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Baby Promise Pilot Region Selection Announcement

The Early Learning Division (ELD) is pleased to announce that we have selected three regions in Oregon as grantees to develop and administer the Baby Promise Pilot program. The grant opportunity was open to all Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies across the state to help the ELD develop a proof of concept program to improve access to high quality infant and toddler care for families. Baby Promise is a quality infant-toddler care solution utilizing contracted child care slots to serve infants and toddlers from families experiencing low-income.

Process

The ELD received a total of 12 Letter of Interest submissions out of the 13 CCR&R regions. Across all 12 letter of interest submissions, **a total of 995 slots** were requested, representing a minimum of **188 early education program partners** ready to participate to serve infants and toddlers in families experiencing low-income. Each applicant was required to develop a realistic plan to address the crisis level need for quality infant and toddler care in their region, focusing on their communities' readiness to quickly implement a program that clearly displayed a connection to early educators poised to serve families. Overall, the submissions displayed a local capacity and attentiveness to partner with the ELD to learn from and develop programmatic opportunities to address the infant-toddler child care desert and disparities we are experiencing in Oregon for children birth to age three and their families.

Selection

Selection of the three regions to develop Baby Promise Pilot programs was based on a competitive scoring process. The three regions selected, displayed the highest level of readiness coupled with the most innovative approaches with community partners to address gaps in quality. The regions represent geographic diversity across rural, suburban, and urban communities and demonstrated an ability to reach a diverse array of families and children who can benefit from the program the most. The three recipient CCR&Rs are:

- NeighborImpact – Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson counties
- Mt Hood Community College – Multnomah county
- Southwestern Oregon Community College – Coos, Curry counties

Next Steps

The Pilot programs will move toward implementation to begin in April 2019, serving close to 230 infants, toddlers and their families. The ELD looks forward to bringing information to communities about the development of the Pilots and future opportunities for expansion once they come available!

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Oregon's Preschool Development Grant

Preschool Development Grant

The federal Preschool Development Grant is a 12-month grant opportunity to build state and local infrastructure to deliver quality early childhood programs and establish stronger coordination and collaboration across program and sectors, including strong tribal partnerships.

The Grant required states to propose projects under five activities:

- Conducting a statewide needs assessment;
- Developing or refining a statewide strategic plan;
- Maximizing parental choice and knowledge;
- Sharing best practices among early childhood providers; and
- Improving the overall quality of early childhood education services.

The federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced awardees, with 45 states receiving this grant. ACF awarded all states amounts that represent 71% of their original requests. This includes an award of \$4.2 million to Oregon.

Oregon's Preschool Development Grant Proposal

Oregon applied for approximately \$6 million. ELD's application accelerates goals within the Governor's Children's Agenda and the Early Learning Council's recently adopted strategic plan, *Raise Up Oregon: A Statewide Early Learning System Plan*, and includes 1.5 FTE for grant coordination, data collection and contract administration.

The state goals for each of the five activities, and proposed projects under these goals are outlined on the next page. Projects center on work that is both critical and feasible within a one-year period to build the capacity of state and local partners integral to expansion of high-quality programming and successful transitions to kindergarten.

ELD's approach relies upon a strong network of partnerships throughout the Oregon early learning system. Key partners are noted for each project but may not represent the full range of partnerships required in order to complete the project. **In addition, the following proposed projects represent the total \$6 million ask and will be reduced to reflect Oregon's revised award of \$4.2 million.**

Oregon's Preschool Development **PROPOSED** Grant Activities and Projects

Conducting a statewide needs assessment

Determine the reach of current programs in Oregon to the most historically underserved populations and the capacity of facilities to expand the reach of early care and education programs.

Convene a State Needs Assessment Advisory Committee with representatives from the ELC, Hubs, CCR&Rs, Tribal Nations, and state agency staff to advise on and refine research questions and provide feedback to contractor.

Contract with experts to work to assess research questions such as current reach of early learning programs, practices around blending, braiding, and stacking Federal, State, and Local early care and education funding, and status of facilities to identify necessary investments for expansion or programming improvement.

Developing or refining a statewide strategic plan

Incorporate data from needs assessment into Early Learning System Strategic Plan implementation.

Resources to develop work plans to implement the Strategic Plan.

Maximizing parental choice and knowledge

Maximize family choice and knowledge about Oregon's mixed delivery B-5 system and increase family involvement in transitions to school.

Pilot coordinated enrollment systems for publicly-funded programs and services with Hubs and Tribal communities by first providing resources to actively engage with families on their needs.

Accelerate OHA implementation of home visiting model by offering training and TA to communities.

Amend contract to expedite improvements to the Child Care Safety Portal to provide relevant and timely information.

Enhance family engagement in the school transition project through enhancements to the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment (OKA), including piloting a survey on prior ECE experiences and by supplementing the OKA to include a home language survey for families of Dual Language Learners.

Sharing best practices among early childhood providers

Share best practice among early childhood professionals – including teachers, administrators, and trainers/technical assistance providers – to increase collaboration and efficiency of services, including to improve transitions to school.

Contract with state early learning standards expert to work with ELC subcommittees on stakeholder focus groups in order to develop infant/toddler standards, and develop TA resources for professional learning providers to implement the standards.

Host regional expert roundtables of program administrators who have successfully blended, braided or stacked funding. Documented findings will be developed into resources for administrators and provided along with TA.

Fund Tribal partner(s) to develop a coaching model for culturally-responsive teaching and appropriate transitions for children and families, to be shared through Tribal partners with educator cohorts and eventually more districts.

Improving the overall quality of early childhood education services

Improve the Overall Quality of Early Care and Education for Children Birth-to-Five

Provide small quality improvement grants to providers participating in new or existing FCCNs through CCR&Rs.

Pilot community plan development approach with a few Hubs to create toolkit for use in TA for all Hubs to create community plans for expansion of programming that meets the needs of families within their community.

Contract for data inventory study in order to track early learning system outcomes and integrate into state longitudinal data system.