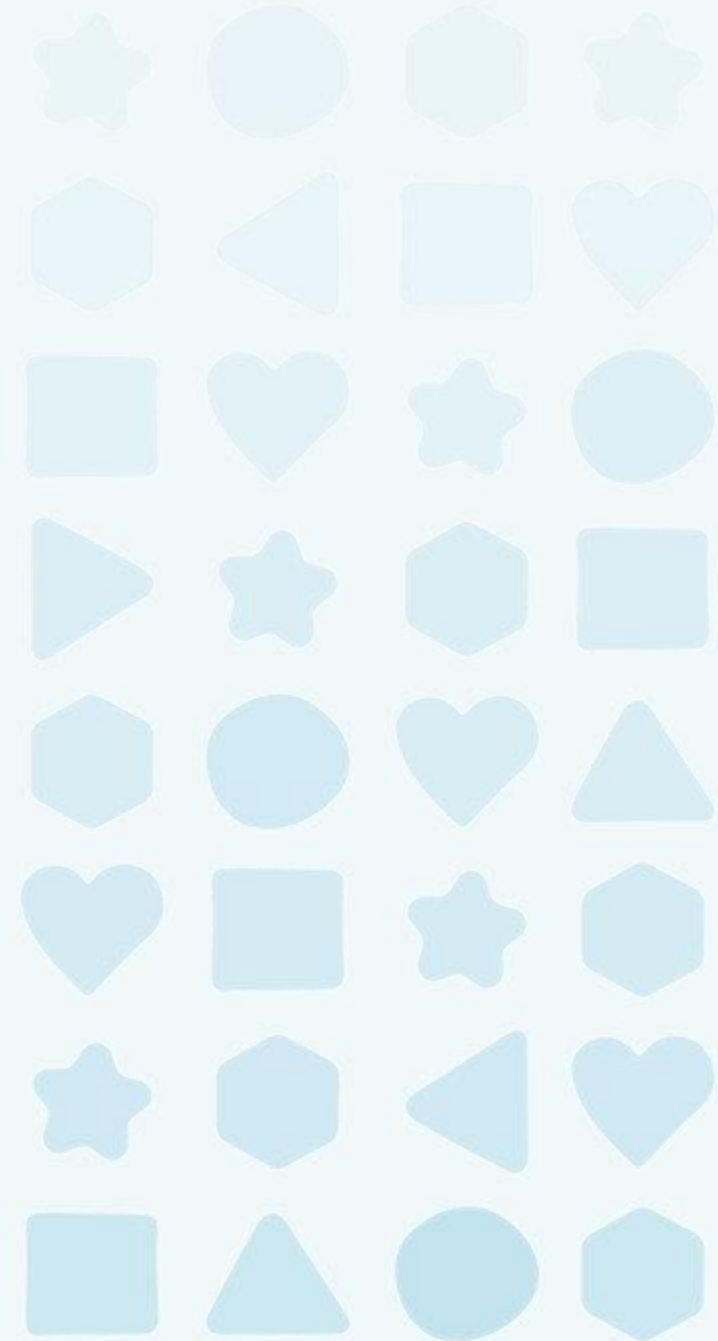




Oregon Department of
**Early Learning
and Care**

Early Learning & Child Care in Oregon

Alyssa Chatterjee, Early Learning System Director



The Impact of Early Learning & Child Care



Investments in early childhood have economic and early childhood development implications.



Return on Investment
Every dollar invested in early childhood education can yield a return of between **\$4 and \$9** in economic benefits.



Family Economic Stability
When parents are assured that their children are receiving quality care and education, they are better able to pursue full-time employment, which enhances household income and economic stability.



Economic Impact in Community
Investment in early childhood programs creates jobs in the sector, and the economic stability afforded to families generates economic activity in local communities.



Business Support
While many child care programs are small businesses themselves, access to child care reduce absenteeism and increases employee productivity.



Literacy & Equal Access to Education
Early learning programs help close the achievement gap between children from affluent families and those from lower-income backgrounds so that all children can thrive.



The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) was established on July 1, 2023.

