

Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families by providing early childhood education, care and advocacy with unique and supportive services to enhance family growth and community success. Operating as a private, non-profit corporation, OCDC's defined service area includes Oregon and border areas of nearby states, with administrative offices located in Wilsonville. Current funding supports service delivery for thirteen counties in Oregon for programs including: Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) / Early Head Start (EHS), Oregon Prekindergarten (OPK), Oregon Early Head Start (OEHS), and Maternal Infant Early Childhood Education and Home Visiting (MIECHV) programs. Assessment of child, family and community needs determines specific programming for the individual sites.

Key Issues Facing HS and EHS Eligible Families in OCDC's Service Area

Oregonians continue to become *less likely to meet basic needs*, including access to food, housing, and transportation. **In Jefferson and Malheur Counties, 1 out of every 3 children live in poverty.** In 8 of 13 counties OCDC serves, more than 1 out of every 4 children lives below the poverty line. **Yet childcare costs continue to rise.** Risks impacting the general population and Hispanics/Latinos¹ are assumed to be ***more pronounced among Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers***, exacerbated by extremely poor living conditions, high stressors (e.g., poverty, domestic violence, food insecurity, and sexual violence), and health risks associated with pesticide exposure, hunger/malnutrition, stress, and undocumented status.

Demographic Make-up of Eligible Children and Pregnant Women

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

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

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

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

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

In 2013 crop-based agriculture wage average in Oregon is \$21,973, with a low of \$10,217 in strawberries and a high of \$29,370 in potatoes.⁵ In 2011, the statewide average annual income was \$19,022 for OCDC families in Federally Funded programs and \$15,491 for OCDC families in State Funded programs.

The table below provides estimates related to eligibility for OCDC’s Head Start Programs, children ages 0-5 living at or below the Federal Poverty Line, children ages 0-5 of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers, and pregnant women in poverty.

Estimated Numbers of Head Start Eligible Children

County	Estimated Head Start Income-Eligible Children		Estimated Numbers of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) Children, Ages 0-5			Estimated Number of Pregnant Women in Poverty (Resident Births * Poverty Rate) ^{iv}
	Child Poverty Rate (2011) ⁱⁱ	Est. Number of Children Ages 0-5 in Poverty	2013 Total MSFW Rank	% Change from 2002 Est.	2013 Est. Number of MSFW Children Ages 0-5 ⁱⁱⁱ	
Clackamas	15.9%	3,296	4	-21.1%	2,571	438
Hood River	23.2%	341	3	-32.3%	2,766	43
Jackson	27.3%	3,268	9	2.2%	1,807	446
Jefferson	33.3%	514	20	-70.1%	172	56
Klamath	30.8%	1,198	17	1.0%	322	176
Malheur	35.0%	761	6	16.5%	2,187	96
Marion	30.6%	7,047	1	-27.5%	4,797	890
Morrow	23.0%	184	11	202.1%	1,265	26
Multnomah	26.1%	12,286	14	-5.7%	622	1,816
Polk	18.7%	842	10	2.4%	1,749	122
Umatilla	25.9%	1,413	8	-16.1%	2,056	196
Wasco	25.8%	401	7	-39.2%	2,075	51
Washington	16.0%	6,046	5	-14.0%	2,458	912
Yamhill	20.3%	1,262	2	31.9%	3,015	157
Oregon	23.4%	54,747		-12.9%	31,833	7,750

i. U.S. Census Bureau. 2012 “Estimates for Oregon Counties: Under age 18 in poverty, 2011, “Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/statecounty/data/2011.htm> Reported in Children First for Oregon. 2013. 2012 County Data Book: Status of Oregon's Children. www.cffo.org.

ii. U.S. Census Bureau, 2011. Macartney, S. and L. Mykyta. November 2012 American Community Survey. Poverty and Shared Households by State: 2011. American Community Survey Briefs. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/acsbr11-05.pdf>.

iii. OCDC calculation based on Larson, Alice C. May 2013. Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study, Oregon Update. Larson Assistance Services. www.oregon.gov/oha/OHPR/PCO/Pages/index.aspx.

iv. Resident Births: Oregon Health Authority, Public Health. 2014. Oregon Resident Births by County and Zip Code, 2010 – 2012. <http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/birth/Pages/zipcnty.aspx>. Poverty Rate: Oregon Department of Human Services, Children, Adults and Families Division. 2013. Oregon Self Sufficiency and Child Welfare Data Charts - March 2013. www.oregon.gov/dhs/assistance/Pages/data/main.aspx.

