



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

South-Central
Early Learning Hub

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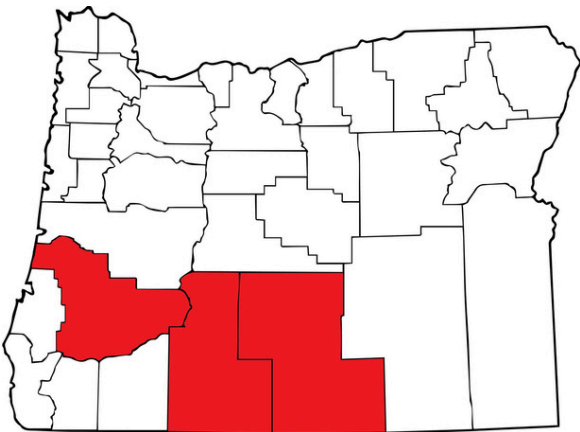
SOUTH-CENTRAL EARLY LEARNING HUB

The South-Central Early Learning Hub began in February 2014. Its purpose is to develop an aligned, coordinated, and effective system of early learning services that equip young children with needed skills for success in school and in life. Working closely with community-based partnerships, the Hub is creating a collective impact model that focuses on shared goals, strategies and outcomes. We recognize the importance of family voice and choice and how it contributes to partners working together to promote stable and attached families.

WE SERVE:

Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties

10,032 children, ages 0-5 across our region of 19,628 square miles!



TOTAL # OF CHILDREN AGES 0-5 PER COUNTY

Douglas County: 5,556
Klamath County: 4,059
Lake County: 417

"For years, experts have called for a comprehensive system that links young children and families to needed health and social services at the community, state, and federal level. The coronavirus pandemic has revealed that the need for that system is more urgent than ever."

-National Institute for Children's Health Quality

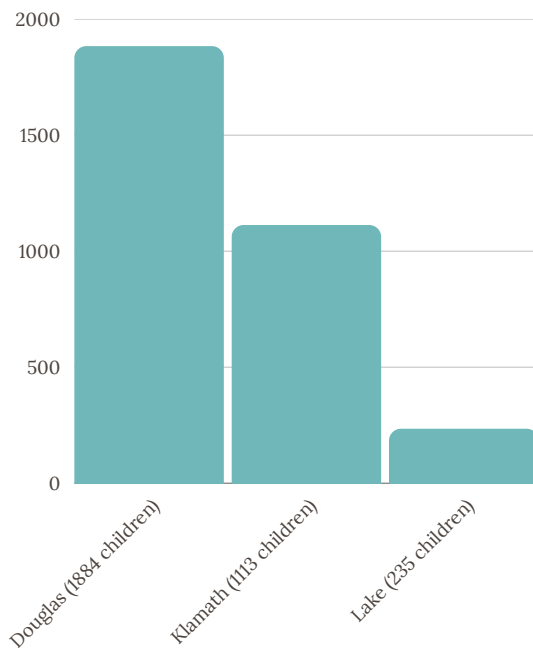


PACIFIC RESEARCH & EVALUATION

In May 2019, the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) partnered with Pacific Research and Evaluation (PRE) to conduct a research effort that would respond to statewide preschool expansion, inform the development of a community plan, and ultimately provide strategic direction for the Hub's work.

POVERTY

Approximately 33.96% of children 0-5 in Douglas County, 27.4% of children in Klamath County, and 56.3% of Children in Lake County are living in poverty, either at or below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