The agency focuses on increasing supports during a child's earliest years, primarily from prenatal to kindergarten.

DELIC administers the state's preschool and early learning and home visiting programs and supports infant-toddler care, funds professional learning services, and provides child care assistance to qualifying families. Additionally, DELIC provides child care licensing and health and safety monitoring through the Child Care Licensing Division.

Mission

The Department of Early Learning and Care fosters coordinated, culturally appropriate, and family-centered services that recognize and respect the strengths and needs of all children, families, and early learning and care professionals.

Vision

All children, families, early care and education professionals, and communities are supported and empowered to thrive.

Values

Equity

We are committed to dismantling the systems of oppression that harm and create disparities for communities who are historically and institutionally excluded. We are adopting anti-racist principles, expanding access to services, and ensuring community representation and shared power in agency efforts. We are fostering a culturally responsive environment in which all individuals can experience a sense of belonging as they access programs, services, and resources.

Respect

We believe that family is a child's first teacher. We are committed to nurturing family partnerships built on mutual respect. We recognize and value the knowledge and experiences of families, early care and education professionals, and community partners.

Trust

We value the public's trust through honesty, transparency, and keeping our commitments.

Relationships

We acknowledge the importance of nurturing relationships in the field and with community. We listen to, support, collaborate with, and celebrate the professionals, families, and children in our communities.

Safety

We put safety and well-being first for our children, families, and early learning and care professionals.

Continuous Improvement

We set goals, seek input from community, and use data to improve quality of service and programs, increase quality and efficiency, and drive innovation.

Integrity

We are accountable for our actions, decisions, and our work to reliably achieve high-quality outcomes.



Oregon Department of
Early Learning and Care

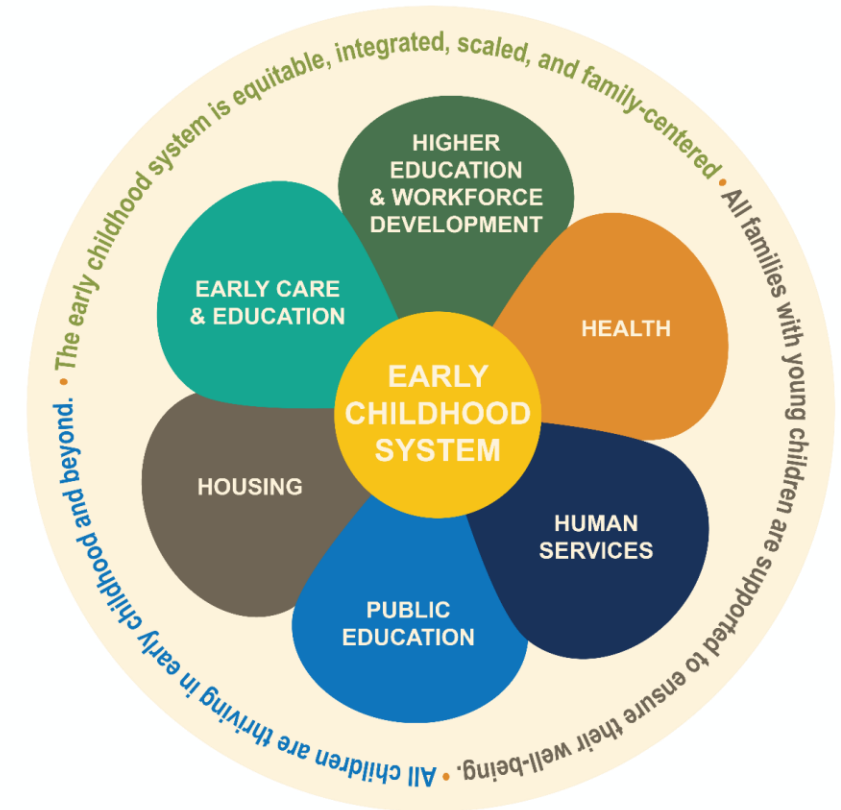


Early Learning Council



The Early Learning Council is charged with coordinating a unified and aligned system of early learning throughout Oregon to ensure that all children, no matter what their background or their community, enter school ready to learn and that all families are healthy, stable and attached.

