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Mission Statement and Statutory Authority

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 the early learning services, supports and information they need to thrive. With Oregon's largest child care and early learning supports in one place, DELIC is positioned to improve services through system-wide data analytics and quality assurance; coordinated program administration, internal and external to the Department; and intentional engagement with communities to inform the policies that affect children and families and ensure the health and safety of children in care.

The DELIC Agency Request Budget (ARB) was built around three priorities: 1) centering families; 2) supporting the early learning workforce; and 3) sustainable operations. After intentional efforts by the legislature to amplify the importance of a coordinated early learning system, the establishment of DELIC provides necessary infrastructure to support Oregon's early learning and child care success. This allows continued investments in early learning and child care to be leveraged with efficiency and system coordination to reduce the burden of accessing services on families, child care providers and early childhood educators.

The Department of Early Learning and Care receives its statutory authority from Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 329A and ORS 326.325 - 326.435, 329.160 - 329.425, 336.101, 336.104, and 417.705 - 417.795. The agency, via the Early Learning Council, promulgates rules in Chapter 414 of the Oregon Administrative Code.

Agency Strategic Business Plan

The Governor's Early Learning Council was established to "coordinate a unified and aligned system of early learning services for the purposes of ensuring that: (a) children enter school ready to learn: and (b) families are healthy, stable and attached." [ORS 326.425] In pursuit of these directives, the Early Learning Council developed [Raise Up Oregon](#) in 2018 as the state's five-year, cross-sector early childhood strategic plan (2019- 2023), which has also served as the strategic plan for the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) thus far. The plan was developed through a year-long process that included extensive engagement with community partners, child care providers, Early Learning Hubs, community-based organizations and families and is organized around three high-level goals:

- (i) Children arrive ready for Kindergarten;
- (ii) Children are raised in healthy, stable and attached families; and

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(iii) The early learning system is aligned, coordinated and family centered.

The plan outlines specific objectives, strategies, and action items that guide DELC's investments, policy development, and program administration to advance the above goals.

The Early Learning Council continuously tracks and monitors progress towards implementing *Raise Up Oregon*, and in 2021, it published the [Raise Up Oregon Progress Report](#). With the initial *Raise Up Oregon* five-year plan set to expire at the end of 2023, the Early Learning Council is in the process of [revising and releasing](#) an updated plan. As with the development of the current edition of *Raise Up Oregon*, the revision process includes extensive engagement with families, child care providers, and other community partners. The revised report is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2023.

The Agency is taking this opportunity to move away from *Raise Up Oregon* as its strategic plan to develop an agency-focused plan informed by *Raise Up Oregon* that holds the Agency accountable. The creation of the Department of Early Learning and Care allows Oregon to have an early childhood and child care focus when it comes to developing performance measurement standards, program evaluations, and establishing processes for data analytics and quality assurance. This work will evolve with the Agency over time and will allow future Agency Request Budgets to be rooted in strong performance measures and links to long-term outcomes. The Agency recognizes the importance of leveraging this opportunity to build more than an agency – a system – that meets the needs of children, families, and providers across the state. This is an opportunity to be proactive, not just responsive, and will require the time and resources necessary to do this work well.

2023-25 Legislative and Budget Priorities

In the 2023-25 biennium, the Department of Early Learning and Care will focus on three key strategies to support the early learning system and child care sector:

1. Ensure families with young children have access to the services, supports and information they need to thrive;
2. Ensure the early childhood educator and child care workforce is supported to serve families and is recognized as a professional workforce;
3. Ensure the sustainable operations of the new Department of Early Learning and Care to provide necessary infrastructure for the early learning and child care system.

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Centering Families: Early childhood education and child care is a critical support for families and provides key resources to promote healthy early childhood development. Research has shown that the effects of high-quality early childhood education can carry through to high school graduation, degree attainment, and even have positive long-term health impacts. The Department of Early Learning and Care’s proposed ARB is focused on expanding families’ access to high-quality, affordable, developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive and inclusive child care and early learning settings. While many of these services are tied to income requirements, the Agency’s ARB also recognizes the need to provide wrap around supports to families, offering screening services, transportation, and settings that better serve children experiencing disabilities. The Agency has a strong commitment and serious responsibility for maintaining the health and safety of children in the child care settings it regulates and monitors.

Supporting the early learning workforce: A strong early learning system requires a strong early learning workforce – a workforce that is well-trained, fairly compensated, culturally responsive, and culturally, racially and linguistically diverse. Currently, the workforce faces low wages and high rates of turnover. The availability of professional training and support is often limited and difficult to access. The Agency’s ARB also focuses on ensuring the early learning workforce has the resources to be able to meet the needs of the children in their care. In addition to specific programs focused on training, coaching and continuous quality improvement, the budget also addresses workforce compensation through funding of DELC administered early learning and child care assistance programs.

Sustainable Operations: The Department of Early Learning and Care is the result of years of recognition of the importance of early childhood development and funding an historically under-resourced sector that provides critical supports for children and families. As the investments in early childhood have grown, the infrastructure has been the last to develop. The Agency’s operations budget represents 9.67% of the overall 2023-25 Current Service Level. While the Agency brings together core early learning and child care functions into one place, the Agency provides the framework and infrastructure to ensure that families continue to have increased access to the supports they need to be successful. The Agency’s ARB includes resources to expand critical components of work necessary to providing efficient, high-quality services. This includes investing in program quality assurance, program evaluation and research, data analytics, and procurement capacity. While the Agency’s ARB includes additional investments in infrastructure, these POPs are primarily focused on direct services resources, which would lower the Agency’s operations budget to 7.79%.