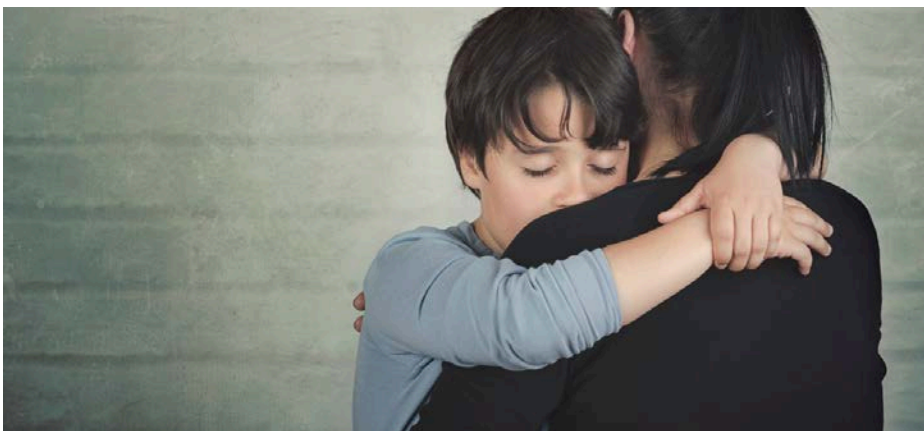


EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (ECE) SECTOR PLAN

Following the Landscape Analysis, the South-Central Early Learning Hub worked collaboratively with parents and community partners, Care Connections and Education (the regional Child Care Resource and Referral), to develop the Early Care and Education Sector plan in the fall of 2019. This plan was used by the Early Learning Division to determine programs that received funding to provide Preschool Promise to income eligible children across the three-county region.

PRIORITY POPULATIONS BASED ON DATA

- Children/families living in areas of geographic isolation including experiencing poverty.
- Children who are experiencing displacement: homeless families, children in foster care, and children in kinship care.
- Children who are experiencing physical or developmental disabilities or delays, including those with mental health concerns and/or trauma
- Hispanic/Latinx
- Tribal/Native American
- Infants and children aged 0-2



ABOUT 65%

of children in our region
live in areas of
concentrated poverty.

ECE SECTOR PLAN AND PRESCHOOL PROMISE

The Early Care and Education Sector Plan that we worked on in the fall of 2019 was used by the Early Learning Division to determine programs that will receive funding to provide Preschool Promise to children who are income eligible across the three county region.

Elkton School District # 34	10
Gilchrist School	20
Gosia's Daycare	6
Klamath Falls City Schools	26
Klamath Family Head Start	20
Lil Hands Daycare	9
Nic Nacs Quality Childcare	9
North Douglas School District #22	15
South Umpqua School District	19
Sutherlin School District	18
The YMCA of Klamath Falls	45
Wildflower Child Care	12
Brockway Elementary	18
Yoncalla School District	30

122

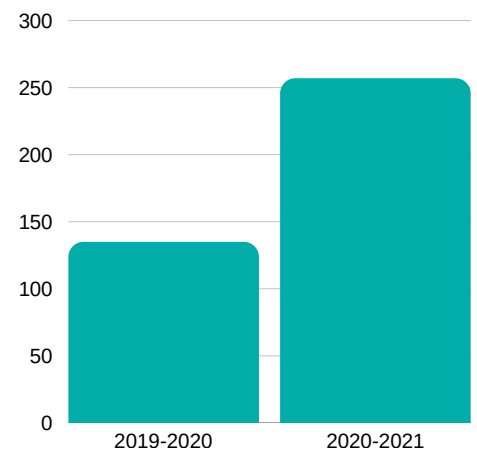
The region was awarded 101 new slots for children ages 3-4 to receive access to high-quality care and education!

23

Additional slots were awarded to Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and the Klamath Tribes!

257

Preschool Promise slots awarded to our partners in the South-Central Early Learning Hub Region!



COORDINATED ENROLLMENT

Coordinated Enrollment for Preschool Promise efforts across the region have been launched as contracts with the Early Learning Division (ELD) are being finalized. This effort will streamline the process for families to access publicly funded preschool.

We have hired a Coordinated Enrollment Specialist and we are ready to start working with families and Preschool Promise leaders! The Hub is collaborating with the CCRR who will provide technical assistance to the Preschool Promise sites, such as providing professional development and helping to improve the overall quality of programs.



Children Arrive
Ready for
Kindergarten

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Over the past year, our committees have been working diligently on the creation of a Strategic Plan that aligns our work with Oregon's new [Statewide Early Learning System Plan: Raise Up Oregon!](#)

INFORMATION FOR THE LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS, EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SECTOR PLAN, AND STRATEGIC PLAN WAS GATHERED FROM:

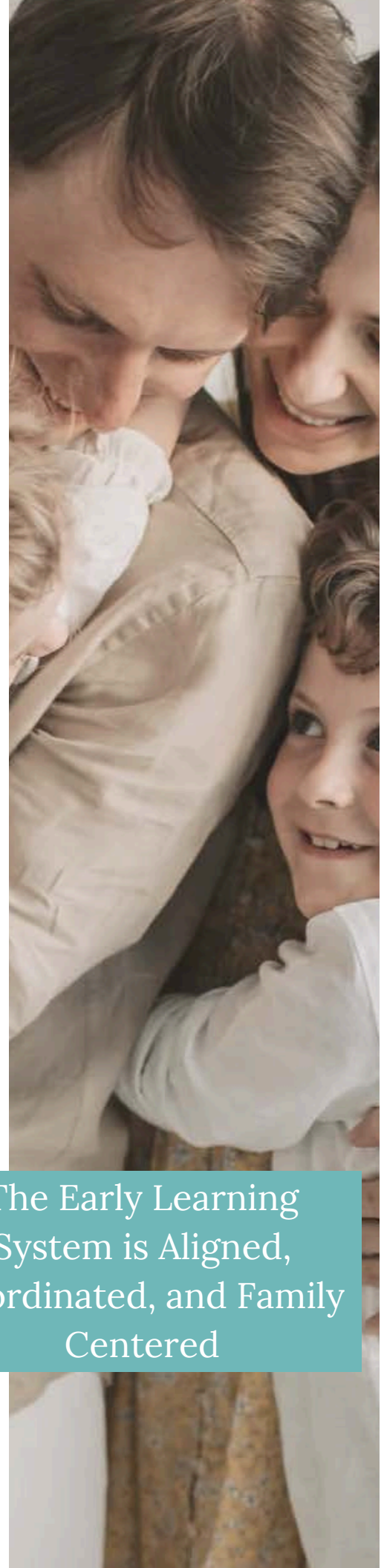
- Parent Surveys distributed through partner programs, events, and parent cafés
- Superintendent phone interviews
- Elementary School Principal surveys
- Kindergarten teacher surveys
- Childcare provider surveys
- Data from Western Oregon University on Kindergarten Assessments and other data points from elementary schools throughout the region
- Hard work and dedication of our partners!

Development of a Regional Equity Lens

We are centering our work to include diversity, equity, and inclusion. The South-Central Early Learning Hub has been fortunate to work with Capacity Building Partnerships. Over the past two years, we have continued our learning in diversity, equity and inclusion to support equity-centered action.

Early Learning Hub partners began working on the South-Central Early Learning Hub Equity Lens and will continue the process into the next fiscal year. The Equity Lens will be used as a guide in planning and decision-making for equitable access to Early Learning Hub programming.

The Early Learning System is Aligned, Coordinated, and Family Centered



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Young children and their families have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 in the South-Central region. In addition, many child care providers have not been able to continue serving children, even though the region was already experiencing an inadequate supply of quality child care. Then, the region was challenged with guidance that limited the number of children, group sizes, and the ability of programs to offer care and financially sustain their operations.

Discussions are ongoing in each of our counties, trying to find solutions to increase the supply of child care. The region is also looking for viable options for school age children who attend school in-person or virtually.

Hub Supported Action

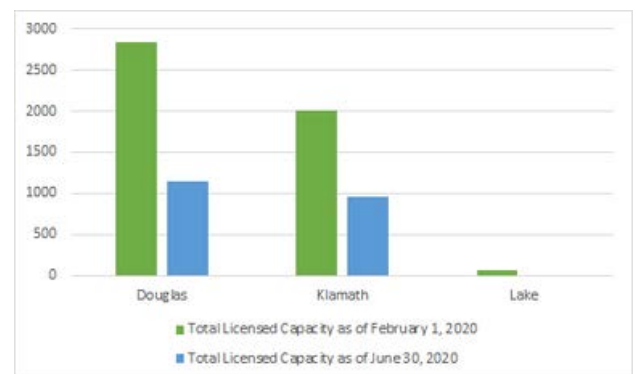
Umpqua Health Alliance awarded the South-Central Early Learning Hub a grant to support families throughout Douglas County during COVID-19 to provide basic child necessities and cleaning supplies.

Cascade Health Alliance (CHA), in partnership with the South-Central Early Learning Hub, donated diapers and wipes to the Pregnancy Hope Center in Klamath County for families in need during COVID-19.

Impact on Funding

The economic impact of Covid-19 has had a profound effect on local, regional and statewide businesses. We anticipate funding cuts though it is not clear the level of cuts to systems or programs.

