



Oregon Department of
**Early Learning
and Care**

**Joint Committee on Ways &
Means – Subcommittee on
Education**

Alyssa Chatterjee, Early Learning System Director

February 21, 2023



Organizational Overview

The **Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC)** was created to unify and strengthen Oregon's early learning and child care system so that families with young children have access to early learning services, supports and information they need to thrive.

The **Early Learning Council (ELC)** is responsible for administrative rulemaking for all programs within DELIC and is comprised of cross-sector and cross-agency representation reflecting the full early learning system. **This includes representation from ODE and HECC.**

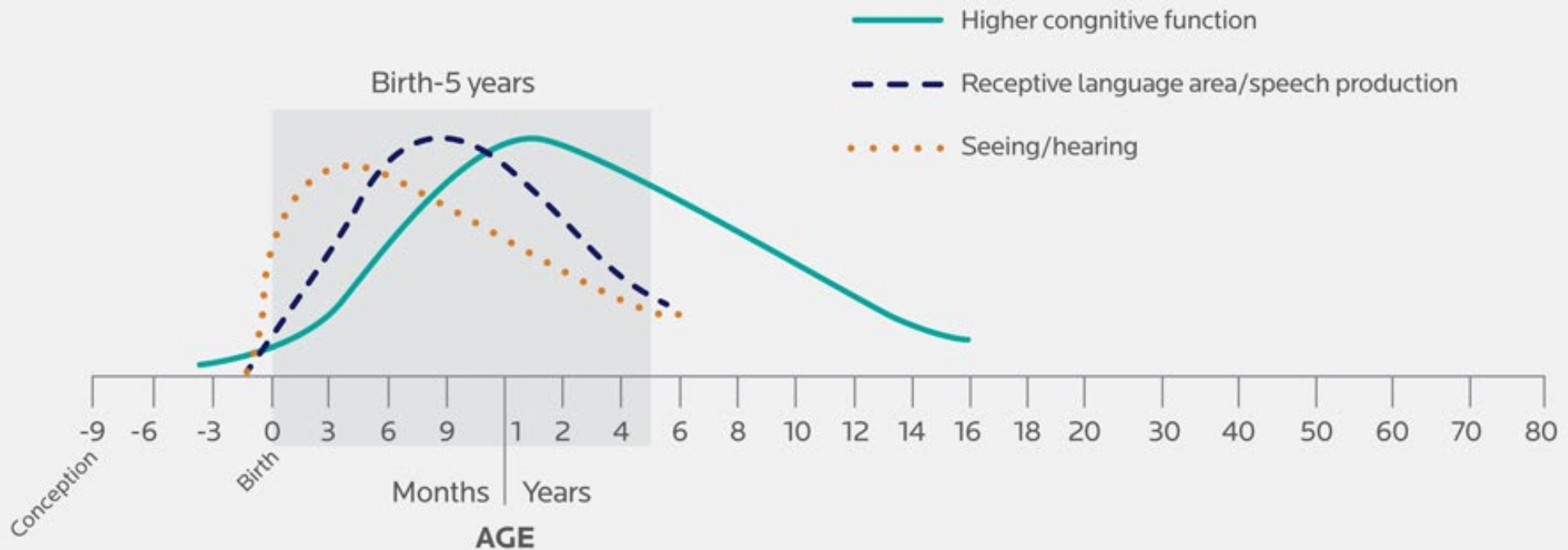




Why Early Learning and Care Matters

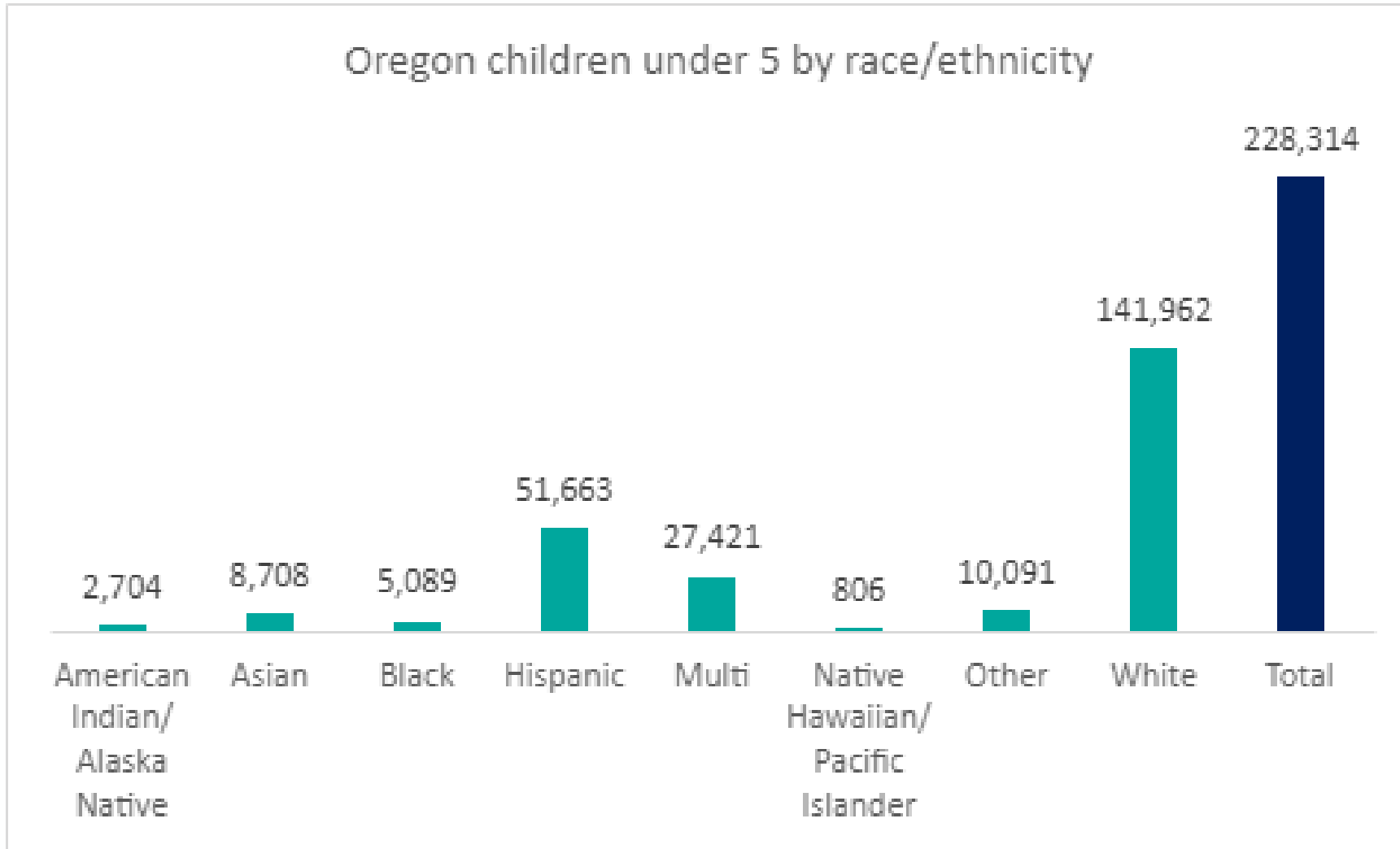
The science of child development underscores the importance of the first 2,000 days of childhood.