- Cross-sector agency representation
- Public body responsible for administrative rulemaking for DELC
- Sets cross-sector early childhood system vision through *Raise Up Oregon 2.0*



Becoming DELC



The Department of Early Learning Care launched July 1, 2023 as a result of HB 3073 passing in 2021. While creation of DELC combined programs and services from several agencies, some services remain with our partner agencies.

Oregon Department of Education

Moved: All programs within the Early Learning Division

Stayed: Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education

Oregon Department of Human Services

Moved: Employment Related Day Care, Direct Pay Unit, and Inclusive Partners.

Stayed: ERDC eligibility determination through ONE and Oregon Eligibility Partnership.

Oregon Health Authority

Stayed: Home visiting programs*, including Universally Offered Home Visiting

Oregon Housing & Community Services

Stayed: Co-location of Affordable Housing and Child Care

Business Oregon

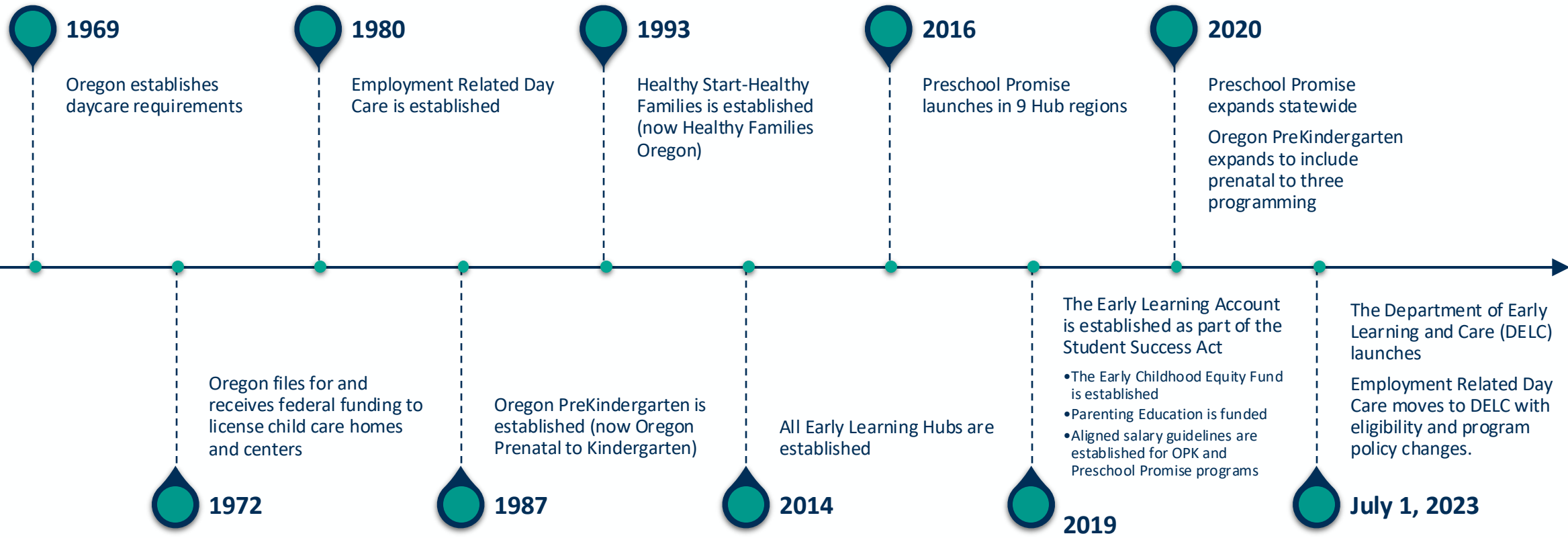
Stayed: Child Care Infrastructure Fund

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Stayed: Oregon Student Child Care Grant, Early Childhood Professionals Scholarship

*Healthy Families Oregon and OPK remain with DELC

Oregon's Early Learning & Child Care History



Early Learning & Child Care Programs: What it Looks like in Oregon

DELC Programs and Foundational Services to Families and Early Childhood Workforce Development



