

Children's Institute

2019 Early Childhood Recommendations



Expand Preschool \$160 million

15,000 children living at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level attend publicly funded preschool. An additional 30,000 qualifying children lack access to high-quality preschool.

This investment will serve an additional 1,500 children in 2019–2020, and a total of 10,000 children 2020–2021, moving Oregon toward the goal of serving all eligible children by 2025.

Fully fund Oregon Head Start Pre-Kindergarten \$80 million

Head Start teachers and staff do not earn a livable wage, and many programs are only half-day and provide no transportation. In addition, Early Head Start, a proven strategy to support healthy development and kindergarten readiness, serves very few children 0–3 living in poverty.

Head Start teachers will be paid salaries comparable to kindergarten teachers. Providers will be able to offer more school-day programs and transportation. Early Head Start will be expanded to serve roughly 1,500 additional children ages 0–3.

Invest in the early childhood workforce \$10 million

Program expansion requires more well-trained and culturally and linguistically diverse teachers to improve program quality and outcomes for children.

More early educators, including those from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds, will strengthen their practice, and the state will progress toward the goals of the Council for Educator Advancement.

Increase service levels for children with disabilities and delays \$75.8 million

Only 29 percent of infants and toddlers enrolled in Early Intervention (EI) services receive the recommended levels of service to appropriately address their disabilities or delays.

14,000 children served by EI/ECSE from birth to age 5 will receive the recommended levels of service, which would reduce the number of children needing services in preschool and K–12.



Preschool

NEED



EI/ECSE

OPPORTUNITY



Child Care



Healthy Families

IMPACT

Build the supply of quality infant-toddler care \$25 million

Oregon is an infant-toddler child care desert. Child care is also hard to access for children with disabilities, families in rural areas, and those needing evening and weekend care.

Increasing the supply of quality child care options for infants and toddlers would provide parents the peace of mind they need to enter and remain in the workforce.

Improve child care subsidies Investment TBD

Oregon has among the highest parent co-pays for child care in the nation, while providers earn poverty wages and children receive care in under-supported environments.

This investment will reduce co-pays and increase reimbursement rates. There may be an opportunity to leverage up to \$10 million in federal funds toward these goals.

Create pathways for child care providers to access training \$15 million

Many rural counties in Oregon have just one or fewer Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) staff to provide essential coaching and support to child care providers.

Expanding critical support to child care providers will promote the health, safety, and optimal development of young children.

Launch universal home visiting \$3.5 million

Modeled after the successful Family Connects Program in North Carolina, Oregon counties have piloted universal home visiting but have lacked a consistent and reliable investment.

Universal home visits have been proven to reduce emergency room visits, increase positive parenting, and decrease maternal depression.

Create the Early Childhood Equity Fund \$20 million

Children of color and dual language learners (DLLs) face the greatest opportunity gaps and are Oregon's fastest growing population of young children.

Increasing the capacity and reach of community-based, linguistically, and culturally diverse providers can help close opportunity gaps and improve outcomes.

Invest in programs proven to strengthen parent-child bonds and prevent abuse \$20 million

Programs and services like Relief Nurseries, Healthy Families Oregon, and Parenting Education Hubs are not reaching enough families.

Effective programs will reach more of the 129,000 young children in Oregon living at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level to support healthy and intact families.