Figure 1. Synapse formation in the developing brain^{vii}



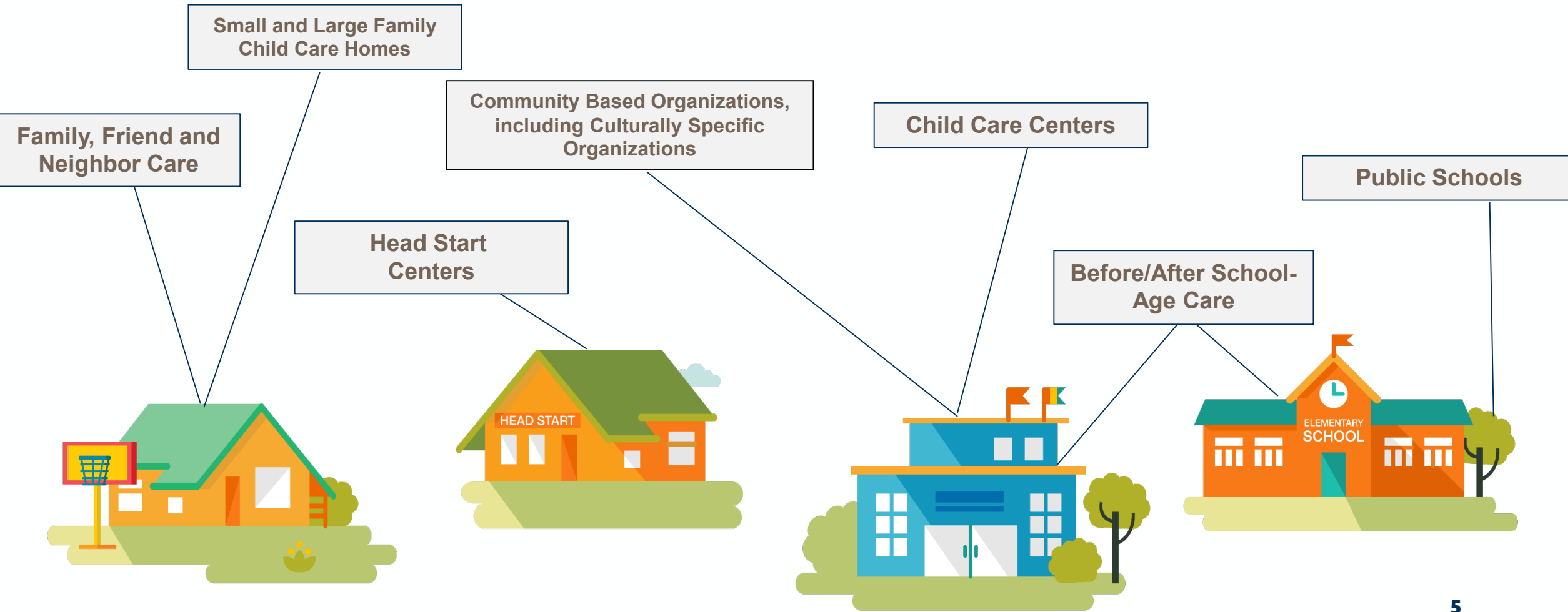


Oregon's Under 5 Population





Early Learning and Care is delivered across a variety of settings. This is why it is known as a "mixed-delivery" system.

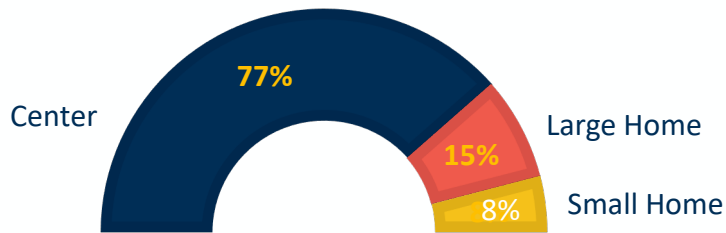




Who makes up the ECE Workforce?