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2023-25 Agency Initiatives:

The Department of Early Learning and Care has identified the following initiatives and policy option packages (POPs) for the 2023-25 biennium. These initiatives reflect the following priorities of the Agency:

1. Families with young children have access to the services and supports they need to thrive;
2. The early childhood educator and child care workforce is supported to serve communities and recognized as a professional workforce;
3. The new Department of Early Learning and Care has the resources to sustain operations and provide necessary infrastructure for the early learning and child care system.

POP 101 Early Learning Program Enhancements and Expansion: (\$210 million, General Fund) Operations: \$0.7 million and Program: \$209.3 million

The purpose of this package is to expand access to early care and education programs, provide program enhancements to improve quality and offer services that better meet the needs of families, reduce staff turnover in programs and operations support to the Agency. This initiative reflects priorities 1 and 2 of the Agency.

POP 102 ERDC Implementation: (\$250 million, General Fund) Operations: \$1.1 million and Program: \$248.9 million

The purpose of this package is to provide funding for expanded eligibility for subsidized child care in HB3073; increased reimbursements rates to move the state towards the cost of quality care, not market-based studies; technology system changes for expanded eligibility and increased rates; interagency agreements with Oregon Department of Human Services to support program administration to meet federal requirements (audits, fraud review, collection of overpayments and eligibility determinations); communications to families and child care providers to increase family participation and increase supply of child care providers and operations support to the Agency. This initiative reflects priorities 1 and 2 of the Agency.

POP 103 Birth-Five Suspension and Expulsion Prevention: (\$12 million, General Fund) Program

The purpose of this package is to provide additional regional resources to support local child care providers in the reduction of suspension and expulsion practices in early childhood care settings. These resources will prepare providers across the state for the ban on suspension and expulsion practices that will take effect in July 2026. This initiative reflects priorities 1 and 2 of the Agency.

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POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion: (\$12 million, General Fund) Program

The purpose of this package is to expand access to high-quality infant and toddler child care to additional regions of the state and stabilize the existing infant-toddler supply, which is currently considered a severe child care desert in all Oregon counties. This initiative reflects priorities 1 and 2 of the Agency.

POP 105 Program Quality Assurance: (\$2.9 million General Fund) Operations

The purpose of this package is to provide additional operations support to provide technical assistance positions/FTE and services and supplies to ensure early learning programs maintain the level of quality expected in publicly funded programs, including program monitoring and technical assistance. This initiative reflects priorities 1 and 3 of the Agency.

POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement: (\$0.25 million General Fund) Operations

The purpose of this package is to provide compensation to community members, families and early learning professionals who participate in the Agency's community engagement opportunities. Community engagement is an intensive process that requires consistent participation and resources to ensure that families and early learning professionals most impacted by the Agency's policies and programs can participate. This initiative reflects priorities 1, 2 and 3 of the Agency.

POP 107 DELC Operations: (\$6.0 million General Fund) Operations

The purpose of this package is to provide additional operational support necessary to develop a fully functional agency on July 1, 2023. The package includes positions across the Agency to provide additional payroll, human resources, procurement, accounting, auditing and support for employment related day care programs. This initiative reflects priorities 1, 2 and 3 of the Agency.

POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database: (\$0.8 million General Fund) Operations

The purpose of this package is to provide funding to purchase a database for the Healthy Families Oregon (HFO) program to track and report on families provided home visiting services. The database is required to maintain accreditation by the national Healthy Families America (HFA) program, without the database the state is out of compliance with HFA accreditation. This initiative reflects priorities 1, 2 and 3 of the Agency.

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POP 109 DELC Positions Cleanup: (\$0.4 million General Fund) Operations

The purpose of this package is to provide an increase in two permanent part time compliance specialist positions and reclassify those as two permanent full-time positions. This will ensure that the agency has sufficient operational capacity to assist in distributing the caseload for licensing child care providers. This initiative reflects priorities 1, 2 and 3 of the Agency.

POP 110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding: (1.7 million General Fund) Operations

The purpose of this package is to provide funding that will allow the agency to conduct additional research and evaluation practices and processes that would expand and improve ELD's current work by pursuing research and evaluation projects addressing questions and topics that span across many different programs and services. Research and evaluation are essential to the agency to ensure that the agency is effectively and efficiently using the resources it administers to programs. This initiative reflects priorities 1 and 3 of the Agency.

POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth – ECE Policy: (\$0.2 million General Fund) Operations

The purpose of this package is to fund a second cohort of the Fellowship for Career Growth in Early Care and Education (ECE) policy. The agency is planning to expand this fellowship to provide opportunities for cross-sector engagement across other agencies including ODE, OHA, OHCS and ODHS to be able to place fellows within those agencies to reach the goals that were established in *Raise Up Oregon* to reinforce the professionalization of the early learning and child care workforce. This initiative reflects priority 2 of the Agency.

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Criteria for 2023-25 Budget Development

Centering families

- Will the program support families with young children to thrive?
- Will the program reach communities that have been historically underserved and under-resourced?
- Will the program increase families' access to affordable, high-quality, culturally responsive, developmentally appropriate and inclusive early learning and child care settings?
- Will the program promote the health and safety of children in care?
- Will the program support working families to remain in the workforce?

Supporting the early learning workforce

- Will the program continue to professionalize the early childhood educator and child care workforce?
- Will the program support a diverse and culturally responsive workforce?
- Will the program support recruitment and retention of the early learning workforce?
- Will the program allow the early learning workforce to have the skills and competencies to best meet the needs of children in care?

