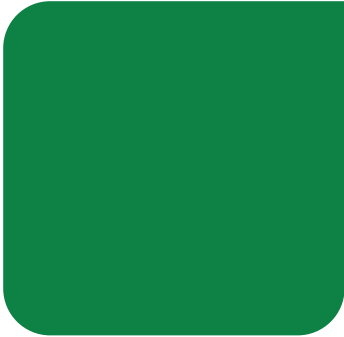


Early Learning

WASHINGTON COUNTY

www.earlylearningwashingtoncounty.org



ANNUAL
REPORT
2023

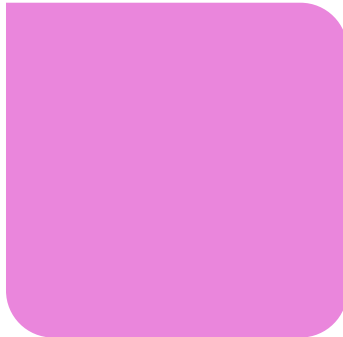


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With Gratitude!

2023 has been another whirlwind year for the Early Learning Washington County hub (ELWC). Our hub has always prided itself on its ability to build connections, mobilize Parent Leaders, and both support and create innovative programming to serve all the children and families of Washington County. This year is no different.

Within these pages, you will see the incredible strides our Parent Leaders have made towards bringing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) learning to children across the county, both in classrooms and the home. You will learn about our continued efforts to build capacity for home visiting and wrap-around services for children from birth to kindergarten. You will also see the Herculean effort of both our staff and community partners to increase access to everything from preschool, to summer activities, to the information parents need to keep their children safe, healthy, and learning.

As Co-Chair, I look on this year with gratitude for the incredible passion of everyone involved, and I challenge us to continue to build on all of our accomplishments. To reach more children. To teach more parents. To strengthen the programs we have already created and to use our wealth of creativity to design more, because there is nothing more valuable than our children.

Sincerely,



Lacey Hays
ELWC Steering Committee Co-Chair





Who we are

A little bit about Early Learning Washington County

Early Learning Washington County (ELWC) is a partnership between United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and Washington County Health and Human Services. This unique partnership brings diverse partners, parents, and communities together to support families in raising strong, healthy children.

Our Vision: Our community works in partnership with families to raise strong, healthy children who are life-long learners, with equal opportunities to succeed and reach their full potential.

Our Mission: To promote safety, good physical and mental health, stable families and positive experiences that prepare young children in Washington County for success in school.

Our Purpose: ELWC establishes a collaborative community to create a coordinated, culturally responsive and effective early learning system that incorporates health, mental health, family support, and early childhood care and education.

OUR GOALS

1. Improve kindergarten readiness.
2. Increase stability and attachment in families with young children, prenatal to age 6, and prepare them for transition to future opportunities.
3. Champion, encourage and assist the people and organizations that support early learning.

Washington County's population is the second largest of Oregon's 36 counties and soon it may become the largest county in the state.



Approximately
610,968
people reside
in the county



34,892
children under 5
reside in
726 square miles



Leading with an Equity Lens

The Early Learning Washington County hub (ELWC) works to reduce the disparity of opportunities and disproportionate risks to make school success possible for all children. Specific efforts focus on families who are expecting, children of color with disabilities, those that are English-language learners, those who live in low-income, homeless, migrant, or refugee families, and those who have experienced trauma.

ELWC is a center point for developing, growing and leveraging state, federal and community funds to invest in the local programs and services that are culturally responsive, inclusive, and appropriate for communities in our county. ELWC convenes community partners to continually assess and strategize solutions to emerging and persistent issues.

EXAMPLES OF THE WORK WE DO...

Supporting Parent Leaders: To guide our work, the Early Learning Washington County hub (ELWC) has provided stipends to Parent Leaders to participate in the Parent Advisory Council, Steering Committee, Executive Committee, STEAM CURIOSITY Kits for Infants and Toddlers meetings and Raise Up Oregon focus groups. Parent Leaders also participated in interview panels for their work. ELWC also continued with the annual tradition of granting wishes to the children of Parent Leaders during the holidays. Toys, clothing, shoes, books, and more were sent to their homes before the holidays.

Literacy development for children and families: Successful readers and lifelong learners must be supported and cultivated at early age. That's why ELWC invests in early literacy strategies that help children develop a rich vocabulary, self-expression, and reading comprehension and also that support their social emotional development.

Our initiatives reinforce the five early literacy practices: Read, Write, Talk, Sing, and Play (and also including phonological awareness!) Our initiatives also reinforce the five early literacy practices connected to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM): Observe, Build, Design/Create, Question, and Explore.



This year, our hub continued providing programs and initiatives that ensured our preschoolers and younger children discovered the joy of books but also the joy of doing hands-on activities. We reached young children, and their parents as well as their caregivers, in the critical 6 weeks to 5 years to build a foundation for all future learning. These are the three areas of work around early literacy:

- **Professional development for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs):**

- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) 101. More than 100 educators participated in these trainings during 2023.
- Training for Trainers: Building Confidence and Expertise as a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Educator and Trainer (TOT) 2nd Cohort. Nine multilingual educators graduated.
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) in Preschool Promise (PSP) classrooms. 44 classrooms participated in this pilot.
- STEM CURIOSITY Kits: Worms (for PSP classrooms). 44 classrooms participated in this pilot.
- Bookshare project with Cedar Mill Library. More details under KPI section on page 25.

- **Early Literacy Pilot Project: Horizons Pediatrics**

- 80% of Horizon's families are Oregon Health Care Plan (OHP) recipients and 600 patients are ages 0-5 years.
- Starting in fall 2023, over 350 multi-lingual books (English, Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese) for ages 0 to 5 years were distributed to the clinic.
- 600 additional multi-lingual books will be delivered early 2024.
- "The books are flying off the shelves and families are thrilled to receive the high-quality culturally and age appropriate educational books!" – Sarah Wiechec, Horizons Clinic Manager

- **Parent and child interaction**

- Ready for Kindergarten Backpacks. Almost 600 bags were delivered to the 44 PSP classrooms
- STEAM MANIAC family events. More than 100 families have attended the two family events organized in 2023.
- STEAM CURIOSITY for Infants and Toddlers. Over 500 kits have already been picked up by partners and more than 70 community partners have participated in the training to support the kits.

- **Community events**

- STEAM MANIAC family events More than 100 families have attended the two family events organized in 2023.
- Early STEM Summer camps and more! More than 50 children that speak Dari, Pashto, and/or Arabic have participated this year.
- Outreach events. More than a thousand bilingual books and puzzles were given to children and families in community events where ELWC had a table.

Early Learning Bilingual Family Resource Coordinators are based in Forest Grove, Tigard/Tualatin, Beaverton, Hillsboro, and Sherwood school districts. Together, they provide more than 25,000 referrals for services annually to families with young children.

Social Emotional Learning and Wellness

Over the past year, we have partnered with Behavioral Health to expand Social Emotional Learning (SEL) efforts with Washington County child care providers and school districts to support children and their families in school and at home.

All seven school districts were awarded grants for the 23-24 school year to support SEL strategies and programs, providing support for professional development, program implementation, and parent education. In collaboration with Washington County school districts, we will also be hosting a county-wide SEL Collaborative with the inaugural meeting occurring in January 2024.

New additions to our team!

Two new team members joined the Early Learning Washington County hub team - **Moises Gutierrez**, our new Bilingual Enrollment Family Navigator, supporting Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment and **Johnathon Pierce**, our new Bilingual Senior Program Manager, supporting the Parent Advisory Council, Early Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Framework, work around parenting education and more.



Moises Gutierrez



Johnathon Pierce

Partner with Clackamas Community College and Washington County Child Care & Referral

The Early Learning Washington County hub, together with County Child Care & Referral, supported a grant application submitted by Clackamas Community College to expand the online Spanish language course offering to increase capacity to Latinx Spanish-speaking early providers who are interested in pursuing a degree. Beginning in Spring 2023, a full cohort with 25 students from Washington County was enrolled in the new Spanish language Early Childhood Education and Family Studies Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) An additional online English language course offering to create accelerated courses leading to a certificate and A.A.S. degree was also launched recently.

