent in 2007 and 5.1 percent in 2008 to 9.9 percent in July 2009.

The labor peak corresponds with the berry harvests during the summer months, beginning with strawberries. Interviews with local strawberry producers revealed that strawberries were approximately 7-10 days late this year, noting that it takes 1,135 "heat degree days" - defined as the total number of hours during which the temperature falls above specific benchmarks - for strawberries to mature in the Willamette Valley, an area that includes Washington County. Following strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries are harvested, lasting into September and October when growers will transition into harvesting wine grapes and preparing for Christmas trees.

The berry production of strawberries, blackberries and raspberries is declining. However, unlike strawberries, growers are harvesting blackberries and raspberries with greater efficiency, increasing the use of berry cultivars that are able to be harvested by machine. They are doing so as international competition has increased, most notably with Chile and countries in Eastern Europe. In fact, at a recent grower's summit hosted by the Oregon Farm Bureau, an entire work session was spent identifying major international competitors, as well as new berry cultivars, that could help growers remain competitive. Such innovations are no doubt controversial, with growers noting that once they increase the use of machines, they do not expect to go back to harvesting by hand.

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<sup>170</sup> Oregon Blue Book, 2008.





Washington County's nursery and greenhouse industries are increasingly the barometer of where agriculture is heading. As one of the top counties for nursery and greenhouse sales in the state, Washington County has shown consistent growth in this area that has had the effect of keeping seasonal farmworkers in the area given more stable employment for up to 10-11 months. Likewise, wine production in Washington County continues to grow, often accompanied by aggressive marketing, promoting wine tours and tasting throughout western Washington County.

## ► **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

The total population in 2008 of Washington County (see Table 5) is reported to be to be 529,216 up by 1.81 percent from 2007. Table 5 also indicates the total number of children under age four in Washington County in 2008 to be 15,667.

The US Census and Oregon Department of Education data indicate the number of individuals living in poverty in 2007 in Washington was 8.6 percent. The 2008 poverty rate for children ages 3 and 4 was at 11.3<sup>171</sup> percent and for children birth to two years of age at 15 percent. During the 2008-09 school year, 35.1 percent of students in Washington County were eligible for free or reduced lunch (Table 5).

## ► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

In 2008, 453 children in Washington County were enrolled with OCDC on the basis of public assistance or income eligibility, of which 299 were in the Migrant Program and 154 were in the Seasonal Program. Overall, program participants in the counties were of Hispanic or Latino origin, which includes persons of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South and Central American or other Latino culture or origin.

Table 5 displays the Hispanic composition of the population in Washington County which is reported to be 76,581 Hispanic residents in 2007 and 80,515 in 2008 which represents a 5.14 percent increase. The majority of these were primary Spanish speakers, with additional program participants as primary English speakers and 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. Increasingly, the Oregon Child Development Coalition of Washington County has served indigenous families and continues to develop partnerships to support this population.

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

The Oregon Department of Education estimates there to be 15,667 total children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Washington County in 2008.<sup>172</sup> To estimate the 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 Washington County, 11.3 percent.

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<sup>171</sup> Oregon Department of Education: Annual Estimate of Eligible 3 and 4 year olds 2009

<sup>172</sup> Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.



Thus, the 2008 total number of eligible Head Start children in Washington County was 1,774 children. Given 1,146 were served by Head Start programs, means that an estimated 628 were unserved.<sup>173</sup>

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 Washington County.

## ► 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.<sup>174</sup> Table 2 contains the estimated number of MFW and SFW for four years across an 11 year period from 1997 to 2008.

Table 2 indicates that in Washington County the estimated total number of MSFW decreased from 8,589 in 1997 to 6,205 in 2002, and then increased to 7,096 in 2005 and remained at the low 7,000 level in 2008. The numbers show a dramatic shift in migrant to seasonal workers in the county. It is estimated that in 1997 there were 6,172 MFW in Washington County declining to 2,475 in 2008. Estimates indicate there to have been only 2,417 SFW in 1997 with an increase to 4,527 in 2008.