Sustainable operations

- Will the program support the Agency to be a good steward of public funds?
- Will the program create efficiencies across the Agency?
- Will the program give the Agency the capacity to center families and support the early learning workforce?

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Major Information Technology Projects/Initiatives

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) is a forming agency. Accordingly, Major Information Technology Project/Investments focus on the migration and implementation of core systems and the development of IT capability and capacity. The Agency's interim IT Governance Committee adopted a set of DELIC Guiding Principles for Information Technology to guide the growth of DELIC IT, and include:

Business Driven - Understanding the business helps ensure effective solutions.

Secure Foundations - The solutions, processes, and system we implement must be built to last.

Cloud Smart - Rapid solutions demand quick provisioning of technology resources.

Relationship Focused - Focusing on people first helps improve processes.

Leaning into Partnership - Efficiency requires alignment to Enterprise standards and consideration of partner.

Multiple IT projects and initiatives are planned for the development of DELIC. Significant efforts include:

Provider Management Platform (PMP) will combine the functions of the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) Direct Pay Unit processes and Child Care Registry Information System. The PMP is required to satisfy the intent of HB 3073 (2021) to standup an independent agency focused on early learning and care. Current legacy systems are an impediment to meeting the intention of HB 3073 to support the expansion of services and benefits for child care ecosystem in the State. This platform will modernize legacy systems used for processing ERDC subsidy payments and will optimize service delivery to the child care providers, background check applicants and families receiving ERDC benefits, in line with the goals of the Agency to better serve vulnerable families. Guiding principles for this effort, including end-user self-service for customer experience improvement, bias towards automation, shared capabilities, Cloud forward, as well as the Agency's Mission, Vision and Values, are all aligned with elements of Governor's Strategic Plan, EIS Strategic Framework and DELIC Strategy.

Data Infrastructure will satisfy the identified need for expert recommendations regarding data management and systems design that meets the state's needs to collect and process information on children served in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs, as well as program quality. In addition, the Agency is seeking an inventory of existing ECCE data, as data relates to Raise Up Oregon, and are aligned with requirements for Oregon's Open Data Standard. The Inventory of Data and the Recommendations for Data Management and Use will inform future data systems development and Early Childhood Integrated longitudinal Data Systems (ECIDS), create greater efficiencies within the Agency, and support data-informed decision-making at the state and local levels.

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Healthy Families Oregon (HFO) Data Management System will streamline the way HFO data is collected, tracked, analyzed, and reported that aligns with HFA accreditation and best practices standards as well as Oregon rules and regulations. Currently, HFO and its program sites use manual data collection processes including multiple spreadsheets, evaluation survey results, and the interim CLARA data system to collect all needed data, which requires extensive data cleaning in order to meet accreditation requirements.

Grants Management System. The Early Learning Division, as a part of ODE, relied on the Electronic Grant Management System (EGMS) maintained by ODE. DELC has highlighted the significance of planning for a transition from EGMS that will meet the needs of the DELC Grants Management Team and the agency's grantees. DELC has prioritized the need for a system that can deliver funds to grantees—which is the most basic function that is required for a successful grants management transition. DELC would benefit from a system that can collect expenditure reporting at a line item level to assist with audits and other budget reporting functions. This would streamline the budget and expenditures processes for DELC's Grant's Management Team. Ideally, any new system would allow for a simpler development of new applications in the future to improve internal functions and to simplify the grants process for ELD's variety of grantees. After analyzing a range of options, the Agency has determined that procuring a new grants management systems is the most efficient and best option. A new system can create new functions that assist in reporting, auditing and, later in the process, grant applications. If DELC procures its own COTS grants management system, the new system could be functional within six months and the Grants Management Team could be trained to use the system before the '23-'25 contract funds are set to be disbursed.

Significant additional IT work is also occurring in preparation for the creation of DELC. These efforts include procurement and implementation of a Service Desk System, migration to a new Microsoft 365 tenant, and the provisioning of core IT infrastructure and end-user technology. While these efforts are on track for completion by July 1, 2023, some work may extend into the 2023-2025 biennium, in addition to the continued administration, support, and maintenance expected with ongoing use of these systems. The implementation of these projects ensures that Agency IT will be able to support current and future business operations.

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Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten

Program Overview

Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK) is Oregon’s state-funded Head Start and Early Head Start program. All grantees follow the federal Head Start Act and the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Program Funding Request

The 2023-25 Agency Request budget is \$427,358,945 million.

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds – Early Learning Account	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$233,835,232	\$193,523,713	\$427,358,945

Program Description

The Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK) program is an early child development and preschool program with comprehensive services that serves children prenatal through five (5) and their families who live at or 100% below the federal poverty level, including children who are in foster care or are considered houseless. The OPK program provides infant toddler and preschool programming, with wrap-around services that focus on the whole child: cognitive, developmental, and socio-emotional supports; medical and dental screenings and referrals; nutritional services; mental health services; parent engagement opportunities; and referrals to social service providers for the entire family.

For children prenatal to age three (3), the program provides services year-round, comprehensively and flexibly meeting the needs of individual families as children grow. Program models include center-based services, with home visits at least twice per year, such as:

- Home-based services with weekly home visits to each enrolled child and family;
- Family Child Care services provide care and education to children in a private home setting; and
- Locally-designed options that tailor services and settings to community needs. Most often these models are two days a week in class, with monthly family home visits.