Washington County Mental Health Summit.

On June 3rd, Early Learning Washington County co-sponsored the 2023 Washington County Mental Health Summit together with Community Action's Child Care Resource and Referral team (CCR&R). This event offered a wide variety of educational seminars in both Spanish and English, bringing together experts, educators, and providers for a day of children and youth-focused learning. Attendees speaking Arabic, Somali, Russian, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese were offered interpretation services to ensure widespread adoption and understanding of vital techniques that educators can employ in their classrooms. Beyond the direct benefits of continued education in the mental health space, attendees were able to network with other educators and learn more about resources offered by our partner agencies: public libraries, LifeWorks NW, Trauma Informed Oregon, Child Care Substitute of Oregon, Dougy Center and others.

"The summit helped me recognize that both in the work area and in the personal area, it is important to maintain a balance in each of the aspects that make up my life to feel good, first with myself and later to have tools and help transmit that well-being to others or to those around me," said Glenda Gonzalez, an attendee and educator. "In my daily work as an educator of young children and as a mother, I am a guide and a role model for them and that means being positive and open to praise any achievement in their learning and daily experiences within the school environment despite any challenges they may be presenting at the family level."

La cumbre sobre salud mental me ayudó a reconocer que tanto en el área laboral como en el área personal es importante mantener un equilibrio en cada uno de los aspectos que conforman mi vida para sentirme bien, primeramente conmigo misma y posteriormente para tener herramientas y ayudar a transmitir ese bienestar hacia los demás o hacia quienes me rodean. En mi trabajo diario como educadora de niños pequeños y como madre, soy una guía y un modelo para ellos y eso significa mostrarme positiva y abierta para elogiar cualquier logro dentro de su aprendizaje y experiencias cotidianas dentro del ambiente escolar a pesar de cualquier desafío que puedan estar presentando en el plano familiar. (Glenda Gonzalez, participante y educadora)



To learn more about the mental health summit, please visit:
<https://www.unitedway-pdx.org/stories/mental-health-insights>

TriMet Fare Relief Program

Removing transportation barriers is essential for fostering inclusivity and ensuring equal opportunities. In a partnership with the Early Learning Bilingual Family Resource Coordinators hundreds of families received free fare and passes to access services, seek employment, or take care of medical appointments.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Trainings

To support our community partners in strengthening their programs, the Early Learning Washington County hub launched the Intercultural Training Program, which provided a series of workshops to organizations' staff working with recently resettled refugees. The aim of the project was to advance equity through offering service providers a refugee-centered, trauma- and culturally-informed approach. The program included the delivery of five workshops between July 2022 and June of 2023 designed to address the unique opportunities and challenges of supporting and connecting with resettled families.



In 2023, Early Learning Washington County partnered with Portland Metro Science Technology Engineering and Math Partnership to identify cohorts of multilingual educators interested in growing their STEM knowledge and leadership. With support from ELWC, Child Care Resource & Referral and PMSP project coordinators, the Black, Indigenous, People of Color STEM Leadership cohorts celebrated their 2nd anniversary! The goal of these cohorts has been to increase representation among STEM leaders in early learning education, grow the language capacity to be able to offer STEM workshops in a variety of languages, and to empower educators from marginalized communities to bring their culture, community, and language-based knowledge to STEM education by developing and delivering STEM workshops of their own.

In October, Hillsboro School District gathered 68 early learning educators that support Preschool Promise classrooms in the district, for an in-service learning day at the HSD offices that included staff members from HSD, Head Start, Adelante Mujeres, Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization, and Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization.

During the workshops, educators and facilitators investigated the weather, plants, animals, engineering, and materials. They shared powerful ideas around why equity in STEM is important and the role that early childhood education can play for children and their families. Educators shared feedback saying they loved the hands-on learning opportunities and that they found the content of the workshop very relevant to their work. We look forward to continuing these partnerships in the 2023-'25 biennium!

Staffing engaged with faith-based groups, health care providers, culturally specific and community-based organizations to promote Early Learning services, Preschool Promise, Help Me Grow, Healthy Families, etc., and programs at over 70 events reaching thousands of community members.

Early Learning Washington County Hub Parent Advisory Council

Early Learning Washington County (ELWC) not only engages and centers Parent Leaders' voices, but also supports them to lead and implement strategies and projects on their own.

Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment

Parent Leaders are supported the ELWC team with the Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment. Members reviewed new policies, manuals, and applications then provided recommendations. Members also had discussions for several months about the creation of a Market Place, a one-stop center, to support enrollment across publicly funded programs. Parent Leaders commissioned ELWC's staff members to do research about the feasibility of this project. This is a work in progress.

To support the enrollment for 2024-2025, for PSP and other publicly-funded programs, ELWC and the Parent Leaders have worked to create Public Service Announcement (PSAs) in multiple languages - Cantonese, Mandarin, Arabic, Spanish, English, Q'anjob'al (also Kanjobal), Russian, Somali and others. The videos will be released in February 2024. Ahmed Al-Zubaidi, Wai Wai Hon, and Zhulma Arrobo were the faces of the Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese and Spanish videos.

Professional Development

Parent Leaders presented at the 2023 Oregon Parenting Educators Conference. Parent Leaders Zhulma Arrobo and Luis Nava, together with ELWC staff member Laura Ramirez, co-facilitated the *"Elevating Parent Leaders As System Change Agent: Implementing An Early Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Framework How parents lead the work and logistics involved (part 2)."* Our staff members, Johnathon Pierce and Begoña Rodriguez, also co-presented the *"Elevating Parent Leaders as System Change Agent: Implementing An Early Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Framework How to develop the framework (part 1)."*

Dorila Nava, Miguel Barrios, and Luis Nava were part of the *Training for Trainers: Building Confidence and Expertise as a Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Educator and Trainer Cohort 1* and are actively working on

getting the Community and/or Master Trainer accreditations, some of them have already been received, as well as submitting proposals for new Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM)/Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) workshops to ORO.

During 2023, the three Parent Leaders also co-facilitated workshops in English and Spanish to grow the pool of multilingual Early STEAM trainers in our region. They co-facilitated the following sessions: STEAM Training: Next Generation Science Standards in Early Learning; Training of Trainers: Building Confidence and Expertise as a STEM Educator and Trainer Sessions 1, 2, and 3. These leaders also supported the new cohort participants to co-facilitate a community-wide Next Generation Science Standards in Early learning.

Dorila Nava and Luis Nava will co-facilitate Circles of Security, an evidence-based parenting education curriculum that is designed to improve the developmental pathway of children and their parents. Both, have received their trainer accreditation and are working on launching Circles of Security in English and Spanish, targeting the Latinx/Latino/Hispanic community.

Parent Leaders participated in different conferences as well. Luis Nava, Elena Pineda attended the Washington County Early Childhood Mental Health Summit. Alejandra Cuahutle, Elizabeth Garcia, Waiwai Hon and Dorila Nava participated in the 2023 Oregon Parenting Educators Conference.

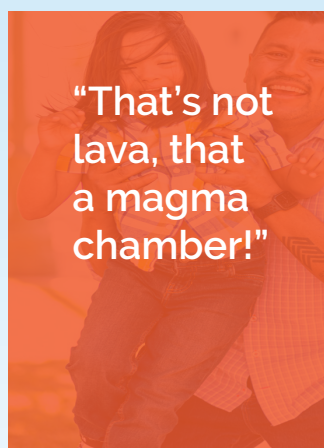


Leading Raise Up Oregon focus groups in our county: Dorila Nava and Ahmed Al-Zubaidi conducted focus groups in Spanish and Arabic with families. Rasha Almaani took notes for the Arabic speaking group. The convening of families allowed the hub to identify new Parent Leaders, and through this effort, we welcomed new parent leader Asyia Mohamed.

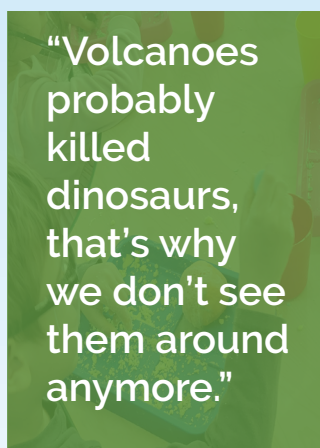
Breaking down and bringing close Early STEAM for young children in Washington County: The Parent Leaders of the Early Learning Washington County hub (ELWC) created an Early Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) framework for our region for the fiscal year 2022-'23. As part of the framework, a strategy of breaking down and bringing close Early STEAM to publicly funded programs was selected and entirely led by parents.