Childcare Capacity and COVID Impact



Data provided by Care Connections and Education, the regional Child Care Resource and Referral network.



We will continue to discuss what collective action can be taken to support children and families during this challenging time.

COMMUNITY UPLIFT

Community UPLiFT connects expecting parents and families with children ages 0-5, and up to 21 with special needs, to free and local support services through a closed-loop, universal intake and referral process.

As a program of the South-Central Early Learning Hub, Community UPLiFT has continued operating throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with Family Resource Facilitators across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties.

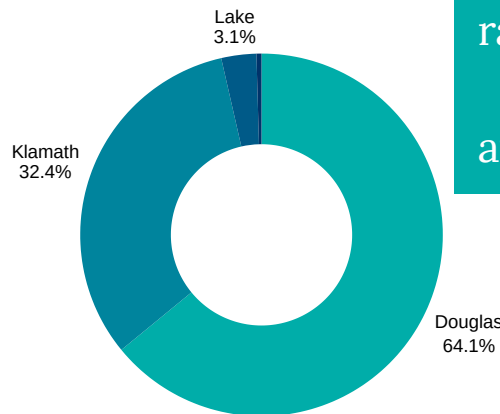
Community UPLiFT is a closed-loop, universal intake and referral process that was built in partnership with twenty-eight community partners across our three-county region!

Since inception, Community UPLiFT has received 448 referrals!



Children are raised in healthy, stable, and attached families

Without Community UPLiFT, these 448 families were at risk of falling through the cracks!



Community UPLiFT/South-Central Early Learning Hub also worked in collaboration with community partners to expand a data portal where referrals are securely received, tracked, and using a warm-hand-off process, sent to programs of the families' choice.



Vulnerable populations have disproportionately suffered from the lack of coordination across the system: Inequities stemming from poverty, racism, and bias have been intensified by the pandemic, making it even harder for people of color and families with lower income to access existing supports.

-National Institute for Children's Health Quality

SUCCESS STORIES

An expectant mother, due in the summer of 2020, was referred to Community Uplift by Healthy Families in January of 2020. When the mother found out she was pregnant, she quit using drugs and left an abusive relationship.

The Family Resource Facilitator (FRF) formed a relationship with the mother and together they determined that she would be a good fit for the New Day Program and Take Root Parenting Connections. The FRF gave her information on Safe Haven Maternity Home.

In the summer of 2020, another referral was submitted for this parent. She was living at the Safe Haven Maternity Home with her newborn child. She was engaged in the New Day/New Beginnings program and was referred to Community UPLiFT again because she wanted to find more parenting education resources. She had already completed Infants 101 and was in the process of taking Incredible Infants with Take Root Parenting Connection. She was also interested in taking an adult and infant CPR and first aid class.

She then advised the Family Resource Facilitator that when her child was a little older, she was thinking about going to college!

"I really enjoyed seeing the progress this parent made from a past where she was using drugs and in an abusive relationship to a clean and sober new mom actively planning a future that includes learning all she can about being the best mom possible."

-FRF, Douglas County



MORE SUCCESS

An expectant parent was referred to Community UPLiFT in July 2020. She had recently moved to Klamath County and was living in temporary housing with her child.

Through Community UPLiFT, she was referred to Maternity Nurse Case Management, Healthy Families, and Take Root Parenting Connection. She also received information about the Klamath Lake Community Action Services, Homeless Prevention Program.

She wanted to get her older child into a summer learning program. Even though they were out of our typical service age range, the Family Resource Facilitator was able to connect her with Klamath Outdoor Science School and was able to gain admission for her child, free of charge!

The family's additional needs included insurance and vehicle repairs to get to medical appointments safely. Repairs would normally cost between \$300 - \$500. Due to the relationships that have been built between partners through Community UPLiFT/South-Central Early Learning Hub, the Family Resource Facilitator was able to connect her with the Klamath Community College (KCC) Automotive program, which was able to have students complete repairs for just the cost of parts.



This mom was so thankful for the assistance that Community UPLiFT was able to provide and could not believe how nice everyone had been to her since moving to Klamath County. She was amazed at how willing the community was to help her in her time of need!

This is a testament to the partnerships that we have built over the last few years.

Thank you to all of our amazing community partners who continue to make Community UPLiFT / South-Central Early Learning Hub a success!