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 notes there were 378 migrant children and 1,173 seasonal children in Washington County in 2005. The numbers of estimated migrant children decreased slightly to 376 and the numbers of children from seasonal families increased slightly to 1,195 in 2008.

Table 8 includes the 2008 number of estimated eligible, served, and estimated unserved for each county where services are provided by ODCD. **In Washington County the estimated number of eligible migrant children is 376 and the total number of migrant children served is 29, meaning 77 migrant children are estimated to be unserved. The estimated number of eligible seasonal children is 1,195 and the total number of seasonal children served is 154, meaning 1,041 seasonal children are estimated to be unserved.**

## **STRENGTHS AND 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

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<sup>173</sup> Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds, Oregon Department of Education, 2009.

<sup>174</sup> Alice C. Larson, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002, Larson Assistance Services.



each subsection to construct a framework for specific strengths and needs. Internal data is then used at the close of each subsection 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, 321 parents reported their level of education on the enrollment form, with 83% having less than a high school education for the Washington OCDC center.<sup>175</sup>

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

- OCDC utilizes Centro Cultural as a community resource for referring families who are seeking training opportunities.
- The Washington County Sheriff's Office provides education programs, including driver's education courses. All courses are offered in English and Spanish.
- Forest Grove Public Library offers literacy programs for adult and children and OCDC works collaboratively with the Library to support literacy goals for families.
- Forest Grove School District has programs to support families seeking literacy skills for parents and school age children. OCDC refers families to this community resource.

The 2008 Parent's Interest Questionnaires indicated an interest in Parenting Classes and English classes as well as an interest in learning about early childhood curriculum. As noted above, families are referred to the literacy and bilingual programs at the Forest Grove Library and the Forest Grove School District and OCDC collaborate to offer parents these critical classes.

### **Early Childhood Education**

In the area of early childhood education, the Oregon Child Development Coalition has an interagency agreement with Community Action Head Start, currently funded to serve 807 Early Head Start and Head Start children in Washington County.

Other programs that serve the migrant population include Migrant Education in the following school districts: Forest Grove, Banks, Gaston, Hillsboro and Beaverton. As all but the latter are located in or near western Washington County, these figures attest to the fact that a greater number of migrant families are living and working more rural areas.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- Community Action Head Start of Washington County (Region X Head Start) and the Oregon Child Development Coalition of Washington County have developed an

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<sup>175</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



interagency agreement, which focuses on jointly implementing strategies in such areas as recruitment, transitions, health, disabilities, and training and technical assistance.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition operates PODER - Spanish for “power” or “strength” - serving 20-25 families annually, as part of the Western Washington County Literacy Collaborative to increase communication skills through family education and prepare both children and families to enter kindergarten.
- The Northwest Regional Education Service District provides a range of education and support services to children, families and local providers.
- The Washington County Cooperative Library Services joins 12 local libraries and offers a number of children’s programs, including a summer reading program and a lending library. They also work with Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, providing outreach to farmworkers living in farm labor camps and are working to continue building capacity in this area.
- OCDC’s ERSEA and Community Partnership Supervisor works closely with the Virginia Garcia staff for recruiting families for the program. Joint visits are made to the camp to both conduct enrollment appointments for OCDC and provide information about health services at the Virginia Garcia Clinic. Families who live in the camps, interviewed for this assessment, indicate that they are able to obtain good medical services from the Virginia Garcia Clinic. A Nurse Practitioner is hired by OCDC on a contracted basis for the Migrant Short Term Program, providing health services to enrolled children while they are attending the Head Start Program. Continued health services and referrals to the extended family take place at the Virginia Garcia.
- The OCDC Program Director or designee participates in the monthly Washington County Childhood Care and Education Advisory Committee

Early Childhood Education services continue to provide high quality, developmentally appropriate teaching and classroom environments. Families continue to express appreciation for the Dual Language model and the preparation their children are receiving for school. Teacher recruiting has improved due to the downturn in the economy and Public Schools experiencing layoff of staff. Several teachers with BA and MA degrees have been hired. The recent reauthorization mandate to hire teachers with degrees has also caused OCDC to restructure the salary scale for Teacher IV positions. This increase in pay has made OCDC more competitive in the local market attracting qualified teachers who are seeking year round employment.

## ► MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

Data from the OCDC’s Program Information Report show that 19 children in Washington County were provided mental health services in 2008. Likewise, 17 children were determined to have a disability in 2008. Primary disabilities included speech or language impairments, hearing and non-categorical developmental delays.<sup>176</sup>

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

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<sup>176</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Washington County shares an interagency agreement with Early Intervention.
- Lifework provides a contracted mental health consultant focusing on stress management and parenting skills, including *Incredible Years* parenting classes. Additionally, under Lifeworks, outreach workers - or *promotoras* - make home visits to work with parents and children.
- Morrison Child and Family Services provides consultation and referral services to the Oregon Child Development Coalition
- For six years, St. Alexander's Catholic Church in Cornelius has been offering targeted church services (e.g., Mass) for families with children with disabilities, serving approximately 25 families each week.
- OrFIRST works with the agency as well to provide a support group and education for the parents of children with disabilities.

Representatives from the above noted that there is a need for more bilingual mental health professionals, especially in Washington County where a large percentage of the population is Spanish speaking. There is an additional need for bilingual mental health professionals who are interested, experienced, and trained in the area of early childhood education. Connecting families to groups in the community is a focus of OCDC. Establishing partnerships and finding new resources for families of children with mental health and disability issues is a focus for the Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator. Funding in many community programs has been reduced or eliminated the past year and the need for further collaboration among many partners remains our focus.

## ► **HEALTH & NUTRITION**

In 2008, 453 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Washington County. Of these 239 had health insurance and were on 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. An influencing factor to consider is that many of the children in Washington County children have medical insurance from California and the Family Service Workers and Family Advocates are looking at who has Oregon insurance when they answered the PIR. Only about 10% of the children in the program are foreign born and do not have any insurance. The good news is existence of excellent community partnerships to provide health care for the children. Specifically, the contract with the Virginia Garcia Clinic and an onsite Nurse Practitioner provide this support. Additionally, Virginia Garcia Clinic works with any eligible Seasonal families to enroll them in OHP. The number of families receiving WIC services in Washington County OCDC was 241.

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

- The Washington County Health Department provides core public health services, including family planning, disease prevention, investigation, immunization, environmental health, home visiting, and maternal child health.



- The Oregon Health and Sciences University provides patient care and education in Washington County, receiving over 250,000 visits annually, 79 percent of which were only partially or not reimbursable.
- Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center provides medical, dental and onsite services to families of low income including migrant and seasonal workers. Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center is currently partnering with Tuality Healthcare to increase capacity, with plans to expand offices onto the campus of Tuality Healthcare.
- Tuality Healthcare, with support from their foundation, offers a range of services, including health classes, prenatal care outreach, and other initiatives including partnering with local parishes to identify those parishioners with medical backgrounds to serve as resources in the community. They also provide meeting space to local non-profit organizations.
- Pacific University, in partnership with Tuality Healthcare and Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, has developed a Hillsboro office for the College of Health Professions on the campus of Tuality Healthcare. Degrees offered will include the fields nursing and dental sciences.
- In partnership with Kaiser Permanente, the Washington County Department of Health operates the Essential Health Clinic which focuses on screenings and referrals. They are open on Monday and Thursday in the afternoon/evening and are looking to expand into Tigard, Oregon.
- Northwest Medical Teams and Dr. April Love provide additional dental services and support to families.