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

In general, the numbers and information from county service provision indicate a continued decreasing number of Migrants offset by people “settling out” to become Seasonal Farmworkers. At the same time, definitions of “Seasonal” vs. “Migrant” do not fit OCDC outreach worker reports about how families are living. In order to keep their children in a stable environment, one parent may migrate, or both parents may follow short-term migrant work, leaving their children behind – perhaps with family, perhaps with non-relatives. While one or both parents might be engaged in “migrant” work – with related family instability, the children might only qualify for “seasonal” programming because the whole family is not moving together.

OCDC PIR data from January 2012 through May 2013 indicate that 93 families (2.9%) in the MSHS program reported their primary home language as Native Central American, South American, or Mexican (not Spanish), with an additional 114 families (3.6%) listed as unspecified. Recent ethnographic research details structural vulnerabilities faced by indigenous migrant farmworkers in the Pacific Northwest that impact the type of work (e.g., outdoor vs. indoor; kneeling vs. standing vs. sitting). Farm hierarchies place indigenous workers in positions with the greatest health risks.⁶

Impact to OCDC: Estimates indicate extensive potential unmet need for wrap-around services to Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker families. Currently categorized “Seasonal” children may display developmental or emotional characteristics similar to those of “Migrant” children. Indigenous migrant farmworkers likely face greater health and sexual violence risks.

Recommendations: Look at implementing site-based services in Morrow County, possibly in Boardman. Prioritize determination of key locations for service provision in Yamhill County. Investigate possible partnership(s) with local colleges to provide short-term Migrant services during the orchard crop harvest in Cove, Oregon (Union County). Conduct further, systematic assessment of how Farmworker families balance access to work against the needs of their children. Assess service delivery in Seasonal programs to determine service needs and solutions for children who have parents who migrate for work. Advocate at the national level for implementation of language/categorization that more accurately fits West Coast farmworkers. Expand outreach efforts to and assess the specific needs of indigenous migrant farmworker communities.

Other Child Development Programs

Costs for child care have increased while household incomes have decreased. The current cost of toddler care is about 60% of a minimum wage income.⁷ Quality, affordable childcare remains a

⁶ Holmes, Seth M. 2013. *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*. University of California Press. Holmes, Seth M. 2011. Structural Vulnerability and Hierarchies of Ethnicity and Citizenship on the Farm. *Medical Anthropology: Cross-Cultural Studies in Health and Illness*, 30:4, 425-449.

⁷ Weber, Bobbie. May 2013. Child Care and Education in Oregon and Its Counties: 2012. Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University. <http://health.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/occrp/pdf/state-profile-child-care-and-education-in-oregon-and-its-counties-2012.pdf>. Accessed June 2013. Citing data from: Us

priority across the state, with an emphasis on: infant/toddler care, late and weekend hours, and serving families earning above the maximum income for Head Start services.

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

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

Children with Disabilities and Related Resources

The following table lists the numbers of children served by state Early Intervention (ages 0-2) and Early Childhood Special Education (ages 3-5).

Oregon Department of Education Identified Children with Disabilities

County	Early Intervention (EI) Services (Ages 0-2) Child Count	Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Services (Ages 3-5) Child Count
Clackamas	327	682
Hood River	29	68
Jackson	226	350
Jefferson	23	40
Klamath	56	147
Malheur	35	50
Marion	220	706
Morrow	16	43
Multnomah	612	1,253
Polk	32	83
Umatilla	59	173
Wasco	22	85
Washington	453	1,044

Oregon exhibits extreme deficits in the level of services provided to young children (ages 0-5) with identified disabilities. 72.1% of infants and toddlers with identified disabilities are not receiving service level standard care. 30% of low need preschoolers, 99% of moderate need preschoolers, and 96.5% of high need preschoolers are not receiving service level standard care.⁸

Census, ACS B 19126, 2011, 3-Year Estimate for Oregon inflation adjusted for 2012. Grobe, D. & Weber, R. 2012 *Oregon Child Care Market Price Study*. Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, OSU.

⁸ Calculated using data from: Oregon Department of Education. 2012. Annual Performance Progress Report for Fiscal Year (2011 – 2012). <http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/data/2012appr.pdf>

This level of deficit in service delivery does not touch the untold numbers of *unidentified* young children with disabilities.

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

Recommendations: Assess the current percent of children with disabilities served with service level standard care by OCDC programs. Prioritize training, technical assistance, and coaching to identify disabilities and to improve standard level service delivery to children with disabilities. Strengthen partnerships with Local Education Agencies and other community providers to increase delivery of disabilities services in OCDC centers. Increase enrollment of children with disabilities by collaborating with agencies in migrant farmworkers' home base communities in California, implementing faster eligibility processes for migrant farmworkers, and partnering with EI/ESCE agencies to identify children with disabilities who are eligible for OCDC services.

