



Help Relief Nurseries Continue to Serve 1000 Children

Our Ask

- **Wages matter.** OARN is grateful that early childhood professionals have been recognized as worthy of competitive, livable wages, and that the Legislature has provided funding for higher wages for direct service staff in several early childhood programs.
- **Relief Nurseries must raise wages.** To remain competitive employers of early childhood professionals, Relief Nurseries must raise staff wage rates to match as closely as possible those of state-funded programs, such as Preschool Promise and Oregon Pre-Kindergarten.
- **We are asking the Legislature to invest \$4.8 million in additional ongoing funding to increase Relief Nursery wages and maintain levels of service to our most vulnerable children and their families.** The average Relief Nursery teacher/home visitor would need a 19% wage increase to meet the Early Learning Council minimum salaries for early childhood educators. This additional investment will secure services to the many families in need of support.
- **Private dollars aren't available.** While Relief Nurseries represent a successful public-private partnership, private fundraising is already highly leveraged and is not a viable option to close the gap.
- **Without financial support, we project that 1000 children will be at risk of losing services.** This would negate the important investment the Legislature made in 2019 to expand Relief Nursery services. If Relief Nurseries do not raise wage rates for our teachers, home visitors, and other support staff, we will suffer staff attrition to other employers and programs. If Relief Nurseries raise wages without additional funding, services to children and families will be directly impacted and reduced.

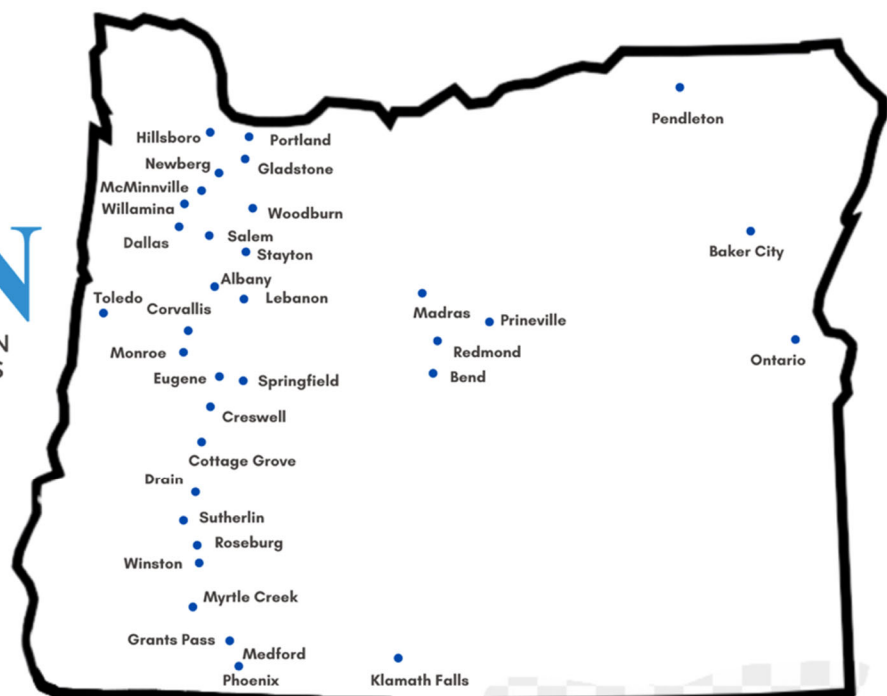
Families Need Relief Nurseries

- **There were 13,674 victims of child abuse and neglect in Oregon in 2019.** Tragically, 42.1% of those were under age 6. On average, there are 7,435 children in foster care on a daily basis.
- **Relief Nursery programs uniquely focus on the specific issues of children from multi-stressed families who have experienced trauma, abuse, stress, or are at-risk for such experiences.** The Relief Nursery Therapeutic Early Childhood Program provides a comprehensive array of individualized classroom and home-based developmental experiences for children 0-5.
- **Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)** are linked to chronic health problems, mental health illness, and substance abuse in adulthood. ACEs can also negatively impact education and job opportunities. However, ACEs can be prevented.

- **Some children are at greater risk than others.** Women and several racial/ethnic minority groups were at greater risk for having experienced 4 or more types of ACEs. All Relief Nurseries serve a disproportionately high number of non-white children relative to county demographics; 44% identify as non-White. Specific demographics vary from community to community, but 32% of the families served statewide are Latinx. Relief Nurseries serve families in 40 communities across Oregon.
- **ACEs are costly.** The social and economic impact on families and communities totals hundreds of billions of dollars each year nationwide.

Relief Nurseries are a Smart Investment

- Relief Nurseries are required by statute to have a 25% cash match for any state funding they receive. In practice, **Relief Nurseries leveraged \$10.6 million in state funding to raise more than \$18 million in private contributions during 2017-19.** Because of this successful public-private partnership, the state contributes a nominal amount to keep kids safe and families intact, avoiding numerous adverse impacts later in life.
- **Current state funding provides Relief Nurseries ~\$3,520 per child per year. With an additional \$4.8 million, that number will go up to just ~\$4,576.** In 2019, each child in foster care cost the state \$41,796. To incarcerate a child in a youth correctional facility, the state pays \$110,000/year.
- **95% of children do not receive maltreatment after enrolling in Relief Nursery services.** Numerous evaluations of Relief Nursery services show that our programs are successful while children and families receive services, as well as long term. A longitudinal study of Relief Nursery Inc. in Eugene found that 90% of children have no subsequent removal up to 9 years after receiving services.



For more information, please contact:
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