The Community Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) meetings have reported that lack of affordable medical and dental services still continues to be an issue for families. OCDC has seen some improvement in the overall dental health of enrolled children. Dr. April Love provides in-kind dental prevention and diagnostic services for enrolled children. Her services include application of fluoride varnish and dental exams with referrals to local clinics. Additionally, classroom staff provide tooth brushing following all meals and work with parents to understand the importance of good dental care. Because of these services there has been a decreased number of severe dental issues seen in prior years. The Tooth Taxi, a volunteer mobile dental office staffed by community dentists, was scheduled for two visits to OCDC. The Tooth Taxi provided free restorative dental care to enrolled children and siblings. The Tooth Taxi was located at our Linden Center site. In 2008, 453 children were enrolled and only 54 were identified as needing care. Of this group 46 received treatments.

Washington County receives a full immunization audit by the Washington County Health Department in July. For 2008 we had 100% immunization compliance for all enrolled children. The success of this 100% accomplishment is the result of collaboration with Central Office Lead Health and Family Services Specialist, County staff, and the Virginia Garcia Clinic working after hours to provide a free immunization clinic for the families in the program.

A focus group with parents of program participants revealed that the majority of parents utilize Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Clinic for care and, in the event that they do not have insurance, are utilizing the option to pay in installments. They also noted that in some cases





providers have not been able to accommodate new patients, thereby requiring that families wait for appointments, thereby limiting the reach of preventive care and forcing some individuals to seek care only when extensive treatment is needed such as in a medical or dental emergency.

## ► FAMILY SERVICES

The number of families receiving TANF funds was 15 in Washington OCDC.<sup>177</sup>

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 Washington County.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Washington County 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 Washington County providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- The Oregon Food Bank's Washington County Services provides ongoing support for families experiencing a shortage of food. Recently donations have decreased and the number of families in need has increased.
- Local leadership opportunities and memberships for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Washington County includes the Oregon Childhood Care and Education Coordinating Council, the Oregon Department of Human Services' Child Care Task Force, and Latino social service provider networks.
- The Domestic Violence Resource Center provides information and shelter services to victims of domestic abuse and their children.
- The Washington County Sheriff's Office provides information and referral services in both English and Spanish focusing primarily on education and driver training.
- Oregon Human Development Corporation (OHDC) and OCDC have an interagency agreement and OCDC serves as a work training placement site for OHC. Their goal is to provide economic and social advancement for farm workers by teaching and training new skills in other markets.
- Adelante Mujeres is a social service agency whose mission is to provide holistic education and empowerment for low income Latina women. Mothers enrolled in OCDC access support from this agency.
- Northwest Children's Organization: Provides basic needs to families such as baby clothing, diapers, formula, and furniture.

Representatives from the above agencies noted that families - especially primary Spanish speaking families - experience barriers when attempting to access services. These include not only linguistic and cultural barriers, but also financial barriers such as the inability to pay.

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<sup>177</sup> Program Information Report, OCDC, 2008.



Oregon Child Development Coalition in Washington County has made efforts to coordinate recruitment and referrals with local services agencies (e.g., the Oregon Department of Human Services and Community Action Organization), as well as with growers in California and Texas. These relationships are especially important as agricultural changes unfold which will continue to affect the number of migrant families coming to the area each year.

Responding to the prior Community Assessment, which indicated that Oregon Child Development Coalition needed increased community visibility, the management team developed a new Recruiting Plan and strategy. Teams of staff members went to all areas of the community in door to door recruiting and distributed enrollment literature. During the door to door recruiting intake workers started the intake process and promptly scheduled enrollment appointments at the Center. New brochures and other marketing tools have been developed. A Community Partner breakfast has been held the past two years at OCDC to meet with others and share our agencies goals and objectives for the year. Both of these initiatives have improved our visibility in the community, thus attributing to higher enrollment numbers in all programs.

## **CHILDCARE**

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership reports the following 2008 information on child care in Washington County. There were 13,483 slots in child care and education centers and 5,467 slots in family child care. Oregon's goal is to have 25 visible slots for every 100 children and Washington had 19 per 100 children. It was also reported that 1,934 children age 0-12 received state assistance, through DHS, with part of all of their child care costs.<sup>178</sup>

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

- Childcare Resource and Referral in Washington County seeks to make approximately 2,000 referrals annually. They also provide childcare provider trainings, as well as Child Development Associates (CDA) courses.