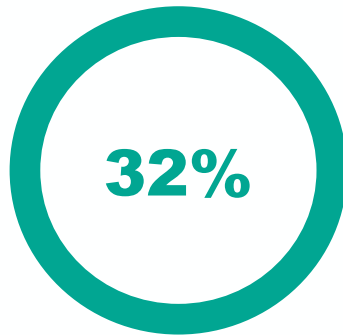
24,269

people worked in Oregon regulated early learning facilities

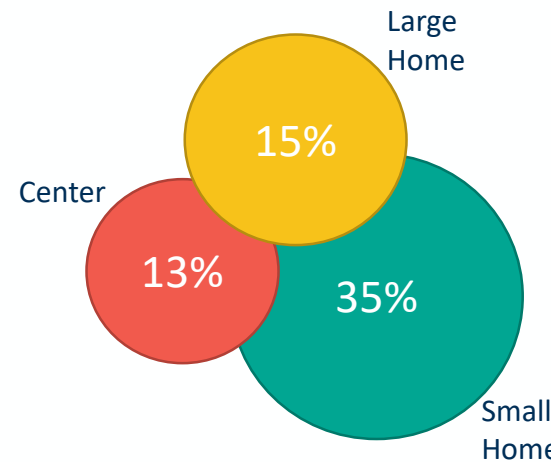


24%
of the workforce
leaves the field
each year

Median Wage
for teachers/head
teachers in center-
based care



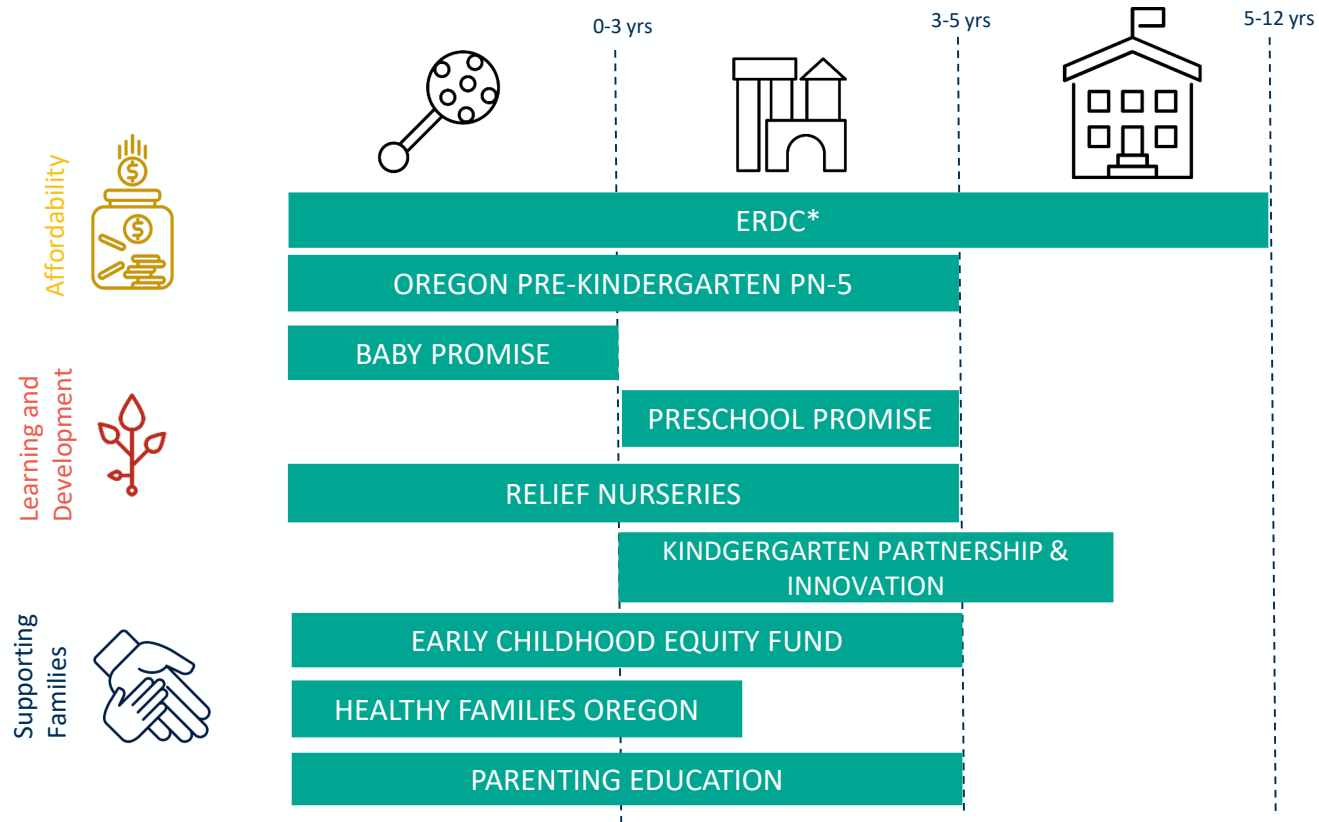
of the workforce identify
as a person of color