Core Programs

- Baby Promise
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Oregon
- Early Childhood Equity Fund
- Employment Related Day Care
 - BOLI Apprenticeship (expanding to CHIPS)
 - Head Start Contracted Slots
 - High Needs Rate
 - Teen Parent Program
- Healthy Families Oregon
- Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Fund
- Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten

- Parenting Education
- Preschool Promise
- Relief Nurseries
- Tribal Early Learning

Foundational Services

- Child Care Licensing & Compliance
- Child Care Resource & Referral entities
- Early Learning Hubs
- Every Child Belongs (early childhood suspension & expulsion prevention)
- Inclusive Partners
- Professional Learning for the ECE Workforce

Why Does Child Care Licensing Matter?



Keeps Kids Safe

- Ensures health and safety
- Reduces abuse and neglect in care
- Provides accountability and oversight
- Builds public confidence
- Creates foundational standards for child care facilities

Supports Positive Early Childhood Development

- Supports families
- Promotes professionalism in child care
- Providers gain access to resources to support quality care

Child Care Licensing Division



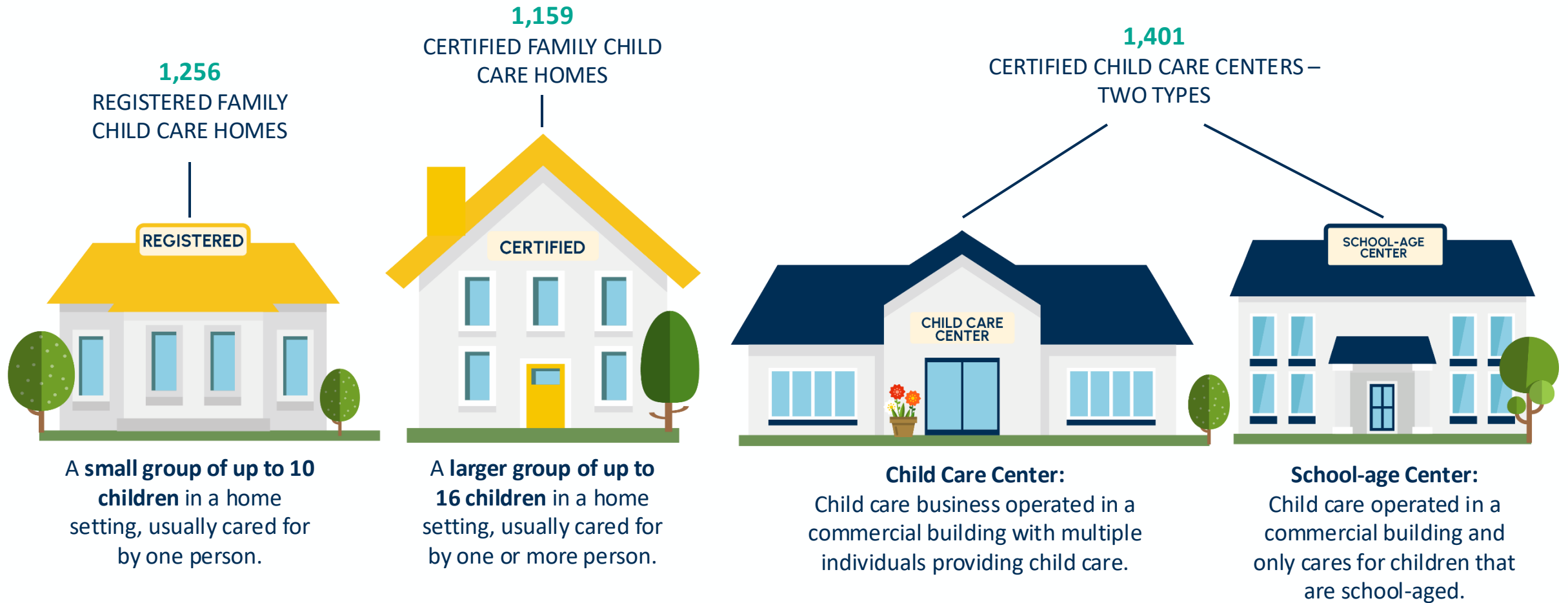
The **Child Care Licensing Division (CCLD)** primary function is to inspect and license child care programs. CCLD ensures health and safety of children in child care by:

- **Providing Customer Service** to providers, families, and the public related to ERDC payment, Licensing, and DELC programs
- **Monitoring child care settings** for foundational health and safety licensing requirements.
- **Issuing and renewing licenses** to ensure ongoing compliance.
- **Providing technical assistance** to programs to improve safety and quality.
- **Conducting background checks** on all adults in contact with children while in child care settings.
- **Investigating complaints** and conducting tandem visits with the Office of Trainings, Investigations and Safety (OTIS) to investigate allegations of child abuse or neglect.
- **Reducing Barriers** through policy and rule revision to ensure reasonable and equitable enforcement



Types of Licensed Child Care

As of January 2025



Coming in July 2025: Outdoor Nature Based-Programs

Other Types of Care



Recorded Programs

- **School-age:** Offers youth development activities to school-age children that does not take the place of a parent's care and is offered during non-school hours.
- **Preschool:** Offers educational activities to preschool-age children for less than four hours per day

Regulated Subsidy

- License-exempt programs that qualify for ERDC funds with inspection and background checks.
- May be in-home care or center-based (such as school-district operated or recorded preschool)

Other Exempt Care

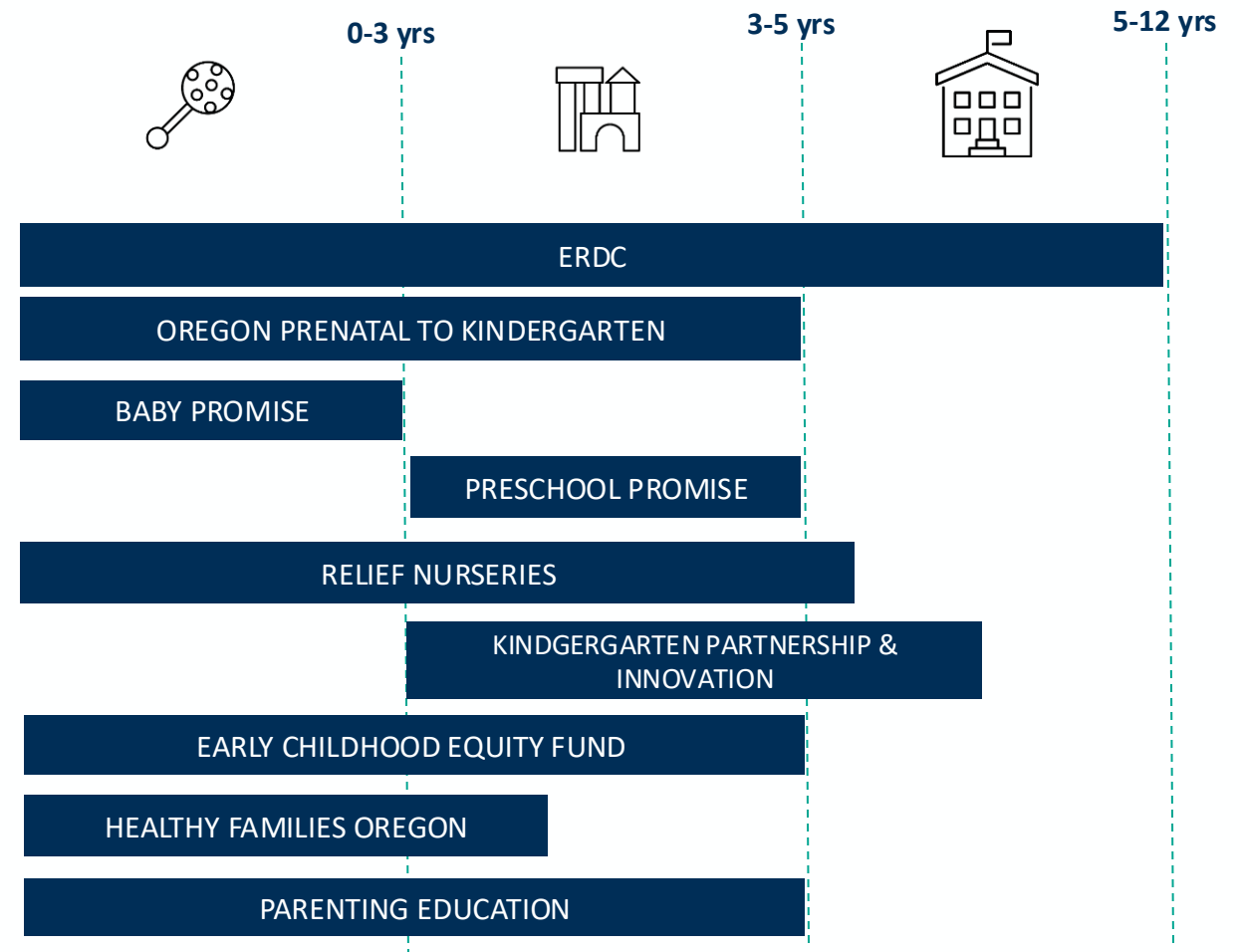
- Operated by school-district or government entity
- Parent cooperatives, limited to four hours a day
- Care where parents remain on site, such as a gym or a supermarket