Affordability, accessibility, and transportation are noted as barriers for families who need childcare. Extended hours of care are provided during the Migrant Short Term program with Head Start hours accounting for 6 hours of service and Child Care Division (CCD) wrap around childcare for the additional 6 hours of the 12 hour day of service. An extension of the program has been provided for the past 3 years providing CCD eligible families with 5-6 extra weeks of services at OCDC.

## **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

Washington County affords a certain image of affluence that tends to overshadow a growing underclass of service and agricultural workers. It is perhaps this image of affluence that prevents certain vital services from reaching those most in need. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in the area of transportation. Eastern Washington County is serviced the Tri-County

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<sup>178</sup> Child Care and Education in Oregon and its Counties: 2008, prepared by the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership OSU.



Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet), with frequent bus and light rail service to the Portland metro area and new routes planned primarily according to office and retail employment. Western Washington County, however, has no such services, a frequent concern mentioned by local service providers and parents during individual interviews and focus groups.

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

- TriMet links eastern Washington County with the Portland metro area, serving 575 square miles and is seeing growing ridership by 16 percent annually.<sup>179</sup> TriMet also provides travel trainings and services through Ride Connection.
- Ride Connection offers individualized transportation services such as U-Ride, a shared ride system designed to provide a partial solution to the absence of public transportation in western Washington County. Providing approximately 27,000 rides in west Washington County in 2005, U-Ride offers Job Access services for low-income commuters living in remote rural locations.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Washington County continues to work with the Oregon Department of Education's Pupil Transportation on training bus drivers. Funds have recently been secured by OCDC to provide bus driver training for current staff members. Additionally, a training program for parents which includes the opportunity to train and be tested for a bus driver position will begin in September 2009.

As mentioned earlier in this assessment, Washington County is growing, seeing an influx of individuals from California and other areas of the country.

The following is a breakdown of the types of housing and the agencies providing housing the related services in Washington County.

- At least 22 apartment complexes in Washington County cater to low-income and farmworker families, including the Montebella, the Jose Arciga Apartments and Elm Park Apartments. Overall, there are at least 2,344 units.
- There are 45 manufactured home parks in Washington County, 19 of which are located in western Washington County.
- Washington County Housing Services provides assistance to 13,000 individuals each year through rental assistance, self-sufficiency programs, and services to non-English speakers.
- The Housing Development Corporation of Washington County (HDC) is a 16-year-old nonprofit organization
- Community Action Organization's Housing and Homeless Services provides shelter services to 20-25 families, with representatives from the program noting that both space and rental assistance are limited.

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<sup>179</sup> Ridership Statistics and Demographics, 2006, TriMet



There were 12 labor camps in Washington County for 2006 and 10 in 2008. The total labor camp occupancy was 1,356 in 2006 and 1,034 in 2008.<sup>180</sup> The lack of affordable housing continues to be a key issue for low-income and farmworking families in Washington County, particularly those on the brink of being homeless. It has been reported that predatory home loans which required no down payments have forced many families into foreclosure. Some are unable to afford rent and shared that they have moved into apartments with extended family members to afford the rent.

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<sup>180</sup> Agricultural Labor Housing Registry, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, 2006-2008.  
Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Community Assessment - Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program 2009  
State of Oregon and Counties



## **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
<b>Oregon</b>	≈4,464	1,803	≈2,661	≈14,154	916	≈13,238
<b>OCDC Counties</b>						
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
<b>Total OCDC Counties</b>	≈3,679	1,803	≈1,876	≈11,856	916	≈10,940
<b>Total Unserved Counties</b>	≈785	0	≈785	≈2,298	0	≈2,298
<b>Selected Unserved Counties</b>						
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.