For children ages three to five (3-5), the program offers two models for center-based preschool, a part day and a full day model. In program year 2022-2023, approximately 45% of the children will participate in the extended duration service model that offers at

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least 1,080 hours of instruction during over an eight to nine (8-9) month period. The part day model provides center-based instruction for a minimum of 3.5 hours per day, four (4) or five (5) days a week, for at least 32 weeks over an eight- or nine-month period. At least 10% of the children in the program are children with identified disabilities and receive specialized services from Early Childhood Special Education.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

All OPK programs must provide inclusive, high-quality early education and child development services that promote children's cognitive, social, and emotional growth for later success in school, in line with the *Raise Up Oregon* plan. A center-based or family child care program must embed responsive and effective teacher-child interactions. A home-based program must promote secure parent-child relationships and help parents provide high-quality early learning experiences. All programs must implement a research-based curriculum, and screening and assessment procedures that support individualization and growth in the areas of development described in the *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five* and support family engagement in children's learning and development. A program must deliver developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate learning experiences in language, literacy, mathematics, social and emotional functioning, approaches to learning, science, physical skills, and creative arts.

An OPK program must implement a family partnership process that includes a family partnership agreement. The partnership must identify activities that support family well-being, including family safety, health, and economic stability, and a child's learning and development, including services and supports for children with disabilities. It also fosters parental confidence and skills that promote the early learning and development of their children. The process continues for as long as the family participates in the program, based on parent interest and need.

Program Performance:

In program year 2020-21, state General Fund and Student Success Act Early Learning Account funds expanded and enhanced OPK services. OPK will serve 7,377 children aged three to five (3-5) in 2022-2023. An additional 6,627 children and families will be served with federal Head Start funds.

During the 2021-23 biennium, the Agency received funds to OPK Prenatal to Three services to 1,152 families. Prior to program year 2020-2021, the state funded 64 slots. In program Year 2022-2023, the prenatal to three program will serve 1,415 infants and

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toddlers. Federal Early Head Start, Migrant and Seasonal Early Head Start, Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting, and local funds support an additional 2,300 slots, bringing the total to 3,715.

All 36 Oregon counties have OPK and federal Head Start services, serving a total of 17,628 children and families with state and federal resources, which are distributed directly to programs. Below by fiscal year, is an overview of the state’s investment in OPK Prenatal to Kindergarten services:

Year	Total State Funded Slots	Total Preschool Slots	OPK 3-5 Preschool Part Day	OPK 3015 Preschool Duration	Prenatal to Three
2013-14	7,245	7,181	7,181		64
2014-15	7,708	7,644	7,644		64
2015-16	7,904	7,840	7,840		64
2016-17	8,202	8,138	8,138		64
2017-18	8,202	8,138	8,138		64
2018-19	8,316	8,252	8,057	195	64
2019-20	8,067	8,003	7,660	343	64
2020-21	8,867	7,731	5,012	2,719	1,136
2021-22	8,329	7,377	2,713	5,004	1,152
2022-23	8,747	7,332	3,598	3,734	1,415

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

The Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK) program is authorized by ORS 329.175. By Statute, Oregon Prekindergarten also follows the Head Start act of 1964 and the Federal Head Start Program Performance Standards.

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Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

OPK Prenatal to Kindergarten is funded with General Fund and Other Funds – Early Learning Account.

Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten Program									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$171,849,418	\$0	\$193,523,713	\$0	\$0	\$365,373,131	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion	\$61,985,814					\$61,985,814			
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0			
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0			
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0			
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0			
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0			
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0			
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0			
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0			
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0			
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0			
Total Policy Option Packages	\$61,985,814	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$61,985,814	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$233,835,232	\$0	\$193,523,713	\$0	\$0	\$427,358,945	0.0	0.00	

POP 101, proposes an increase of General Fund to fund 10% above current service level average cost per case as well as expanding services to an estimated 850 slots statewide. Total General Fund ask for OPK Prenatal to Kindergarten program is \$62 million.

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Preschool Promise

Program Overview

The Preschool Promise program offers free, high-quality preschool to Oregon families with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and children in foster care. Children must be at least three (3) years of age but not older than five (5) years of age, as determined by the date used to determine kindergarten eligibility, to be eligible for Preschool Promise and can participate in the program for up to two (2) years.

Program Funding Request

The 2023-25 Agency Request Budget totals \$264,177,576

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds – Early Learning Account	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$116,380,276	\$147,797,300	\$264,177,576

Program Description

Preschool Promise is a publicly funded, high-quality preschool program for families with incomes at or below 200% FPL. Families are offered a minimum of 900 service hours annually and guaranteed services six (6) hours per day, four (4) days per week. High-quality early care and education access is a proven driver of early childhood success, with decades of research showing that preschool has the ability to impact children and their families during the most sensitive period of brain development – with an overall return on investment of up to \$9 for every \$1 invested in early learning.¹ Currently, 38% of eligible children in Oregon lack access to publicly funded preschool statewide, with less than 30% of eligible children having access in many of our densely populated counties along the I-5 corridor.

Preschool Promise incorporates a mixed-delivery approach, which recognizes that high-quality early learning experiences can take place in a wide variety of settings, giving families the ability to choose the setting that works best for them and their child. Settings include elementary schools, Head Start programs, Relief Nurseries, licensed centers and home-based child care programs, education

¹ Center on the Developing Child (2007). Early Childhood Program Effectiveness (InBrief). Retrieved from www.developingchild.harvard.edu.

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service districts, culturally specific programs, and community-based organizations. All programs are expected to adhere to program quality requirements that are associated with positive outcomes for children. Preschool Promise providers receive technical assistance to promote continuous quality improvement.