Starting in February 2023, two Parent Leaders, Zhulma Arrobo and Luis Nava, implemented a pilot program that served 44 classrooms and 600 children in four months. The project not only intended to increase access to Early STEAM for children and educators, but also to expand the connection between STEAM and early childhood development. The project also promoted early childhood social and emotional learning.

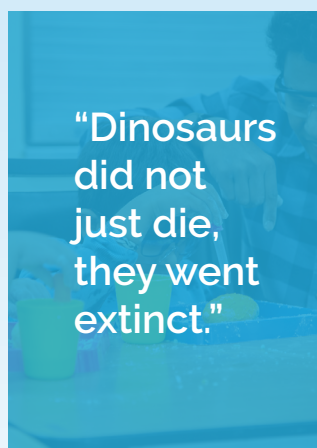
Children had a blast not only learning and conducting experiments around volcanoes and dinosaurs but also sharing their knowledge with other children and the facilitators.



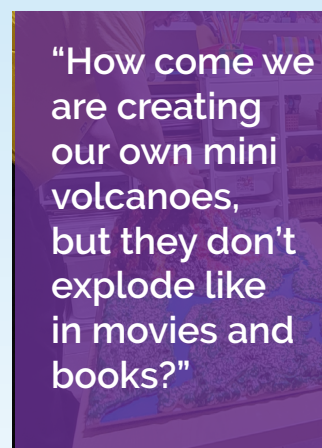
"That's not lava, that a magma chamber!"



"Volcanoes probably killed dinosaurs, that's why we don't see them around anymore."



"Dinosaurs did not just die, they went extinct."



"How come we are creating our own mini volcanoes, but they don't explode like in movies and books?"

Participation in other committees and working groups

Parent Leaders are incredibly invested in the work of the Early Learning Washington County hub. They also participate in the Executive Committee, Steering Committee, and Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) CURIOSITY Kits for Infant and Toddlers. Lacy Hays, the Steering Committee Co-Chair, Zhulma Zarate, Luis Nava and other parents bring their voices to the table.

Developing the 2023-2024 Early STEAM Framework

Parent Leaders were busy for several months working on proposing new strategies to expand our existing Early STEAM Framework. The newly voted framework that includes nine strategies, will be implemented in the ranking order provided by the Parent Leaders.

Community events

Parent Leaders were integral in launching STEAM MANIAC. This project, co-led by Zhulma Arrobo and Luis Nava, provided events focused on sparking parent/child interactions centered around STEAM activities. Parent Leaders Luis Nava, Zhulma Arrobo, Miguel Barrios, Alejandra Cuahutle, Martha Dominguez, Dorila Nava, Asyia Mohamed, Elizabeth Garcia and WaiWai Hon were co-facilitators with the support of community volunteers like Bianca Nava. We also were fortunate to recruit younger co-facilitators that are the children and grandchildren of some of our Parent Leaders Angel and Ricardo Barrios, Jayden Nava, and Juan David Alonso Garcia.

But not everything is work - we're also celebrating our Parent Leaders and their families!

With so much work, we also want to celebrate successes together! So our team worked diligently to organize the 2023 annual Parent Advisory Council Celebration to honor Parent Leaders and their families. The event took place at the new Hidden Creek Community Center in Hillsboro. In a day full of fun activities, delicious food, and desserts, our Parent Leaders attended, like always, with their families. The younger children participated in arts & crafts and STEAM activities. There was even a dinosaur puppet show!

Parent Leaders were recognized for their participation in such an important committee and some of them received special awards: **Equity Champion, Speaking Up For Every Child, STEAM Innovation, Growing and Sharing Knowledge**, amongst others.

The Gratitude Project was organized by United Way of the Columbia-Willamette last November. This was a month-long event to honor the volunteer work of our Parent Leaders, board members as well as community partners. More than 100 people joined the culminating celebration hosted at the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette offices. We had an amazing group from our Washington County Parent Leaders that showed up with their families to have fun, eat food, take pictures in the photo booth, participate in the silent auction, and express their gratitude on the gratitude tree.

Zoo lights! Thanks to a partnership with the Oregon Zoo/METRO, our Parent Leaders and their families had the opportunity to enjoy Zoo Lights at zero cost. They also received a gift card to purchase warm beverages to deal with the cold weather of December!

Holiday Tree. For the last four years, the Early Learning Washington County hub has organized a holiday wish tree for their families. Younger children are granted their wishes based on a list that Parent Leaders provide to our staff. To make sure that everything arrives on time and that items are not sold out, our team works diligently to submit all the orders before the Thanksgiving holidays. This year, dozens of dolls, LEGOs, jackets, shoes, games, and more were sent to the homes of grateful kids and families.





Advocacy Work

The Early Learning Washington County hub (ELWC) participated in many conversations with Oregon elected officials. As part of the Early Learning Hub Association's advocacy efforts, ELWC spent a day in Salem together with members of the Children's Institute's Early Childhood Coalition sharing about the work ELWC does in the region as well as highlighting some of the pressing issues that we experience.

But our advocacy efforts do not stop here, ELWC is an active member of the Children's Institute's Early Childhood Coalition and participates in internal coalition workplans and policy advocacy/external coalition work. ELWC, community partners, and Parent Leaders also scheduled regular meetings with local elected officials, such as Senator Sollman, Representatives Reynolds, Bowman, amongst others.

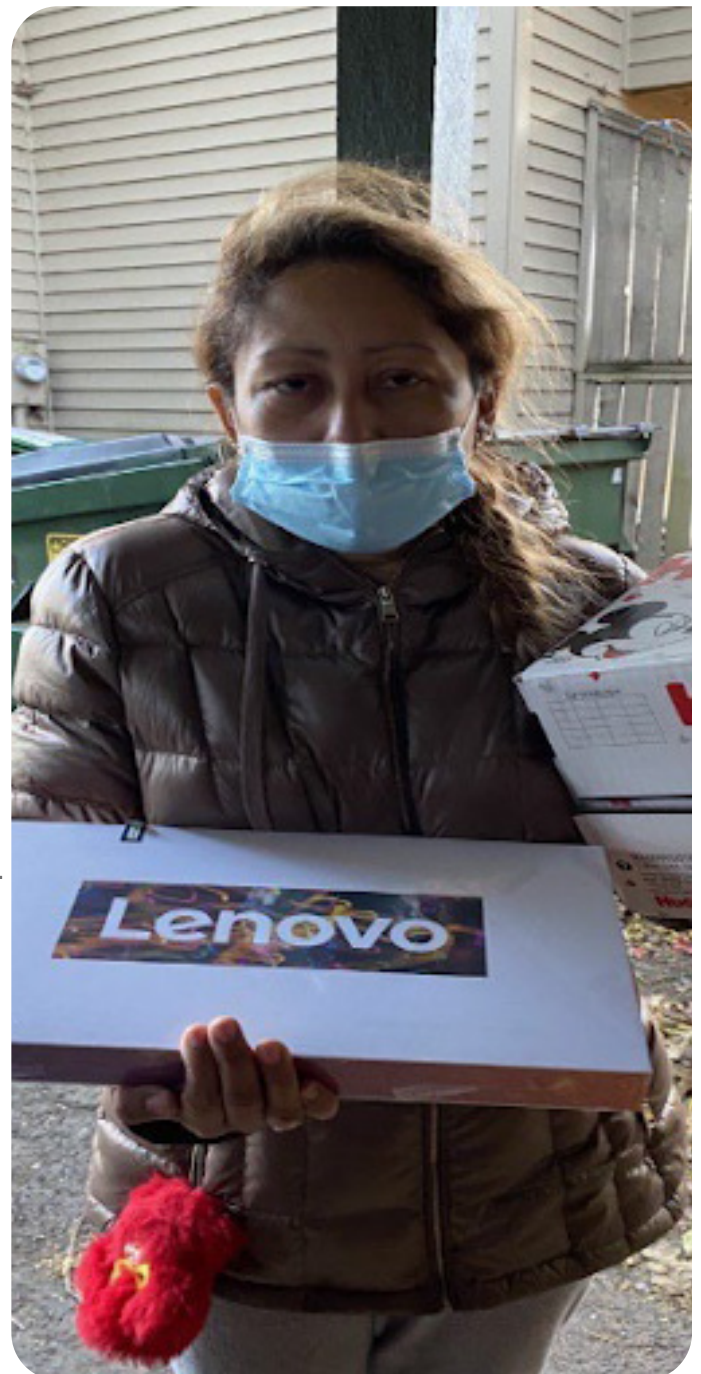


AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS

Focused Child Care Networks

In 2023, the Early Learning Washington County hub worked collaboratively with Community Action Organization's Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) team to continue implementation of Focused Child Care Networks. The goal of the program is to increase the supply of quality care and education in communities furthest from opportunity through coaching, training, and technical assistance.

