



Timeline: Request for Application

Shared Bilingual/Bicultural Parent Engagement Coordinator

RFA announcement date	1/19/2016
Timeframe to receive questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions to be submitted to EL Hub email: elhub@linnbenton.edu 	1/29/2016
Date response to questions will be posted to website	2/5/2016
RFA due date and time	2/19/2016 at 5:00 PM
Finalize Selection Committee	2/19/2016
Interview potential Parent Engagement Coordinator and their Supervisor	2/25/2016 & 2/26/2016
Take recommendation to Governing Board for final approval	3/3/2016
Announce grant recipient	3/4/2016
Contract will be effective beginning	4/1/2016

Culturally-Specific Organizations

01/15/2016

LINCOLN COUNTY
Cablespeed (K Cleaver)
Centro de Ayuda
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Head Start
Department of Human Services (Mary Moller)
LBL ESD – Early Intervention
Lincoln County (Bill Hall)
Lincoln County Health and Human Services (Rebecca Austin)
Lincoln County Health & Human Services – Health (Linda Gray)
Lincoln County Health & Human Services - Maternal Child Health
Lincoln County Head Start (CSC)
Lincoln County School District (Katey Townsend, Betsy Wilcox, Heidi Lambert)
Lincoln School District Early Learning - LIFT
Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting
Oregon Family Support Network
Oregon State Extension
Relief Nursery
Samaritan Early Learning Center
Samaritan Health Services (Mellie Bukovsky-Reyes, Rich Waller)
Samaritan Health Services - Maternity Connection
Samaritan House
Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital
Seashore Literacy Center
WellMama
Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program



Parent Focus Group Summary

Background

During May, June, July and December 2015 Hub staff conducted 14 Parent Focus Groups throughout Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties for 81 parents of children under age 6. Community partners hosted the groups funded by the NW Health Foundation's Healthy Beginnings+Healthy Communities initiative.

Demographics indicated participants were: 45% White, 45% Hispanic/Latino, 10% Native American, 39% Spanish speakers and 23% were raising children alone.

We asked parents to describe how they feel about raising their children in their communities and to describe the changes they would like to see so their children can be successful.

What do kids need to be prepared for kindergarten?

Respondents in all three counties identified a number of social, emotional and academic skills that are necessary for kindergarten, including knowing letter sounds and numbers, being able to follow directions, and having experience being read to and spoken with. Parents also recognized the importance of formalized programming (e.g. Head Start, preschool) for developing these skills. Families with special needs children appreciate quality Early Intervention services and pediatric therapists.

Children must have basic needs met: Food, housing, transportation. Access to fresh food

What are the challenges your family faces while raising your children?

Parents identified a number of challenges including: transportation, food, accessibility of services (such as health services), a lack of mental health and alcohol services, stable housing, language and cultural barriers, lack of awareness of resources, discrimination, safety (e.g. fear of children being taken away), and lack of social support and big picture thinking.

In Lincoln County, child care is a major concern. Participants noted that many child care situations are unsafe, unaffordable, inconvenient, and inflexible.

Quotes:

Linn County - "Sometimes the language barrier stops you from doing a lot for your kids."

Benton County - "Wish there was an agency that understood that we need a hand-up but not a hand-out."

Lincoln County - "Majority of people work 3+ jobs, 7 days a week - who's left to raise the children?"

What are the challenges in the community that your family faces while raising your children?

A number of challenges emerged from focus groups. Parents mentioned crime, safety, and drug use, particularly in pockets in each county. Concerns include lack of affordable housing and adequate transportation to connect with available resources/services. Lincoln County residents feel that food costs are high and rural Benton County residents lack access to grocery stores and transportation. Also noted were lack of services and lack of awareness of services. Language barriers present challenges. Availability and affordability of child care is a challenge for many people.

Quotes:

Linn County - "Ghetto - Sunrise Park, meth use."

Albany - "... In some areas the use of drugs and alcohol affects the lives of people."

- "There are many activities for kids, but the information is only in English. I feel that they don't want the Latino kids to be involved in these activities because they don't have that information in Spanish. Sometimes I see a lot of sports for kids, but the information is only in English, so how can we participate?"

Benton County - "Some families are struggling with their children, but don't seem to know that there are resources and they can get help."

Corvallis - "Corvallis is very segregated when it comes to economic status. The library and schools that have more resources are not in south town. If you don't drive it is difficult to get to shopping and not everyone drives. South town is not very good for kids."

Philomath - "We have lots of appointments (mental, dental, job training, counseling, court, agencies, etc.) but no reliable transportation to get there."

- "Yes, but ... there is no one that speaks Spanish, I had to try to get him signed up in English. It would be better if someone spoke Spanish there."

What do you value about your community? What resources are available in your community?

Focus group participants listed large numbers of available resources in all communities, and many appear to be utilizing these programs and services. People feel safe in their communities, particularly when they are out walking in parks and as they go about their lives.

Across the counties, people value a strong sense of community. This is especially prominent in small towns (Harrisburg and rural Lincoln County) where people noted the friendliness of their communities. Affordable housing in Harrisburg and abundant outdoor activities in Lincoln County are also valued.

Quotes:

Harrisburg – “Homey, helpful neighbors, friendly small town.”

- “We like Harrisburg, friendly, we know each other, 13 year old son likes it here. You can meet parents and know each other.”
- “Family friendly, one of the best places to raise a family.”
- “Safe – we lock our doors, but we’re out in the community and feel safe.”

Benton County – “Value safe streets—meaning a safe place to walk and/or bike to school or the park for my kids. Supports such as car speed control, safe crossings and more protected bike lanes would increase livability.”

- “Value small town vibe, everyone knows everyone. Lots of support from community.”
- “I love Corvallis because of the sense of community that we have – everyone cares - - about everyone else.”
- “Small towns tend to be closer and create life-long friendships.”

If you could be in charge of meeting your community needs, the needs of families with your children, what changes would you make? Why?

Participants suggested improving communications about events and services to improve awareness. (Suggestions included a place to call, a Facebook page, a welcome basket for new parents.) People expressed a need for more culturally and linguistically appropriate services (health care, social services) and programs (libraries). Participants noted a lack of interpretation. They also want to see more cultural centers and events like the Benton County Soccer Tournament that has health services for Latinos. People want programming for young children either as a family or childcare/preschool. Child care is unaffordable for families and those with special needs children mentioned needing more opportunities for respite care.

Overall themes:

- Lack of interpretation services
- High value for parks and outdoor opportunities
- Need to improve access to quality affordable child care / preschool
- Lack of transportation especially in rural areas
- High value on culture of supportive communities
- Increase opportunities for respite care for families
- Desire to continue the conversation