Effectiveness and quality go hand in hand in preschool programs. State law specifies that providers meet certain quality requirements to be eligible to participate in Preschool Promise. Preschool Promise providers must have these elements in place or must apply for a temporary waiver to achieve them. These include:

- Planned participation in the quality recognition and improvement system (QRIS), also known as Spark;
- Culturally responsive teaching methods and practices;
- High quality, culturally responsive family engagement environment, curricula, assessments, and professional development opportunities;
- Health and developmental support for children and families, such as screenings, referrals, and coordination with health care providers;
- Implementation of best practices in outreach, enrollment and programming for diverse cultural and linguistic populations and children who have been historically underserved in preschool programs;
- Collaboration with community programs to ensure families have knowledge of, and are connected to, community resources and supports to meet the needs of children and families; and
- Participation in an ongoing monitoring and program evaluation system that is used for continuous program improvement.

Early Learning Hubs (Hubs) and Child Care Resource and Referral entities (CCR&Rs) play a vital role in the implementation of the Preschool Promise program. Hubs support grantees with the recruitment, eligibility, selection, and placement into the program. CCR&R staff provide coaching, technical assistance, and training to grantees in meeting Preschool Promise Quality requirements.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

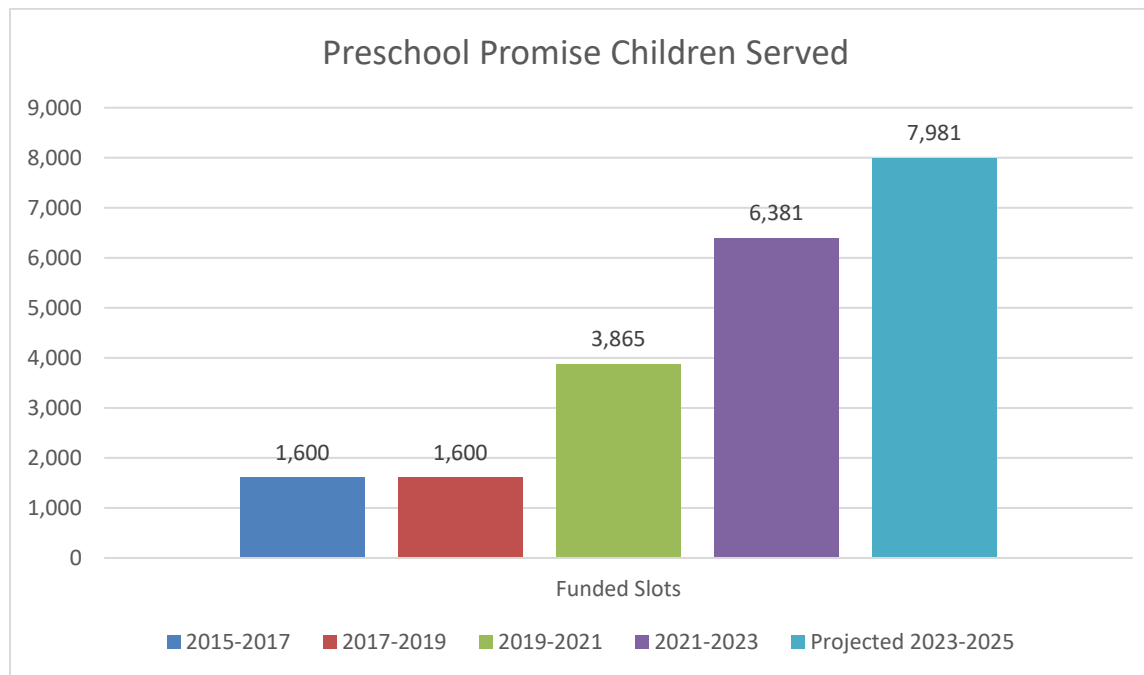
Preschool Promise supports *Raise Up Oregon's* first goal: children arrive ready for kindergarten. The 2020 OSU Child Care Desert Report found that there are three (3) children for every available child care slot, with eleven (11) counties meeting the definition of a child care desert. Furthermore, the report found that eight (8) additional counties would be considered child care deserts without

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publicly funded slots.² As a high-quality preschool program, Preschool Promise supports positive child development (cognitive and physical) and ensures a well-compensated, qualified early childhood workforce.

Program Performance:

Since the program was established in 2015, over 6,000 Preschool Promise slots have been funded across the state. The program was expanded from a pilot to a statewide program in 2019, with expanded service delivery in 2020.



²Pratt, M. (2021, April). Oregon's Child Care Deserts 2020: Mapping Supply by Age Group and Percentage of Publicly Funded Slots. Retrieved from <https://health.oregonstate.edu/sites/health.oregonstate.edu/files/early-learners/pdf/research/oregons-child-care-deserts-infographic-2020.pdf>

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Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

ORS 329.172 establishes the Preschool Promise program with the goal of “expanding the availability of high-quality preschool options for children across the state.”

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

Preschool Promise is funded through the General Fund and Other Funds - Early Learning Account.

Preschool Promise Program									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$39,872,125		\$147,797,300	\$0	\$0	\$187,669,425	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion	\$76,508,151					\$76,508,151			
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0			
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0			
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0			
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0			
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0			
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0			
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0			
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0			
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0			
POP111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0			
Total Policy Option Packages	\$76,508,151	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$76,508,151	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$116,380,276	\$0	\$147,797,300	\$0	\$0	\$264,177,576	0.0	0.00	

POP 101 proposes an increase of General Fund to fund 11.5% above current service level cost per slot, expand services to an estimated 1,600 slots statewide and expand program to allow programs to offer full time, full year services.