- This year saw an expansion to a total of **49 providers** who care for and educate over **300 children** from historically underserved communities, such as those who speak Spanish, Somali, and Arabic.
- Providers accumulated over **450 hours** of professional development since joining the networks.
- Providers support the children and families they serve. To that end, we have made explicit connections to social services a priority with Community Action Staff directly supporting **70+ families** currently served by the network providers. This support varied from rental assistance to navigating healthcare.
- Our partners at CCR&R have successfully translated or culturally-modified **18 courses** to aid in the delivery of professional development. Many of the courses cover core programming such as health, safety, and classroom management. If not for these funds, providers from diverse communities would struggle to fully engage in these topic areas
- Providers have been supported with **increased access to technology** (laptops, tablets), **grant writing assistance, navigating state subsidy systems**, and many other day to day challenges.





Child Care Infrastructure Analysis of Washington County

The Early Learning Washington County hub worked closely with ECONorthwest and Child Care Resource & Referral to design and implement a study focused on the child care Infrastructure of Washington County, which was completed in 2023. The analysis consisted of four components: demographic analysis, early learning and care provider survey, workforce development case studies, and analysis of the current land use and zoning environment. High level takeaways include:

- **Supply of child care in Washington County still does not meet the demand.**
- **Despite high costs for care, many providers struggle to make their businesses financially viable.**
- **The land use, zoning, and commercial real estate markets are difficult for providers to navigate. Collaboration amongst municipalities and early childhood advocates to reduce barriers could help expand child care businesses.**

The study is available here:

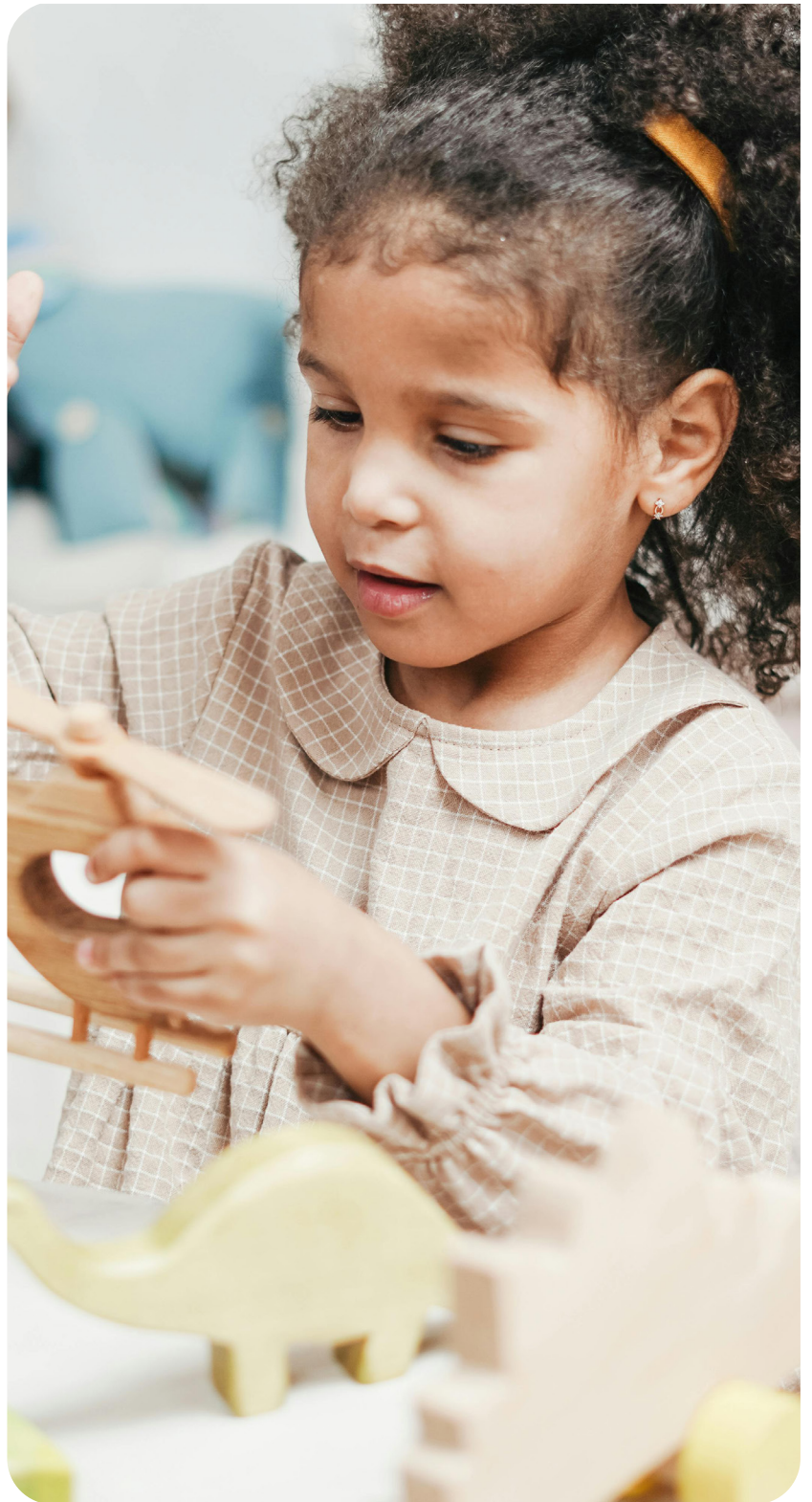
<https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/hhs/child-care-study>

Preschool Promise and Coordinated Enrollment

The Preschool Promise program is a high-quality, publicly funded preschool program that serves children ages 3 and 4 in families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. It also serves children in foster care and children from other historically underserved populations.

Coordinated Enrollment for Preschool Promise is led by Early Learning Washington County. This effort streamlines the process for families to access publicly-funded preschool.

The program's mixed-delivery includes providers that offer bilingual education programs in English-Spanish, Arabic-English and Somali-English. The nature of the mixed-delivery approach of Preschool Promise allows Washington County families to choose providers based on family preferences. Mixed-delivery sites include K-12 school districts (Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Beaverton, and Tigard-Tualatin) along with center-based, home-based, Head Start programs, and culturally specific organizations.



EARLY
LEARNING
WASHINGTON COUNTY

WHAT PRESCHOOL PROMISE ACCOMPLISHED...