of the workforce
report a primary
language other
than English



Early Learning and Child Care Programs



*Program administered by DELC effective July 1, 2023



Who funds the Early Learning & Care Sector?*

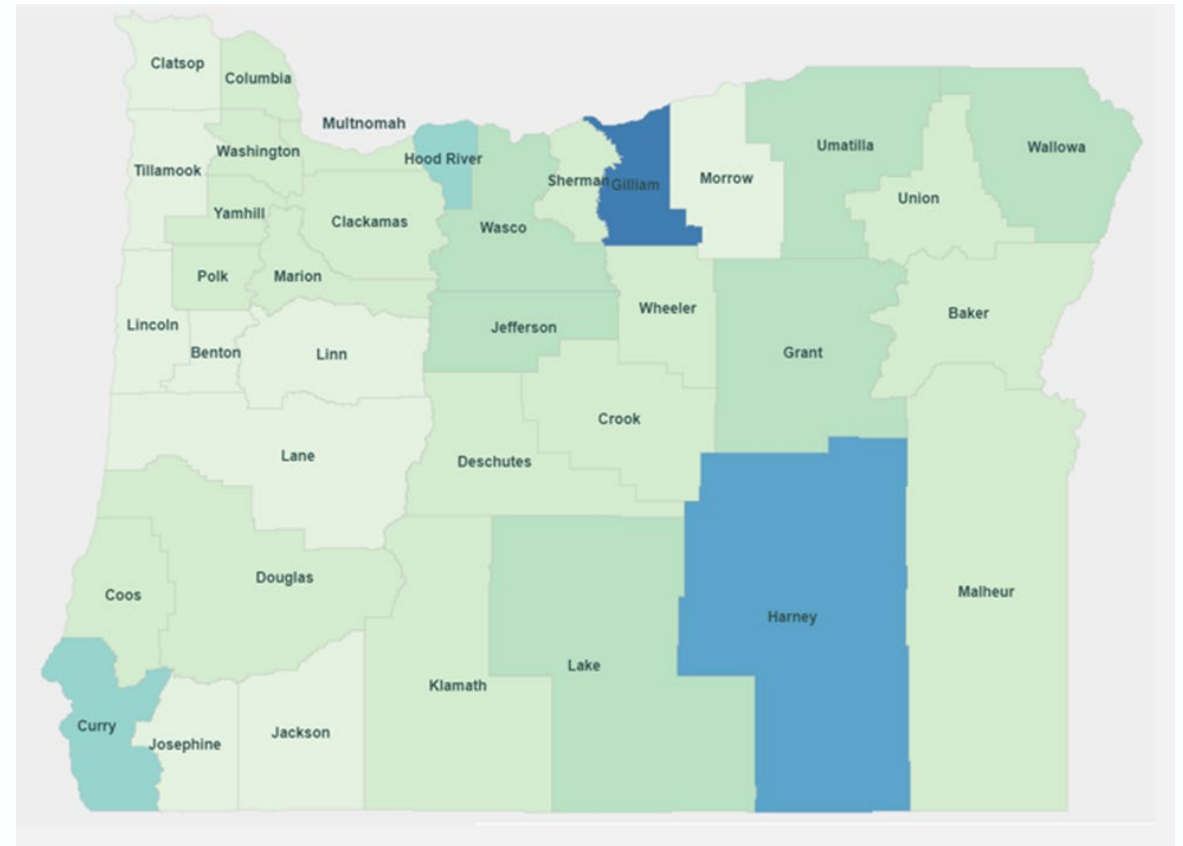
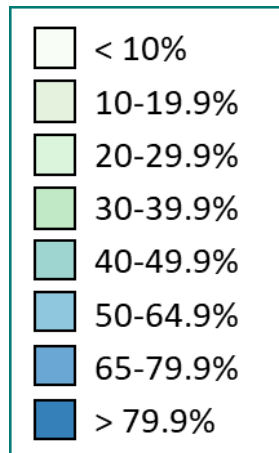


*Prior to the Student Success Act



Percentage of Children Under 5 with Access to a Publicly Funded Early Learning Slot