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Early Childhood Equity Fund

Program Overview

The Early Childhood Equity Fund (ECEP) was created as part of the 2019 Student Success Act and provides grants to support a broad range of culturally-specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs. The Fund aims to close opportunity gaps for children and families who experience systemic disparities – because of any combination of factors, such as race, income, zip code, or language – by funding early learning services rooted in culture, home language, and lived experience.

Program Funding Request

The proposed budget for Early Childhood Equity Fund for the 2023-25 biennium is \$32,348,332 total funds.

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds – Early Learning Account	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$7,486,212	\$24,862,120	\$32,348,332

Program Description

The Early Childhood Equity Fund provides grants to support a broad range of culturally specific kindergarten readiness and family support programming in early learning and care (ECE) settings. Culturally specific organizations serve a particular cultural community and are primarily staffed and led by members of that community, increasing the ability to create and deliver ECE programming that meaningfully reflects the needs of that community. Programming focuses on promoting positive parent-child interactions and enhancing parenting education, as well as helping children prepare to make the transition to kindergarten. For programs supporting tribal communities, efforts are made to preserve, revitalize, restore, and maintain tribal language.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

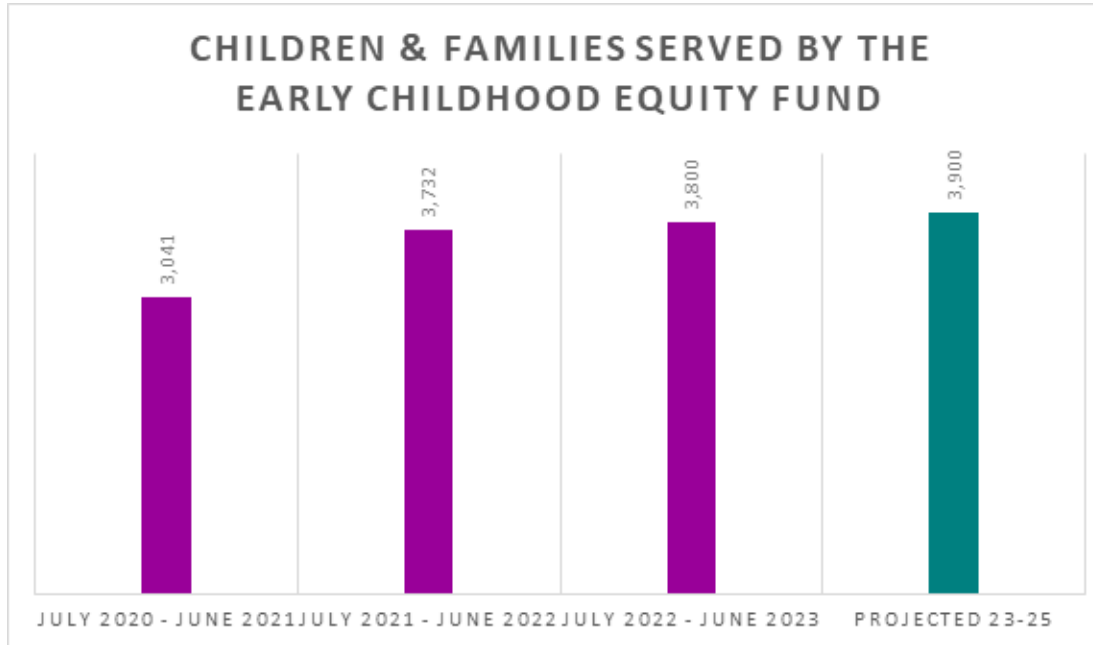
The Early Childhood Equity Fund is a key, innovative strategy as the Agency works to achieve *Raise Up Oregon* system goals, particularly ensuring children arrive ready for kindergarten and supporting healthy, stable and attached families. The lack of access to high-quality early care and education (ECE) is correlated with socioeconomic status and race, and the opportunity gap begins at

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birth. Children under the age of six (6) are more linguistically, ethnically, and racially diverse than older children and adults.¹The Early Childhood Equity Fund is an innovative approach to developing and delivering services centered in the culturally specific needs of a community. By increasing the relevancy of ECE services to the children and families served, children are more likely to develop the skills necessary to succeed in subsequent education settings.

Program Performance:

The Department of Early Learning and Care is required to complete a program evaluation of the Early Childhood Equity Fund. The first year evaluation can be found at: <https://oregonearlylearning.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ecef-report-year-one.pdf>. The Agency will collect additional data in future evaluations that centers the experiences and outcomes of families who participated in ECEF-funded programs.



¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2020). American Community Survey. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html>.

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Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

The Early Childhood Equity Fund is established by ORS 417.781 and 417.782.

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

The Early Childhood Equity Fund is primarily funded from an allocation from the Early Learning Account to the Equity Fund Account; however, for the 2021-23 biennium one-time General Fund appropriation was received for providing one-year of summer learning during June 2021 to September 2021. For the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget, the Agency is requesting a General Fund to increase the average cost by 10% above CSL, as well as expansion of the program.

Early Childhood Equity Fund									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$0	\$0	\$24,862,120	\$0	\$0	\$24,862,120	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion	\$7,486,212					\$7,486,212			
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0			
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0			
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0			
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0			
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0			
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0			
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0			
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0			
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0			
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0			
Total Policy Option Packages	\$7,486,212	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,486,212	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$7,486,212	\$0	\$24,862,120	\$0	\$0	\$32,348,332	0.0	0.00	

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Early Learning Professional Development - (Early Learning Account)

Program Overview

Professional development programs are designed to strengthen the overall quality of the early learning system by making investments in Oregon’s early care and education workforce.