- Coordinated ongoing enrollment for the 2023- '24 school year.
- Prioritized over **220 returning children** and families which resulted in an early and smooth reenrollment.
- Increased the coordinated enrollment staff by adding a bilingual one full-time employee and improving our operations. Early Learning Washington County (ELWC) hub was able to start enrollment earlier during 2023-'24, achieving a **98% percent level before the 23-24 school year began**.
- **Added additional slots** to our region through a Department of Early Learning and Care reallocation. Our team also worked with partners that were facing challenges during this small expansion of slots.
- Supported staff, providers, and community partners by sharing knowledge, experiences, and working together to achieve innovative solutions. For instance, the ELWC Coordinated Enrollment team, Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) and Northwest Regional Education Service District (NWRESD) partnered together to organize learning sessions about inclusion and how to better serve Preschool Promise providers. Coaches from NWRESD and CCR&R who served the same classrooms could get to know each other and talk about different ways of collaborating. We also learned about examples of successful collaborations between coaches from the different agencies after they participated in our sessions.
- Improved and updated the coordinated enrollment system for the entire county based on the Zengine database for managing and archiving applications and a web portal for gathering applications.
- Made ongoing changes to the ELWC website as requested by community partners to create direct access to other publicly-funded programs as well as CCR&R.
- By increasing our staff and expanding our organizational structure, we were able to participate in several community events across Washington County. We were able to **strengthen our relationships with community partners** and **grow our relationships with the families** we aim to serve. We met families at local events, making it easier for them to reach out to us directly and ask questions.
- Trained new providers and other community partners like the Family Resource Coordinators, to use the Zengine database and web portal. Hosted online training sessions in English and Spanish
- Created manuals and guides for database and portal navigation.
- Received and processed **more than 2,000 applications and 4,000 phone calls** in the 2023-'24 school year.
- The coordinated enrollment system allowed the gathering of data and demographics on priority populations, and it **provides up-to-date and accurate population metrics** served by the coordinated enrollment program.
- Improved the Preschool Promise program enrollment service based on a telephone line and email assistance. Increasing the staffing capacity dedicated to customer service, allowed us to communicate with families through phone calls and emails in timely manner. Families received a more timely and effective service. It allows the eligibility process to move at a much quicker pace and provide a better service for families.
- All children that graduated in June 2023 received a multilingual Kindergarten Backpack. Partners picked up **more than 500 backpacks**.
- STEM CURIOSITY KITS: Worms. All Preschool Promise classrooms received one theme kit connected to the world of worms that included **multiple bilingual children's books around worms, professional STEAM books, professional inclusion books, lesson plans and activity sheets, materials to conduct experiments, sensory toys and more**.
- **Welcoming children in Preschool Promise with Welcome to Preschool Promise bags! Over 600 multilingual tote bags were distributed amongst the Preschool Promise mixed-delivery providers.**

OUTREACH

As part of our campaign for the 2023-'24 school year, we created a robust plan of action to engage families in the Washington County area. The Early Learning Washington County hub staff attended the following events to promote programs and engage with families.

We continued to strengthen our ongoing recruitment, multilingual outreach strategies, and communications for the Preschool Promise program and for individual Preschool Promise providers and sites that included radio, social media, flyers and producing Public Service Announcement (PSAs) in seven different languages that will be broadcast on the local cable channel and online to support the 2024-'25 school year enrollment.

We participated in the following outreach activities:

- Tigard Tualatin Library's Story Time event to present our Preschool Promise program with parents and children.
- Hillsboro and Beaverton School District Summer Free Meal program to engage with families about ELWC programs in our local community parks.
- Forest Grove and Tigard Tualatin School District's to attend pre-k nights and to launch the Preschool Promise 2023-'24 applications.
- The Virginia Garcia Mental Health Fair in Cornelius and joined with local community partners to promote resources for the community.
- Monthly Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Free Food markets in Hillsboro and Tigard/Tualatin on a monthly basis to promote programs and help feed over 1200 families a month.
- Beaverton Resource Fair to promote resources and engage with families.
- Presented at ODHS and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program All in all sStaff meetings.

As part of our materials we distributed social media, flyers, postcards and yard signs to community based organizations, partners, Washington County government organizations, and interfaith communities.





Parenting Together Washington County

Mission: Parenting Together Washington County builds and sustains lifelong learning connections between children, families, and communities to enable all to thrive.

PARTNERS

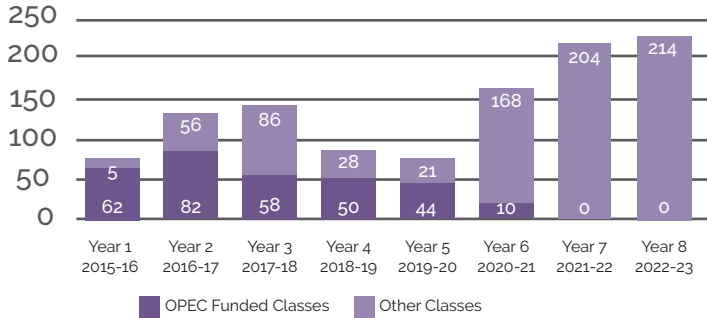
Parenting Together Washington County (PTWC) depends on strong partnerships with community-based parenting education providers. PTWC is supported by the Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative and its partners Oregon Department of Human Services, the Department of Early Learning and Care, ELWC, and a combination of Washington County prevention funding. PTWC serves Washington County and is one of 16 regional parenting hubs across Oregon.

GOALS

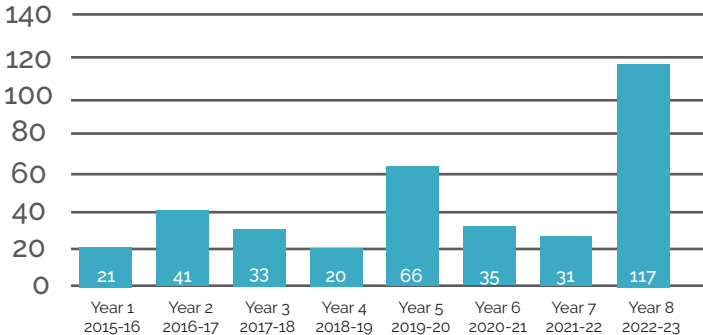
- Cultivate healthy and stable families through parent and caregiver learning, connection, and engagement in high-quality, evidence-based parenting education programs.
- Align parenting support options with cultural, linguistic, and family-centered preferences and needs.
- Increase children and family connections and engagement in community through planning and supporting family-friendly activity opportunities

PTWC continues on an upward trend increasing the number of parenting education series classes to a seven-year high.

PARENTING EDUCATION SERIES
(Number of Classes)



FAMILY PROGRAMS
(Workshops, Parent Support, and Family Activities)



IMPACT AS MEASURED BY A FEW OF THE MANY PARTICIPANTS AND PARTNER REFLECTION

This year, Parenting Together Washington County PTWC has grown the number of unique partnerships by adding Community Pulse Association to the network of providers. The organization offered Russian and Ukrainian language facilitated Nurturing Parenting series in the Tigard area to support parent involvement by removing linguistic barriers and expanding access. A big thank you to our very supportive partner Northwest Christian Church for providing their space.

Nurturing Parents - "Nurturing Hope" Series

"Vicki and Kenna were great! So much has improved in the past few months; I am able to connect with my son on an emotional level, discipline more effectively in a positive way, and advocate for him like I never have. My son seems like he knows I'm there for him much more clearly."

"Yo cambie mucho con poner reglas. Y como saber el cómo por tratamiento de mis hijos."

Translation from above - *"I changed a lot with setting rules. And how to know how to treat my children."*

Strengthening Families 10 -14

"It gave us opportunities to talk and listen to one another. We also stuck with a declared family meeting time."

"This is my 2nd time through this class with a second child, and I cannot say enough good things about this class. They are happier with being so centrally located in my focus."

"It has created a positive reinforcement at home in both channels of communication. She is more collaborative at home and is frequently showing love to me. She hugs me more and more regularly says: Thank you for what you do mommy."

"De alguna manera siento que se volvió un poco más responsable. Pues el saber que tiene esta clase le motiva a organizarse con su tiempo para tomarla y hacer las otras actividades diarias."

Translation from above - *"In some ways, I feel like he became a little more responsible. Well, knowing that he has this class motivated him to organize his time to take it and do other daily activities."*

Incredible Years

"I feel like I have more tools in my toolbox, and I can relate to my daughter better. I don't get so frustrated. My kid is more connected to me."

Nurturing Parenting ABCs

"Me encanto el trato que siempre nos dieron las presentadoras (Maestra Sandra Silva y Alba Sullivan), con ese amor, ternura y respeto. Personas con mucho conocimiento y experiencia en el tema. En lo personal me ayudo bastante con mi hija de 13 años. Bendiciones para su equipo. Mil gracias por ofrecer este tipo de talleres q nos ayudan a ser mejores padre de familia."

Translated from above - *"I loved the treatment that the presenters always gave us (Maestra Sandra Silva and Alba Sullivan), with that love, tenderness and respect. People with a lot of knowledge and experience on the subject. Personally, it helped me a lot with my 13-year-old daughter. Blessings to your team. Thank you very much for offering these types of workshops that help us be better parents."*



Fathers and father figures help shape opportunities for parent learning support and connection!