Health, Education, Nutrition, and Social Service Needs

Inability to Meet Basic Needs

1. Transportation issues impact the ability of OCDC families and staff statewide to access food, healthcare, social services, and educational opportunities. Challenges include: limited or *no* public transportation, ongoing changes to accessibility of legal driving permits, distance required to access services, and the continued high cost of gas. These challenges are even more pronounced in rural communities.
2. Farmworker housing presents challenges from substandard living conditions to inability to comply with heightened OSHA regulations. With many families struggling to find access to affordable, safe housing options, homelessness remains a high concern.
3. Obesity and Food Insecurity present flip sides related to overlapping concerns of: the increasing cost of food and other basic needs, food insecurity, food deserts, and increasing use of SNAP and food banks. People experiencing food insecurity may tend to eat high calorie, low nutrition “filler foods.” The result can be malnutrition leading to obesity, diabetes, and other chronic health conditions.

In the largest scientific study of the relationship between childhood trauma and health and social well-being, researchers found that the total number of reported ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences, which are related to abuse, neglect and household dysfunction) is the *leading* determinant of health and social well-being among adults.⁹ The children and families OCDC

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prevalence of Individual Adverse Childhood Experiences. <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/prevalence.html>. Accessed June 2014.

Felitti, Vince. 2006. Adverse Childhood Experiences – 13 minute version. Academy on Violence and Abuse. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQwJCWPG478>. Accessed June 2014.

serves face an extraordinary degree and prevalence of trauma – whether through the dangers of crossing the border, vulnerability due to the lack of alternatives and/or immigration status and working in remote areas, the sheer stress of economic challenges, or a myriad of other risk factors. Statewide concerns include: increasing use of or requests for mental health care for issues such as stress and the impacts of domestic violence, and the interconnections between substance abuse and domestic violence / child abuse. Additionally, national level research by Southern Poverty Law Center, Frontline (Public Broadcasting System), and Human Rights Watch has described endemic sexual violence toward women farmworkers, with undocumented workers facing the highest risks.

Research from the Family Life Project indicates that for poor rural families jobs tend to be low wage, with few benefits, nonstandard or irregular work hours, resulting in “meager resources for children and their families while reducing the available and predictable time parents can spend with their children.” Associated cumulative risks were identified as “the most powerful predictor of children’s cognitive development.”¹⁰

Impact to OCDC: The families OCDC serves – as well as their broader communities – are experiencing extreme levels of need for access to basic resources across a number of indicators. Transportation challenges impact accessibility of: parent education and other continuing education, medical and dental appointments, and even food. Women farmworkers are at high risk for sexual violence and subsequent trauma-related conditions (e.g., post-traumatic stress).

Recommendations: Continue to strengthen partnerships and participate in state and national leadership to address food insecurity. Investigate possible partnerships to address Transportation needs to increase access to food, healthcare, social services, and education. Provide Training, Technical Assistance and Coaching to OCDC staff on recognizing and responding to hunger/food insecurity, homelessness, and trauma. Support OCDC families through fluctuations in Oregon Driver’s permit laws. Work with families and community partners to consolidate access to services. Investigate possible partnerships to address low-income housing needs. Integrate trauma-informed care and reflective practice systems agency-wide to better address trauma and vicarious trauma.

Resources to Address Needs – and Their Availability and Accessibility

State-Based Changes Impacting Program and Service Delivery

1. Oregon is implementing statewide changes in education and early childhood systems and management that will impact Head Start, as well as child care more generally. Early Learning Hubs will guide and oversee the delivery of early learning care and education systems and

¹⁰ Vernon-Feagans, Lynn, Martha Cox, and FLP Key Investigators, Editors. 2013. The Family Life Project: An Epidemiological and Developmental Study of Young Children Living in Poor Rural Communities. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, 310: 78(5).

processes in Oregon. Additionally, Oregon has begun using the QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) and the statewide Oregon Kindergarten Assessment (OKA).

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

Impact to OCDC: The impact of Early Learning Hubs, QRIS, OKA and CCO implementation on OCDC service provision is yet to be determined. The early stages have intensified community collaborations related to professional development and service referrals.

Recommendations: Continue to participate in the implementation of the new systems and advocate for dual language learners and parent engagement in community processes. Assess competitive models through which OCDC can best be situated to respond to impending systems changes.

Other Trends

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

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

Recommendations: Build upon relationships with growers to maintain an awareness of changes in their business models. Gain insight from migrant farmworkers about their intentions for continued agricultural work in the region.