Program Funding Request

The funding request for the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget is \$26,050,000. Professional development opportunities are funded across Professional Learning and Child Care Supports, leveraging multiple funding sources to best serve the early childhood educator workforce.

Biennium	Other Funds – Early Learning Account	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$26,050,000	\$26,050,000

Program Description

Professional development opportunities are available to early childhood educators and child care providers to bolster recruitment and retention efforts in the early care and education workforce and further the development of high-quality, culturally responsive, developmentally appropriate, and inclusive services for children and families. These programs enable the recruitment of a diverse early care and education workforce by providing access to credential and degree programs; ongoing, community-based training; job imbedded professional learning opportunities; and supports to increase industry leadership that boost workforce retention.

Access to credentials and degrees: Education Awards provide stipends for early educators to seek growth in the early childhood education field. Through “consortia model” partnerships with Child Care Resource and Referral entities, Community Colleges, and Universities, the Agency is working to reduce barriers for the early learning workforce to obtain credentials and degrees.

On-going community-based training: Oregon’s system of community-based training is scaffolded through the Oregon Registry and Career Lattice that stores training and education for early care and education professionals to meet requirements for licensing and Employment Related Day Care eligibility. It is a system that can be used as the official record of training for early educators and supports early educators in developing their professional capacity and qualifications. Oregon’s Registry Trainer system provides

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integrated statewide professional development standards and competencies and the requirements for trainers to provide training within the early care and education system.

Job-embedded professional learning and coaching: Mentor coaches provide technical assistance, consultation, and guidance to coaches throughout Oregon working with Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten and Preschool Promise programs. Tiered coaching certification supports qualified, effective, and culturally responsive coaching practices and competencies to build and maintain a professional learning workforce. Quality Improvement Specialist and Infant and Toddler Specialists, who work from regional Child Care Resource and Referral entities, provide training, technical assistance, coaching, and job-embedded professional learning directly to child care providers.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

Nearly 24,000 early educators across the state, approximately 29% of whom are Black, Latino, Indigenous, or from other communities of color, are impacted by these professional learning programs.

The Early Learning Professional Development programs support the Agency to ensure children arrive ready for kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have well-documented short-, medium- and long-term benefits for the children who participate in them. These benefits are largely the consequence of the interactions children in these programs experience with warm, responsive, and well-trained adults. Investing in young children requires investing in the adults who work with them. The importance of the workforce to positive outcomes for children is captured in *Raise Up Oregon* under Objective 3: the early care and education workforce is diverse, culturally responsive, high quality and well-compensated.

Increasing credentials and degrees through the Consortia Model

The Early Learning Professional Development Consortium is a collaboration between Institutions of Higher Education and Child Care Resource & Referral agencies to support cohorts of early educators in obtaining college credentials, certificates, and degrees in the field of Early Care and Education. The Early Learning Professional Development Consortium was funded in two regions of the state by ODE strategic investment funds with the purpose of advancing the education of the early care and education workforce; Southern Oregon and Central Oregon were funded for one year, 2014. The project was so successful in retaining cohorts of college-to-career early educators through college and supporting them in their goals to obtain ECE credentials, certificates, and degrees that philanthropic organizations continued to fund them until 2020.

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Regional Consortium: Number of early learning students participating and their increased step in the Oregon Registry is detailed in the table below:

Calendar Year	Number of Early Education Students	Increased Step – Oregon Registry
Central Oregon Community College	85	62
Klamath Community College	18	2
Rogue Community College	128	22
Southern Oregon University	156	Not Available
Southwestern Oregon Community College	9	6
Umpqua Community College	17	2
Total	413	94

On-going community-based training: Oregon Registry, Career Lattice, Trainer System and Education Awards

Oregon Registry Steps measure training and education that an individual has accomplished, and then places them on a Step. The career lattice is important because it can help provide strategy to professional development growth, facilitating lateral movement within Oregon’s early childhood education professionals. The total number of Steps awarded represents educator’s growth through professional development and education achievements in Oregon. Below are the total number of Oregon Registry Steps awarded by year (for 2020 data, we saw a slight reduction due to COVID)

Calendar Year	Number of Steps Awarded
2019	3,139
2020	2,375
2021	2,750
2022	3,000

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Job-embedded professional learning and coaching: Mentor coaches provide technical assistance, consultation, and guidance to coaches throughout Oregon working with Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten and Preschool Promise programs. Tiered coaching certification supports qualified, effective, and culturally responsive coaching practices and competencies to build and maintain a professional learning workforce. The tables below reflect various data points for services delivered to early learning professionals:

Performance Measure	Services Delivered
Trainings conducted by a Quality Improvement Specialist	2,907 trainings conducted
Programs participating in training opportunities provided by local Child Care Resource & Referral agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total by Training Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business Practice: 3,060 ○ Mental Health: 4,602 ○ Diversity, equity and Inclusion: 2,431 • Total by Provider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Licensed or register center based programs: 2,549 ○ Licensed exempt center based programs: 2,768 ○ Licensed or register family child care: 1,708

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

Professional development programs are authorized by ORS 329.219.

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

Early Learning Professional Development is funded by Other Funds – Early Learning Account and no increase above current Service Level is requested for 2023-25 Agency Request Budget. The funds in this program narrative represent budget received from the Early Learning Account. Professional Learning programs funded by General Fund and Federal Funds are part of Child Care Supports program narrative. The Agency will update budget during the Governor’s Budget process to align all professional learning funding streams.