Thanks to partnerships with This is Fatherhood LLC and Community Education Network, fathers and father figures have been engaged in monthly Play and Learn groups with their young children and a growing Dedicated Dads Community. There are two Dedicated Dads communities, one facilitated in Spanish and one in English. Dads come together each month to learn from each other and connect with other male caregivers who are helping to raise young children. Quarterly community field trips are planned based on participant interests.

Special thanks to Luis Nava and Michael Finlay, talented parent educators who plan, organize, promote, and make these much-appreciated opportunities possible.



DEMOGRAPHICS

(OF FAMILIES COMPLETING EVALUATIONS FOR PARENTING SERIES AND WORKSHOPS)

GENDER	
90%	Women
9%	Men
1%	Did not specify

151
Parents

290
Children

PARENT AGE	
23-70	Age Range
38	Average Age

RACE/ETHNICITY	
41%	White/Caucasian
44%	Hispanic/Latino
3%	Black/African American
3%	Asian/Pacific Islander
0%	Native American
9%	Other/Did not specify

CHILDREN	
0-18	Age Range
7	Average Age
57%	Age 0-6 years
2	Children Per Family

PARENTING STYLE	
72%	With Partner
21%	By Themselves
6%	Did Not Specify


COUNTY	
100%	Washington County

LOW INCOME STATUS	
59%	Use at least one resource for low income families (WIC, OHP, SNAP/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Free/Reduced Lunch.

PARENT & CHILD SKILLS

PARENTING SKILLS	BEFORE PARTICIPATION	AFTER PARTICIPATION
Know normal behavior for my child(ren)'s age level	3.2	5.0***
Show my child(ren) love and affection frequently	4.4	5.5***
Listen to my child(ren) to understand their feelings	3.4	5.4***
Help my child(ren) feel good about themselves	3.5	5.3***
Set and stick to reasonable rules and limits	3.0	4.9***
Know fun activities to help my child(ren) learn	3.5	5.1***
Find positive ways to guide and discipline my child(ren)	3.2	5.1***
Play with my child(ren) frequently	3.6	5.2***
Protect my child(ren) from unsafe conditions	4.5	5.6***
Talk with other parents to share experiences	3.0	5.2***
Deal with day-to-day stresses of parenting	3.2	5.1***
Understand my goals and values as a parent	3.5	5.3***


The retrospective t-test design revealed significant improvement in parenting skills on starred items


The retrospective t-test design revealed significant improvement in child skills on starred items

CHILD SKILLS	BEFORE PARTICIPATION	AFTER PARTICIPATION
Shows concern for others	3.2	4.6***
Willing to follow rules and limits	2.9	4.3***
Gets along with others	3.3	4.7***

PARENT SATISFACTION

PARENTING EDUCATION SERIES

99%

of parents reported that the class series was somewhat or very helpful

98%

of parents reported they would recommend the class series to others

PARENTING WORKSHOPS

100%

of parents reported that the workshop was somewhat or very helpful

100%

of parents reported that they would use the information from the workshop

QUOTES FROM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

*"The daycare option during the classes was a lifesaver for me as with seven children it was hard to coordinate trips to the Tigard area and to find family helpers to watch children. I like the cultural specific snacks and herbal hot tea provided for every class"-
Aisha, mother of seven*

*"The curriculum was designed well. The discussion of the techniques for positive discipline is like my understanding of parenting. It was in tune with my intuition as a parent. Facilitators were very passionate about the class and delivery of the topics"
-Alisa*

"I want to extend my gratitude to the organizers for conducting such an enlightening and beneficial event."



Some partners stated that there has been an increase in parent/school involvement and improved family/school relationships after participating in the PTWC series:

"We do have a fair amount of active parent volunteers who come into the building on a regular basis."

"There is some growth with a growing in-person presence. Families participate in events that are offered at the schools and build community while learning tools and strategies."



Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation

WHAT IS KPI?

The Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation Program (KPI) invests in promising models for connecting early learning and Kindergarten through 3rd Grade (K-3) education across the state and encourages community and school partnerships that result in measurable growth in children's readiness for kindergarten.

GOALS

KPI is designed to establish scalable and replicable models for Prenatal through 3rd Grade (P-3rd) alignment at the local level, with a focus on:

- **Professional Development-** shared opportunities for early learning providers and kindergarten teachers

- **Kindergarten Transition-** supporting successful transitions into kindergarten for all children
- **Family Engagement-** engaging families as equal partners in children's learning and development

2023 KPI AWARDEES

In 2023, an ad-hoc KPI Request for Applications team created and implemented a 2-year inclusive competitive grant application process to increase equity and diversity projects. This process included open calls for applications for 2 award opportunities: **2023-2025 Summer programs** and **Year Long programs**, awarding a total of **\$900,000 to 11 grantees**, whose programs include a wide range of activities:

2023-2025 SUMMER PROGRAM GRANTEES

Somali Empowerment Circle

Team members who led the Somali parent workshops focusing on language and literacy, kindergarten transition, and social emotional development:

“These workshops evolved into safe spaces where the mothers began to see each other as peer supporters. Many of them exchanged contact information and arranged to meet with each other and their children.”

Latino Network

Families who participated in the Juntos Al Kinder summer program focusing on parent education and kindergarten transition for children:

“We really enjoyed having the activity books that helped prompt us to work on something every day with our kids helping them to get ready for kindergarten.”

Outgrown

Families who joined the OutGrown Summer outdoor events focusing on parent education and social emotional development:

“This type of program is very good for the development and growth of our children and for them to learn to love and respect the natural environment.”

DAWN Inc.

Providing social emotional supports and transition efforts for Ukrainian refugee children and families coming from war zone.





2023-'25 YEAR LONG PROGRAMS GRANTEES

A Little SEL

Create and provide 35 weeks of free online Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons and provide training to Early Childhood Educators (ECE) providers to implement lessons.

Adelante Mujeres

Provide SEL and wellness supports for Latine families through family navigation, education, and workshops and provide SEL professional development training opportunities to ECE providers.

Cedar Mill Library

Promote access to books, reading together, and development of early literacy skills through expanding the Bookshare reading program to family child care sites and centers.

"This program was amazing!!! The kids loved it. Thank you so much for putting it all together"

"The children connected activities with the books provided. They showed increased interest in written word :)"

"My son can read by himself now!"

Fighting for Success

Create a community of practice and provide professional development, scholarships, and travel stipends for Black/African/African American early childhood educators.

Inmigrant and Refugee Community Organizaton (IRCO)

Providing social, emotional and behavioral health and wellness play groups for immigrant and refugee families and two professional trainings for immigrant and refugee early child care providers.

Providence

Implement Triple P parent education classes to address social determinants of health for children and their families.

Since July 1st, all summer program grantees plus some of the year-long program grantees have been able to serve more than 3,000 children, families, and educators. The Early Learning Washington County hub is very excited to partner with this incredible network of partners.



Early Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math Framework

What a year! The amazing Early Learning Washington County hub (ELWC) Parent Advisory Council recognized that many K-12 students are not excelling in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) and that early learners are not exposed to STEAM content. The PAC continued growing the Early Learning Washington County's Early STEAM Framework to provide 0-5 year-olds with fun learning opportunities and to support early learning professionals to incorporate STEAM content into their work.

No child is too young to start learning STEAM. In fact, parents, caregivers, and children already use STEAM every day. As babies grow and learn about the world around them, they are already learning STEAM skills. Adults can guide children's STEAM learning in fun and easy ways. Early STEAM is about helping kids **Observe, Explore, Question, Design, and Build**. The earlier children begin to develop these skills the more prepared they will be for the future. The Early STEAM Framework supports parents and professionals to get young people excited about STEAM learning.