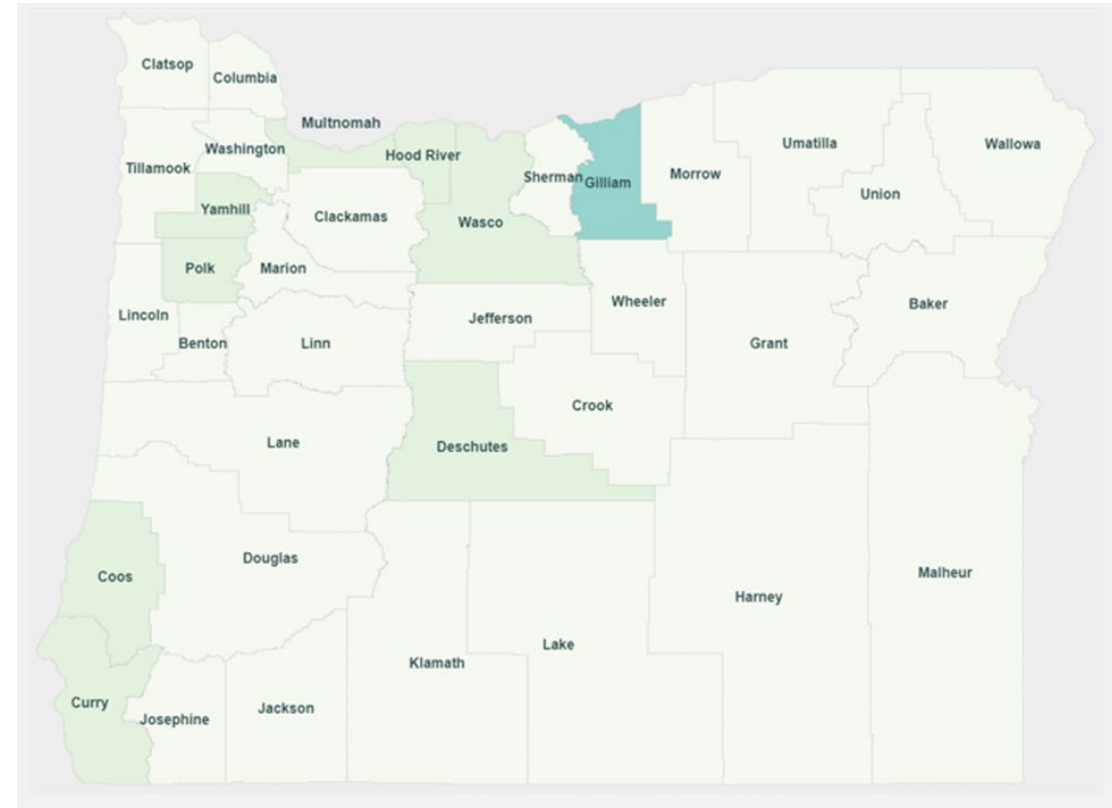
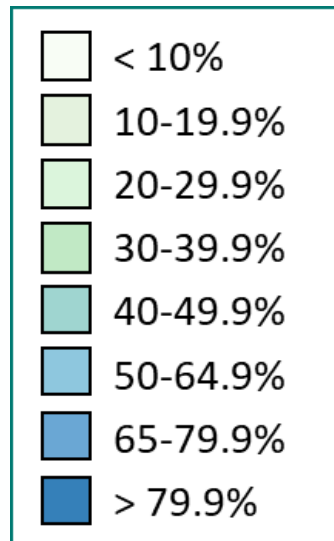
- In the majority of Oregon's counties, **less than 40%** of eligible children under 5 years have access to a publicly funded early learning slot.





Percentage of Infants and Toddlers with Access to a Publicly Funded Early Learning Slot

- In the majority of Oregon's counties, **less than 10%** of eligible infants and toddlers have access to a publicly funded slot.
- All counties except one have access rates **lower than 20%** for eligible infants and toddlers.