Early Learning and Child Care Programs



Our programs promote:

- Affordability
- Early Literacy
- Learning and Development
- Family Support



Early Learning and Care by the Numbers



212,000
children in
Oregon from
birth through
preschool age



112,720
licensed child care capacity
(6 weeks to 12 years)

Requires a workforce of
over **24,000**



26,000
children served by
ERDC



Annually over
32,000 publicly
funded early
learning slots



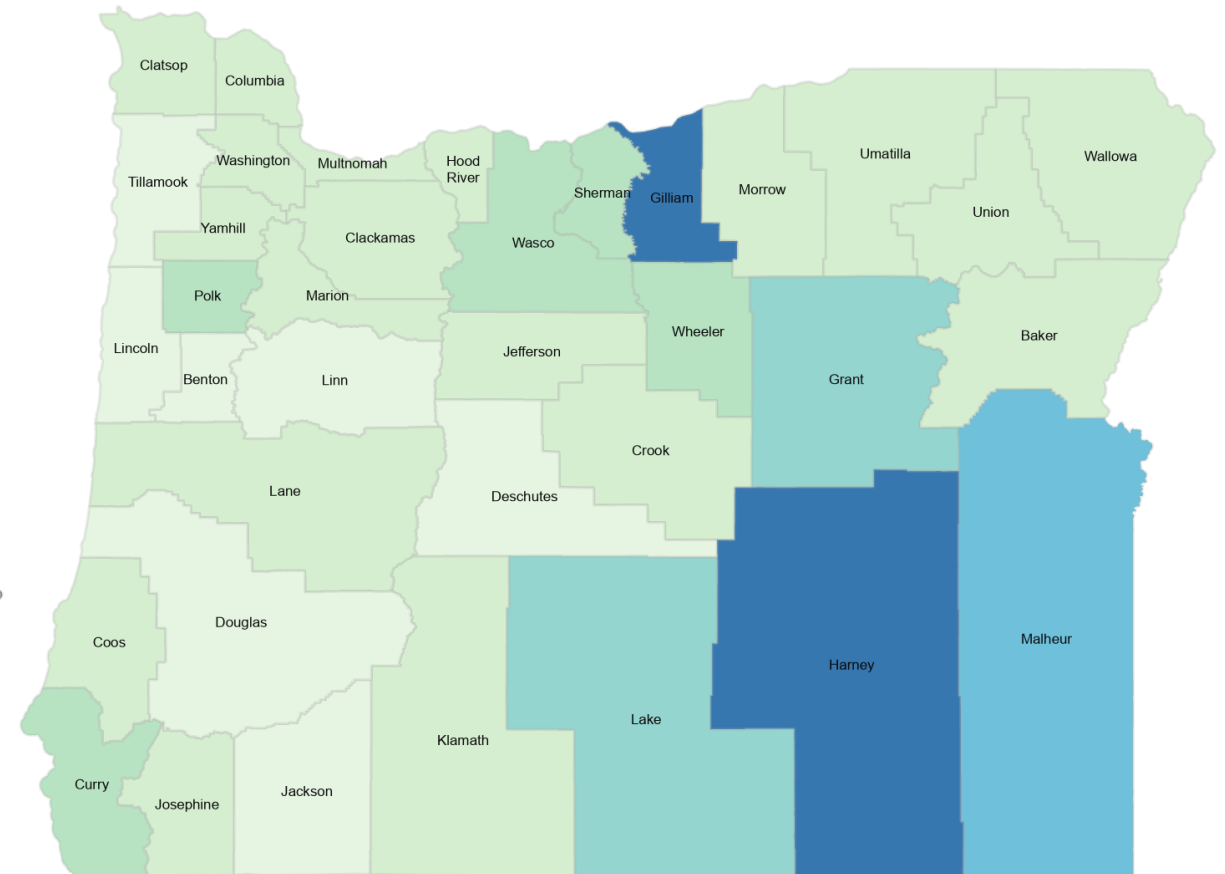
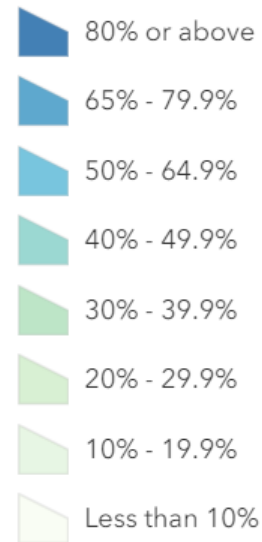
Over **320*** Grantees
providing service to
children and families