ELWC's approach is rooted in five main elements: equity and quality in access, parent engagement and leadership, county and state coordination, educator preparation and professional development, and curriculum instruction. These are the highlights for 2023:

Summer Camps

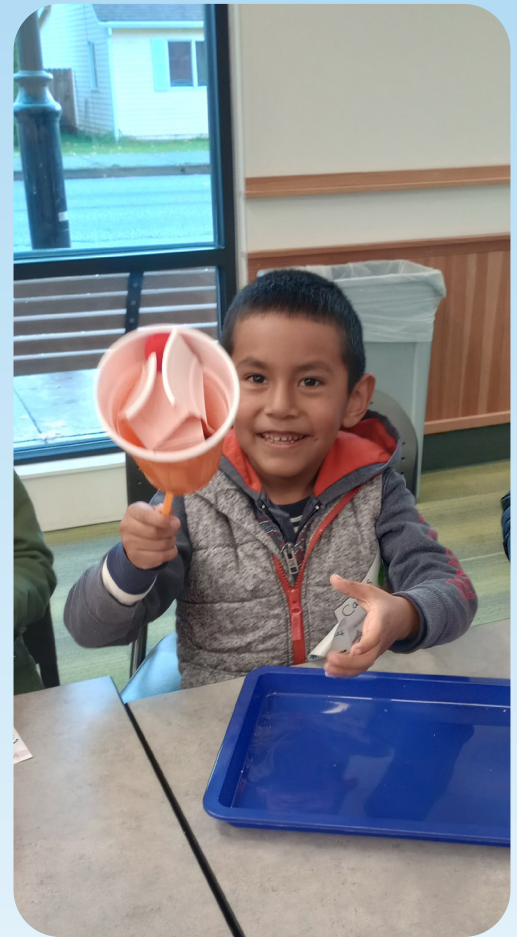
- ELWC sponsors grass-roots organizations to provide Summer Camp opportunities for multilingual communities. This year, the Iraqi Arabic School supported **52 early learners** who speak Arabic, Dari or Pashto by connecting them to STEAM summer camps, with subjects such as computer coding, astronomy, animation, family science, and physics.

Building Confidence and Experience as a Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math (STEAM) Educator and Trainer

- This cohort is for early educators who are multilingual and/or BIPOC and is designed to demystify delivery of STEAM for 0 to 5 year-olds, with a focus on preschoolers. **Ten participants graduated** from the cohort in 2023.
- Cohort participants co-facilitated **three STEAM workshops** for over **60 preschool teachers and parents**.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Curiosity Kits for Infants and Toddlers

- STEAM Curiosity Kits for Infants and Toddlers were designed to provide developmentally appropriate, culturally specific, and linguistically appropriate STEAM activities for families to use with their children. A workgroup consisting of parents and partner organizations from LifeworksNW, Oregon Child Development Coalition, and Community Action designed the kits and developed the activities.
- **1,000 kits were assembled** in November 2023. Kits include 16 items to help guide families to engage with their children in STEAM activities which will support children's developmental activities and help strengthen bonds. Partner organizations began distributing kits in November of 2023 and will distribute through June 2024.



Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Curiosity Kits Worms for Preschool Classrooms

- The Early Learning Washington County hub designed a worms-focused curriculum which supports early literacy, early math, and life science learning for preschoolers. Kits containing materials and worksheets were distributed to **44 Preschool Promise classrooms**. ELWC enriches classroom environments by developing engaging, innovative, and exciting experiences for preschooler providers to share with their students.



Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Maniac

- This community event was designed to provide a fun learning experience for preschool aged children with a focus on STEAM. ELWC hosted **two STEAM Maniac events** in 2023 with **110 attendees** (combination of preschool aged children and their families). This free event provided a fun opportunity for families to learn STEAM with their children. Activities were designed with parent engagement in mind, parents and children worked together on science related activities such as: making and hatching dinosaur eggs, building bridges with straws and marshmallows, testing ramps, building arcade claw machines.

Preschool Promise Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math Activities Pilot

- Parent Leaders from the Parent Advisory Council designed activities to bring to preschool classrooms to provide STEAM fun and learning. Activities were brought to **44 classrooms and more than 500 students participated**. Facilitators led children through volcano and dinosaur paleontology activities.



Schools, Parents and Communities Engaged (SPACE) EXPANSION

2023 saw the continued collaboration of the Early Learning Washington County hub (ELWC), the Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization (CAIRO), and the Beaverton and Hillsboro School Districts to serve African American, African and Black children, youth, and their families. Entering the collaboration's sixth year, the group continues to focus on improving academic outcomes ranging from improved literacy rates to reduced absenteeism and expulsion.

With funding provided by the Oregon Department Of Education, the collaboration connects students and families with cultural navigators as well as academic tutors to help them thrive both in and out of school. Navigators help students engage productively with educators, counselors, and administrative staff at school. Navigators also participate in home visits and help connect families to services beyond academics such as social-emotional supports or social service needs. Finally, CAIRO staff create enrichment opportunities for students to connect as a cohort, provide learning opportunities beyond the classroom, and broaden their career and academic goals.

Beyond this work, the collaborative has seen increased access to Early Childhood Services by enabling CAIRO to expand their preschool classrooms into the Hillsboro School District as well as maintaining a presence in Beaverton. ELWC not only supports the CAIRO SPACE Navigator but we also partners with CAIRO in many other ways like: coordinating preschool enrollment in Preschool Promise, allocating tobacco prevention funds, making sure that families participate in home visiting programs and more.

By the Numbers:

- 100 children from ages 0-5 served
- 27 children served Grades K-3
- 118 children served Grades 4-8
- 88 youth served Grades 9-12

If you want to refer a student or a family to CAIRO, please contact:

Muna Yusuf
muna.yusuf@cairopdx.org

Early Life Systems and Supports

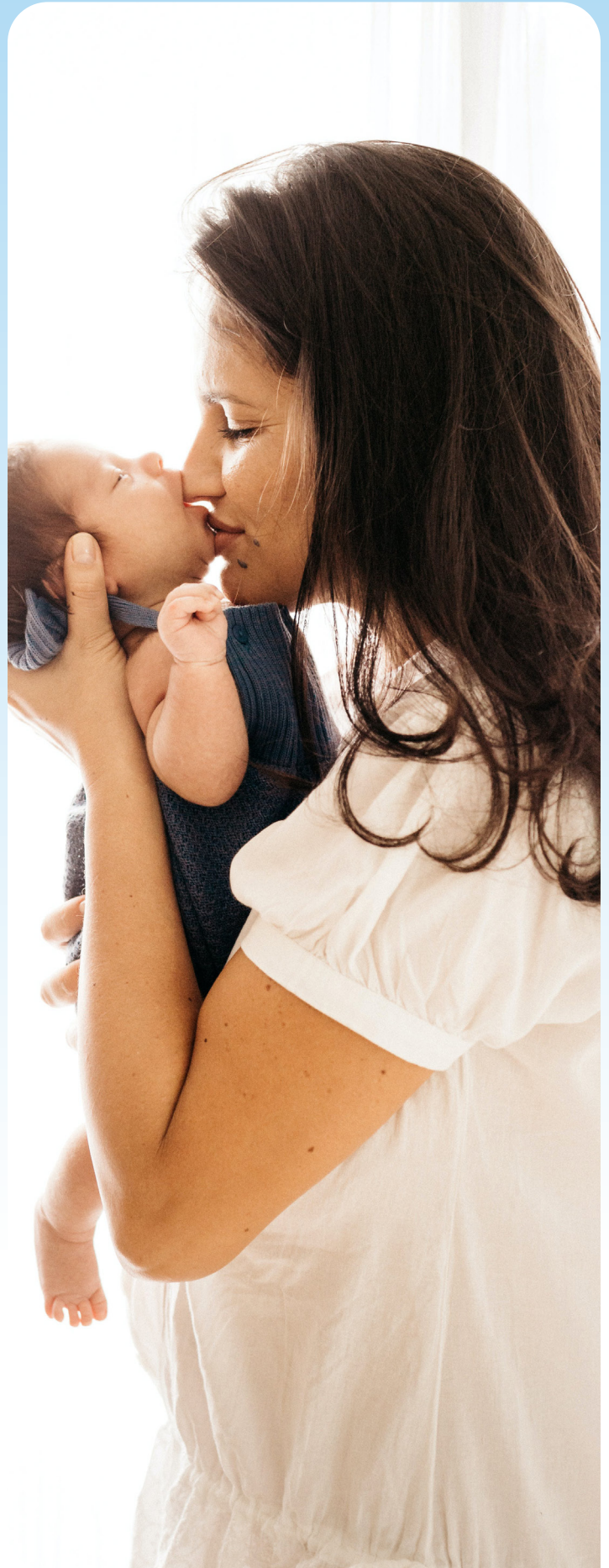
ELWC, Washington County Maternal Child and Family Program and Help Me Grow enhance early life systems and support ongoing work to streamline communications across the central access point.