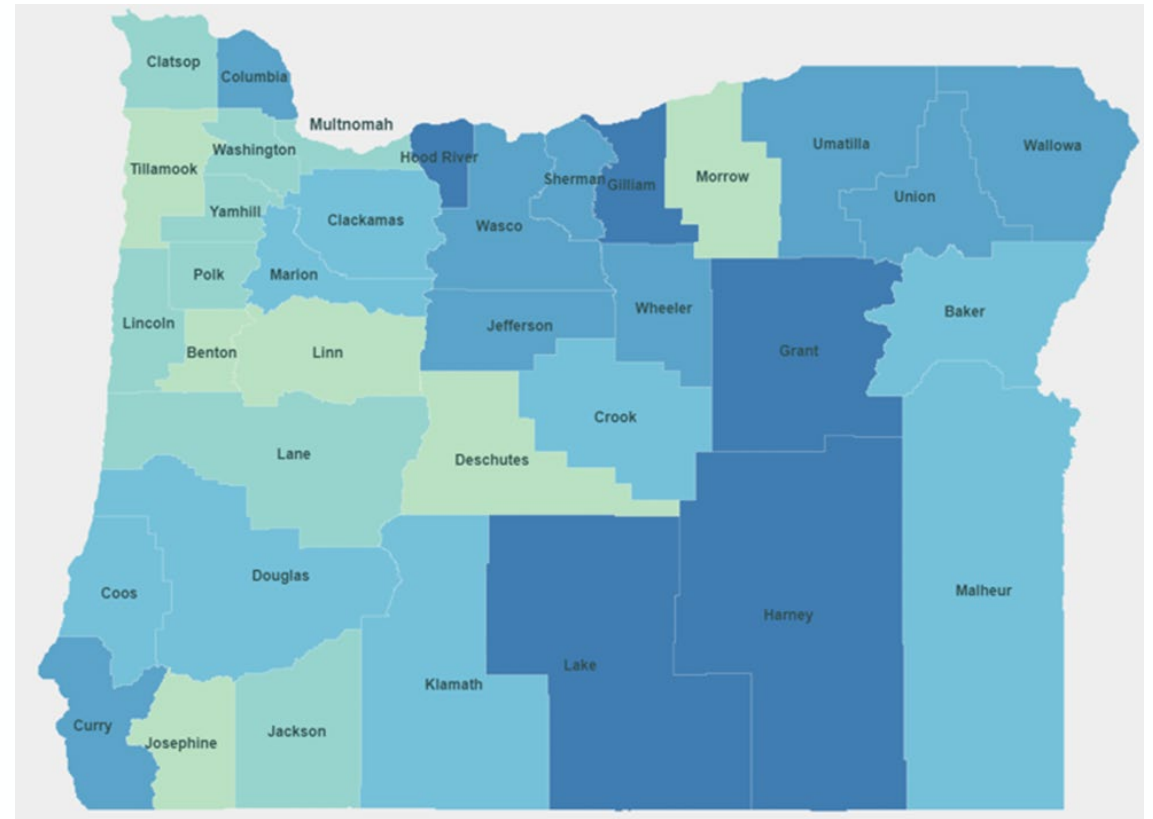
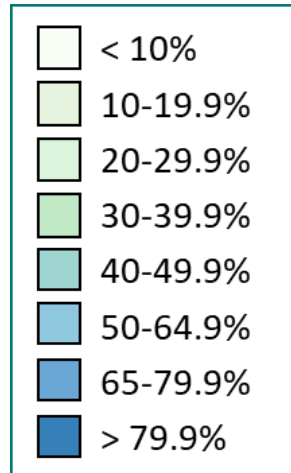
Note: Data includes 2022-23 slot estimates for the following programs: Baby Promise, Oregon Prenatal to Three and federal Early Head Start. Tribal Head Start, Migrant & Seasonal Head Start, and other publicly funded program data are not included. Source: Early Learning Division

Total population defined as children ages 0-2 living in families below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; Source: 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B17024



Percentage of Preschool Age Children with Access to a Publicly Funded Early Learning Slot

- Recent expansion in preschool programs has increased access for preschool aged children (ages 3 and 4).
- Many counties now have **access rates above 50%**, with five counties meeting saturation goals of 80% or more.



Note: Data includes 2022-23 slot estimates for the following programs: Preschool Promise, Oregon Pre-Kindergarten and federal Head Start. Tribal Head Start, Migrant & Seasonal Head Start, and other publicly funded program data are not included. Source: Early Learning Division
Total population defined as children ages 3 & 4 living in families below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; Source: 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B17024



Focus Areas for DELC

- Delivering services to children, families and providers across the state
 - Distributing program funding
 - Child care licensing and compliance
 - Access and supports for the early learning and care workforce
- Providing responsive customer service
 - Accessible processes and information
 - Continuous improvement and system efficiencies
- Designing and implementing accountable systems
 - Data collection and evaluation
 - Quality assurance

Improving Customer Service For...