*Reflects the number of grants administered for PSP, HFO, OPK, BP, ECEF, RN. Some programs have multiple grants and some programs sub-contract.

2023-2024 Percentage of Eligible (under 200% FPL) Children Under 5 with Access to a Publicly Funded Early Learning Slot



Similar to 2022-2023, in most Oregon counties, less than 40% of eligible children under 5 years have access to a publicly funded slot.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Oregon



Program Overview	A free book gifting program, mailing high quality, age-appropriate books directly to children's homes.
Who is eligible?	All children from 0-5 years old
Service Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One free book delivered monthly for children up to age five who sign up for program.• Books selected by professionals and are age-appropriate.• Language preference options for program communications in English and Spanish.• Books available in Braille.• Each age group of children receives two bilingual books annually.
Access	62,696 children enrolled and anticipate statewide coverage by February 2025
2023-25 Budget	\$1.7 million
Funding Sources	General Fund
Number of Grantees	1 (Dollywood Foundation)
Other	State funds 50% of the cost of books & mailing for 56 local program partners across the state support distribution of books.

Employment Related Day Care



Program Overview	ERDC provides financial assistance with a voucher to low-income families so children have access to stable child care and families can work or attend school.
Who is eligible?	<p>Families with children under 13 (or under 17 with special circumstances) whose income is below 200% of FPL, and are working, in school, or receiving TANF.</p> <p>ERDC now has a waitlist for most families applying to the program. Families with specific needs can skip the waitlist and there are resources available to support families while they wait.</p>
Service Model	ERDC makes payments directly to approved families chosen child care provider. Payments are made up to state maximum child care rates based on child age, family's eligible hours/provider's billed hours, region of the state, and child care provider type. A family may also pay a portion of the child care cost (copay) to their provider. The family copay is based on the family's size and income.
Current Caseload	Over 16,000 families
Access	All 36 counties in Oregon
2023-25 Budget	GF \$223,311,298 – FF ARPA (one-time) \$120,825,496 – FF CCDF \$108,087,995
Funding Sources	Federal Funds (ARPA one-time & CCDF); General Funds