- FRF, Klamath County

KINDERGARTEN READINESS PARTNERSHIP AND INNOVATION (KPI)

The Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation Program invests in promising models for connecting early learning and K-3 education across the state, and promotes community and school partnerships that result in measurable increases in children's readiness for kindergarten.

The program is designed to establish scalable and replicable models, at the local level, for prenatal to third grade, also known as P-3 alignment. KPI focuses on shared professional development for early learning providers and kindergarten teachers, supporting successful transitions into kindergarten for all children, and engaging families as equal partners in children's learning and development.

Growing Early Mindsets (GEM) Institute

A two-day, face-to-face, GEM institute with Dr. Kendra Coats was held in Douglas County to focus on bridging elementary schools and early learning partners was hosted in February 2020. It was also available to Klamath and Lake County partners virtually. Due to COVID-19, additional GEM Institutes shifted to virtual sessions around Mindfulness.

Ready! for Kindergarten

In partnership with the South-Central Early Learning Hub and Take Root Parenting Connection, a virtual six-session series of Ready! for Kindergarten was hosted online due to COVID-19 via a private Facebook group.

Play2Learn & Kaleidoscope

Unfortunately, the 2019-2020 Play2Learn series in Klamath County, and Kaleidoscope program in Douglas County were cancelled due to COVID-19 and school closures across the state, but events are slotted for the 2020-2021 school year and are hoping to be continued.



The KPI program's core objectives are to serve children 3-5 who are "furthest from opportunity," working in partnership with school districts, early learning programs, early learning professionals and families.

DEFINING EARLY CHILDHOOD ACRONYMS IN OUR REGION

AEYC – Association for the Education of Young Children
(Also NAEYC – National and OAEYC – Oregon)
ASQ – Ages Stages Questionnaire
CAC – Community Advisory Council (Used by Umpqua Health and Cascade Health)
CCO – Coordinated Care Organization
CCRR or CCR&R – Child Care Resource and Referral
CHA – Cascade Health Alliance
CI – Children’s Institute
COSA – Confederation of Oregon School Administrators
CQI – Continuous Quality Improvement
DESD – Douglas Education Service District
DHS – Department of Human Services
ECE – Early Care and Education
ECSE – Early Childhood Special Education
EI – Early Intervention
ELD – Early Learning Division
ELC – Early Learning Council
ELH – Early Learning Hub
ELL – English Language Learners
ELRS – Early Learning Reporting System
FASN – Family Advocacy and Support Network
FCCN – Family Child Care Network
FDC – Family Development Center
FRF – Family Resource Facilitator
IDD – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
KBBH – Klamath Basin Behavioral Health

KCC – Klamath Community College
KPI – Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation
MIECHV – Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
ODE – Oregon Department of Education
OHA – Oregon Health Authority
OHP – Oregon Health Plan
OPIP – Oregon Pediatric Improvement Partnership
PAC – Professional Advisory Committee
PD – Professional Development
PRE – Pacific Research and Evaluation
PSP or PP – Preschool Promise
PSU – Portland State University
QIP – Quality Improvement Plan
QRIS – Quality Rating and Improvement System
RFA – Request for Application
RGC – Regional Governance Council
SCELH – South-Central Early Learning Hub
SD – School District
SEL – Social/Emotional Learning
TA – Technical Assistance
TFFF – The Ford Family Foundation
UCAN – United Community Action Network
UCC – Umpqua Community College
UHA or UH – Umpqua Health Alliance
WIC – Women Infants and Children
WOU – Western Oregon University
YEW – Yoncalla Early Works



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The South-Central Early Learning Hub engaged the community in a variety of modalities in all three counties at community events.

We participate in community events to boost awareness of the Early Learning Hub, listen to the needs of families, build rapport, and distribute information on access to early childhood programs.

Due to COVID-19, in-person events were postponed or cancelled in the final quarter of the year. To continue reaching families, the South-Central Early Learning Hub increased their social media presence.



Social Media Outreach

The South-Central Early Learning Hub continued utilizing social media for community outreach during COVID-19 to raise awareness of our programs and partners as well as early learning opportunities throughout the region.



Community Baby Showers

Library Events

Head Start Parent Nights

Winter Festivals

MOPs Groups

Food Banks

Community Cafés

Dr. Seuss Nights

Other Community Events

Over 1,000 families were reached at community events in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties!