Child Care Providers

- Completed hiring to more than double the Customer Service team in 2023
- Conducting studies on inquiries received for quality assurance, prompt and accurate response
- Reducing background check backlog through data driven decision making, improved processes, increasing staffing levels
- Risk Assessed Rules: assessing actual risk of harm to children with rule violations, working towards a clear, accurate and equitable picture of compliance.
- While prioritizing child safety, we seek to train, guide and support providers by enhancing supportive regulatory tools and technical assistance.

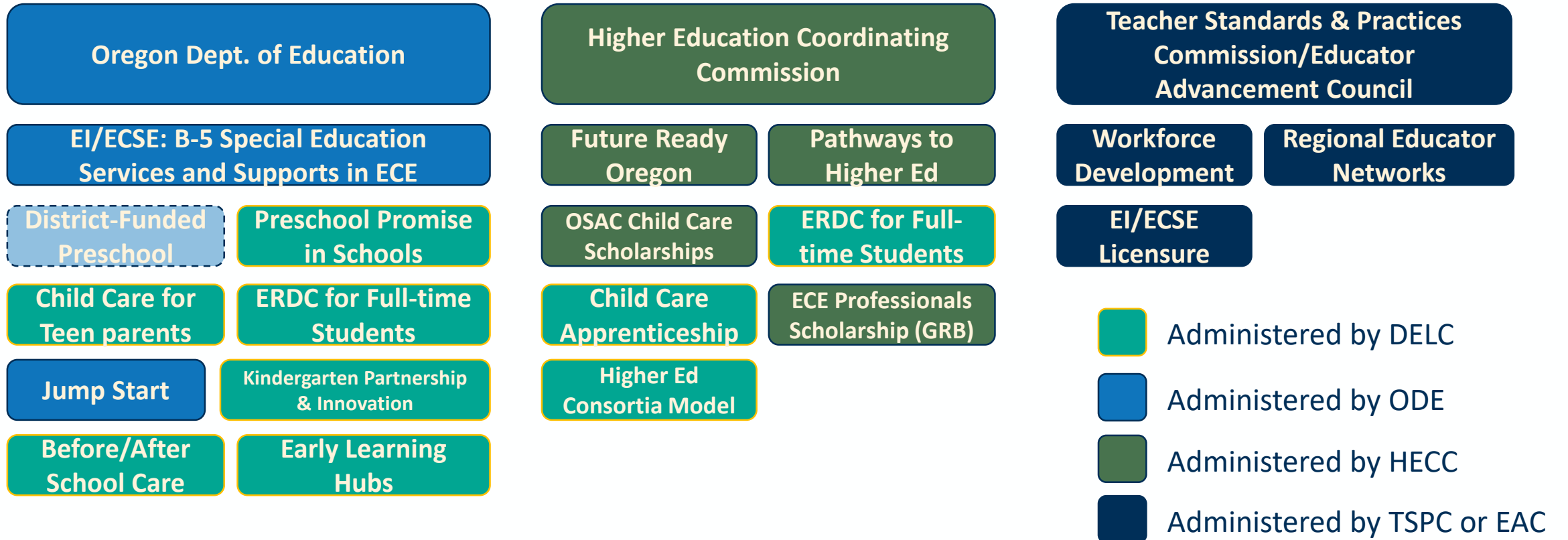
Program Grantees

- Establishing internal policies, processes and procedures that provide increased and alignment and consistency between programs (i.e., data collection)
- Shifting to multi-year grant agreements to reduce the burden on providers and procurement staff and ensure resources are distributed on time
- Designing a provider management platform (child care licensing, provider payments, child care search, safety portal) that is responsive to the needs of families and providers



Cross-Agency Coordination

Early Learning and Care's Role in the P-20 Education Continuum





Thank You

Alyssa.Chatterjee@ode.oregon.gov

Christopher.Brown@ode.oregon.gov