ERDC Policy Changes



2021	January 2023	July 2023	January 2024	May 2024	July 2025	July 2026	July 2027
Co-pays reduced to <7% household income	Expanded student eligibility	Protected 12-month eligibility	Provider rate increases	Expanded to children regardless of immigration status	HB 2683 (2023) expansion to families using or at risk of using child welfare services	New CCDF rules implementation date	HB 2683 expansion to families using homelessness, teen parent, or domestic violence services
Provider payment based on enrollment (not attendance)	Part-time/full-time child care hour authorizations	Categorical eligibility for TANF families					
	Expanded medical leave						

Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK)

Program Overview	Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK) is modeled after Head Start to support family success and healthy child development. OPK offers free, high-quality preschool, infant/toddler care and family support services.
Who is eligible?	A pregnant parent or a child up to kindergarten entry is eligible if the family's income is equal to or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or is categorically eligible.
Service Model	<p>Program services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool education and early childhood development • Child health/mental health and nutrition • Parent education and family support <p>OPK emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher and families as advocates and leaders.</p>
Annual Service Level	<p>All 36 counties have OPK and Head Start services, with most grantees blending state and federal resources.</p> <p>OPK Total: 8,714 (Preschool: 7,330; Prenatal to Three: 1,384)</p> <p>Federal Total: 5,867 (Head Start: 3,954; Early Head Start: 1,913)</p> <p>Total OPK and Federal Head Start: 14,581 children and their families</p>
2023-25 Budget	\$365.4 million
Funding Sources	General Fund, Early Learning Account (Federal funds go directly to Head Start grantees)
Number of Grantees Providing Services	<p>30 OPK grantees</p> <p>25 are dually funded OPK and federal Head Start grantees (one Tribal Head Start, one Migrant Seasonal HS/EHS)</p> <p>5 are state funded only</p>

Preschool Promise



Program Overview	Preschool Promise provides families with free, high-quality preschool that uses a mixed delivery approach, giving families the ability to choose the setting that works best for them and their child.
Who is eligible?	Three- and four-year old children in families whose income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or in foster care programs.
Service Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children receive preschool services equivalent to a kindergarten school year.• Preschool is offered in various settings, including child care centers, home-based child care, and public schools.
Annual Service Level	5,344 children
Access	Statewide across all 36 counties
Number of Grantees Providing Services	234 Grantees in various settings
2023-25 Budget	\$205.3 million
Funding Sources	General Fund, Early Learning Account

Birth through Five Literacy



Overview	The Birth through Five Literacy initiative's purpose is to positively impact literacy development in children aged birth to kindergarten within the context of whole child development.
Model	For the 23/25 biennium, funds allocated to Early Learning Hubs for Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation, Early Childhood Equity Fund grantees, and Tribal Nations.
Key activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand culturally specific early literacy programs for children from birth through five years.• Provide research-aligned, developmentally appropriate professional training and coaching for direct service staff in early literacy.• Promote the capacity of programs that engage parents and children from birth through five years of age in early literacy.• Expand and develop language revitalization efforts by federally recognized Tribes in the state of Oregon.
Access	All 16 Early Hub regions and 7 Tribal Nations
2023-25 Budget	\$9.4 million
Funding Sources	Early Learning Account
Number of Grantees	49 grantees (16 Early Learning Hubs, 7 Tribal Nations, 26 Early Childhood Equity Fund grantees)
Other	High level of collaboration and alignment with Oregon Department of Education.

DELC Strategic Plan: **Growing Oregon Together**



GOAL 1: **Access** All families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) and affordable early learning and care that meets their needs.

GOAL 2: **Tribal Sovereignty** DELC honors and recognizes the sovereignty of the nine federally recognized Tribal Nations within Oregon and ensures strong government-to-government relationships to benefit Tribal communities.

GOAL 3: **Infants and Toddlers** All families with infants and toddlers are supported through early learning and care programs that recognize and meet their unique needs.

GOAL 4: **Workforce** The early learning and child care workforce is diverse, culturally responsive, highly qualified, and well compensated.

GOAL 5: **Relationships** DELC deepens community engagement and empowerment, sustains partnerships, and communicates effectively.

GOAL 6: **Foundations** DELC develops and improves operational foundations to efficiently serve Oregonians.



Questions

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