The vision is for families to easily access information, supports, and services from pregnancy through early childhood in a central location and for these services, providers and partners to be connected through this system.

Help Me Grow – Washington County is a central access point serving families in need of information, support, and/or services from pregnancy through early childhood. Shared referral data which is reviewed quarterly allows us to improve the referral process among partners.

In 2023, Help Me Grow connected with over 1,300 families and made referrals to community partners. The team connected families with home visiting services, medicaid insurance, and other health related social needs. Top referrals and activities included:

- 130 Screenings for Home Visiting
- 230 families with young children connected to Medicaid (Oregon Health Care Plan)
- 100 families provided utility assistance





In 2023, **Family Connects** received over **2,900 referrals** and completed over **500 home visits** to connect families with newborns to services for basic needs, health/medical care, parenting support, and early education.

This program continues to review data from visits to support community alignment and provider engagement across perinatal services within the county and continues to identify service gaps and systems improvement for referrals and connections to needed services and programs. Those include housing services, maternal mental health, and diapers.

We served over 400 families with nurse home visiting services in Nurse Family Partnership, CaCoon and Babies First! These programs support the health and developmental needs of children and families, while also connecting them to community resources (food, financial assistance, health insurance/Medicaid, housing, and health care services). They provide parenting education and early learning opportunities, in the families chosen language, to promote school readiness.

The Maternal Child and Family Program leveraged American Recovery Plan federal funds to continue support for a community health worker and provide diapers and wipes for families with diaper need at each visit. **Over 1,300 packs of diapers** were provided to families with need served by home visits in 2023.

Outreach and Engagement:

- Launched Prenatal - Three Learning Collaboratives to provide networking, education and resource sharing among community partners. Hosted two Partner Resource Fairs with **over 40 organizations** tabling and more than **400 attendees** at each event. Hosted **two learning sessions** on changes to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits and Preschool Promise attended by **over 120 community partners**.
- The Maternal Child and Family program provided pilot funding for Hillsboro Medical Center to hire a community health worker to assess family needs in the birthing unit, support referrals for Family Connects, and assure families are connected to needed services and resources. The bilingual/bicultural community health worker provides culturally responsive support to families.



Moms Support Circles/Platicas de apoyo para Mamas:

Throughout 2023, 26 mothers attended virtual Moms Support Circles/Platicas de apoyo para Mamas hosted by Washington County Maternal Child & Family Program in partnership with Oregon Health & Science University – Hillsboro Medical Center. These groups provide a safe space for new and experienced moms to share parenting strategies, learn about community resources, and engage in a supportive community. These groups meet weekly and are facilitated by community health workers utilizing popular education approaches in English and Spanish.

Several moms are now pursuing personal interests and professional goals such as participating in a statewide lactation focus group, contributing to the formation of the Washington County Lactation Equity Coalition, becoming a licensed child care provider and completing community health worker certification.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS IN THE MOMS SUPPORT CIRCLES ARE SAYING

"The Moms Support Group has had a positive impact on my journey as a new mom. I always look forward to our weekly meetings. The facilitators are very professional, insightful, and they provided a safe space for participating mothers to be vulnerable about any challenges. Such an empowering group."

"Esta platica es como un desahogo entre la semana." This group is a place to find relief during the week.

"Es bueno aprender de otras mamas y escuchar anecdotas. Y conocer nuevos rostros y ser amistad con ustedes y lo mas bonito es que nos ayudamos unas a otras compartiendo nuestras experiencias como mamis" It's good to learn from other moms and listen to their stories. And meet new faces and make friendships with everyone and the most beautiful thing is that we help each other by sharing our experiences as moms.



Raise Up Oregon

Raise Up Oregon Community Engagement around the Health Sector.

Raise Up Oregon serves as Oregon's comprehensive state system plan for early childhood prenatal to age five. The plan brings together government agencies from early care and education, public education, higher education, health, housing, and human services. The Early Learning Division tasked the Early Learning Hubs to engage with families and professionals/providers to gather feedback on one of the sectors supporting Raise Up Oregon. Early Learning Washington County (ELWC) was assigned to facilitate focus groups to explore the health-related strategies.

Community Engagement is a cornerstone of ELWC programming and governance. Our work is rooted in listening to our diverse communities and responding to their concerns. ELWC embraced the opportunity to engage with the community on this critical plan and held several focus groups with a wide range of families and providers.

ELWC Summary Analysis

The seven Raise Up Oregon 2.0 focus groups conducted by ELWC were a great success. A total of 105 people in three languages provided quality feedback on the plan and expressed their unfulfilled needs. Generally speaking, participants agreed with the goals, list of problems, and proposed solutions. Families were excited and grateful to have the opportunity to learn more about ROU and share their perspectives. However, families and professionals had a lot of concerns because the issues discussed were not new.

Perhaps the biggest challenge to conducting the Raise Up Oregon 2.0 focus groups has been siloing participant responses to the assigned sector. This challenge was especially prevalent in the family focus groups. Families expressed a vision that closely ties health equity and social determinants of health: income and social protection, education, work life conditions, food insecurity, housing, early childhood development, social inclusion, access to affordable health services of decent quality, amongst others. Government sectors may operate comfortably in silos, but families are saying loud and clear that these issues are interconnected and that they expect to engage with a system that treats them holistically.

The focus group conversations demonstrated that the basic needs of many families in our region are not being met. Families shed tears discussing their desperation for services and dissatisfaction with the availability, timeliness, and quality of services across sectors. ELWC has compiled key focus group recommendations and takeaways.

Focus Group Summary Highlights:

1. Health

- a. OHP expansion for children is a great plan.
- b. Have a more robust dental care coverage/ framework.
- c. Scale up prenatal services.
- d. Scale up health services in general.
- e. Expand mental health services.
- f. Include physical exercise programs/ activities as part of health. Make them free and widely available to families.
- g. COVID has impacted the quality of many health services. Needs to be addressed.
- h. Timelines do not work for working parents. Alternative solutions are needed for appointments and well- being visits.
- i. Telehealth is not the same. Lower quality.
- j. Decolonize mental health.

2. Education

- a. Expand eligibility criteria for Head Start, Preschool Promise, Oregon Pre-K, Early Head Start.
- b. Expand access and scale up services.
- c. Deliver dual language curriculums.
- d. Scale up childcare subsidy.
- e. Offer culturally and linguistically specific services.

3. Housing

- a. Increase rent assistance support.
- b. Provide home ownership assistance programs.
- c. Implement rent control policies.

4. Food

- a. Increase food access and the quality of the food provided.
- b. Introduce halal food in publicly funded programs, like Women, Infant, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as in schools.



5. Language

- a. Provide enough language support to English Language Learners (ELL) parents.
- b. Increase the number of qualified interpreters and translators.

6. Professional development/support

- a. Provide more content/materials for parents to prepare how to better support children with higher needs.

7. Recreation

- a. Recreational centers need to be scaled up and they need to be free.
- b. Parents are concerned about screentime but lack accessible or affordable recreation options.
- c. Build more inclusive playgrounds.

8. Across sectors

- a. Reduce paperwork for parents, create a referral system that works and with clear steps. The system needs to be simplified.
- b. Develop a pipeline of high-quality interpreters that understand health and early childhood.
- c. Scale up home visiting programs.
- d. Professionals working with families to connect them with resources need more time with them to better address their needs.
- e. Need to create a cohort of cultural service navigators that connect families with resources.
- f. Lack of peer cohort/support group for professionals.
- g. Simplify and expand eligibility of program until we have universal programs.
- h. Training is needed around trauma, resiliency, culture, language, self-care.
- i. Eliminate waitlists or figure out a way to better connect families with services.
- j. Increase awareness about existing resources.
- k. Everybody needs to thrive - parents, children, and everyone in the family unit.
- l. Do not work in a silo.