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Professional Learning - Early Learning Account								
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget								
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$0	\$0	\$26,050,000	\$0	\$0	\$26,050,000	0.0	0.00
Police Option Packages								
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion						\$0		
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0		
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0		
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0		
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0		
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0		
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0		
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0		
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0		
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0		
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0		
Total Policy Option Packages	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0	0.00
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$0	\$0	\$26,050,000	\$0	\$0	\$26,050,000	0.0	0.00

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Parenting Education

Program Overview

The Department of Early Learning and Care provides resources for parenting education through Oregon’s Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC) program. The program provides resources for parents to learn about age-appropriate child development skills and milestones, promote positive play and interaction between parent and child, and locate and access community services and supports.

Program Funding Request

The 2023-25 Agency Request Budget request is \$5,257,612.

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds – Early Learning Account	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$1,000,000	\$4,257,612	\$5,257,612

Program Description

Parents are their children’s first and most important teachers. The Agency administers the parenting education program through OPEC. The program provides families access to high-quality parenting programs and a stronger, more coordinated parenting education system statewide. Resources fund family activities, and evidence-based parenting education classes, offering families an opportunity to learn about child development, share parenting strategies, and connect with other families to create a community where children can thrive. OPEC also supports grantees through evaluation, technical assistance, and professional development led by OSU.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

Investments that make additional parenting skills, practices, and resources available is a critical strategy in meeting the Agency’s goal that all children arrive ready for kindergarten; they also promote stable and attached families. Furthermore, expanding access

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to parenting education is a key strategy throughout *Raise Up Oregon*, noting that only 3% of families had access to parenting education services in 2018.¹

Program Performance:

Parenting education services are delivered to families in ways that best meet family and community needs, including in-person, remote, and hybrid models. Services are available in numerous formats, such as evidence-based programs, research-informed workshops, one-on-one parenting coaching, family activities, play and learn groups. The Agency anticipates a minimum service level of 500 families each year for every \$1 million invested. However, some OPEC Hubs are successfully using funds to leverage additional partnerships and resources, with state funds supporting additional programs in the 2021-2022 program year:

- 73 evidence-based/culturally responsive parenting education series (16 in Spanish), serving 871 families;
- 46 parenting workshops, serving 499 families;
- 40 parent support activities, serving 1,136 families; and
- 25 family activities, serving 18,123 families.

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

House Bill 3427 (2019) established the Fund for Student Success – Early Learning Account, including investments in “parenting engagement programs.”²

¹ Tominey, S. et.al. (2018). Policy Brief: Parenting Education. College of Public Health and Human Services. Retrieved from http://www.parentingsuccessnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ParentingEducation-Policy_Tominey_7-27-2018-1.pdf.

² Walker, T. (2019). Iscal Impact of Proposed Legislation, Measure HB 3427A. Legislative Fiscal Office. Retrieved from <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/49778>.

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Describe the various funding streams that support the program

Parenting Education is funded by General Fund and Other Funds – Early Learning Account.

Parenting Education								
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget								
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$0	\$0	\$4,257,612	\$0	\$0	\$4,257,612	0.0	0.00
Police Option Packages								
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion	\$1,000,000					\$1,000,000		
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0		
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0		
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0		
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0		
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0		
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0		
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0		
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0		
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0		
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0		
Total Policy Option Packages	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	0.0	0.00
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$4,257,612	\$0	\$0	\$5,257,612	0.0	0.00

POP 101, proposes a \$1 million General Fund investment to expand the Parenting Education program.

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Early Learning Program Supports

Program Overview

Early Learning Program Supports maximize the utility and effectiveness of early care and education programs for families by providing additional resources to providers to enhance the services their programs offer.

Program Funding Request

For the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget, the Agency is requesting \$23,509,918 total funds.

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds – Early Learning Account	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$5,928,062	\$17,581,856	\$23,509,918

Program Description

Investments in enhancements to early care and education programs increase not only the quality but the breadth of programming for children and their families. Early learning program supports offer additional wrap-around supports available to families, such as ensuring providers are equipped to identify and meet the mental health, social-emotional development, cultural, linguistic, or individualized needs of children in care. The programs also increase access to other early care and education professionals, such as Technical Assistance Coaches, that assist with the implementation and evaluation of new program practices and provide resources to allow providers to make improvements to facilities. Specific to the Preschool Promise program, enhancements are available to assist with family recruitment, eligibility, placement, and enrollment.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

Early learning program supports addresses the objective set by *Raise Up Oregon* to increase the state’s capacity to provide culturally responsive, social-emotional supports for young children and their families by providing resources to providers to learn and integrate those supports in their programming. Children in high-quality and culturally responsive care settings are more likely to be successful in other educational settings. Additionally, enabling providers to establish and improve essential infrastructure for high-quality early care and education, another objective of *Raise Up Oregon*, will ensure that children have access to safe and healthy care environments.

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Program Performance:

The Agency leverages these resources to ensure supports for early learning program providers and over 6,000 children receiving services in 430 Preschool Promise sites, with the 2022 program expansion.

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

Early Learning Program Supports are authorized under ORS 327.274.

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

Funding for the early learning programs supports Other Funds as distributed from the Early Learning Account. For the 2023-25 ARB, the Agency in POP 101 requests a General Fund appropriation for this program to support the expansion of program enhancements.

Early Learning Program Supports									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$0	\$0	\$17,581,856	\$0	\$0	\$17,581,856	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion	\$5,928,062					\$5,928,062			
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0			
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0			
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0			
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0			
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0			
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0			
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0			
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0			
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0			
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0			
Total Policy Option Packages	\$5,928,062	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,928,062	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$5,928,062	\$0	\$17,581,856	\$0	\$0	\$23,509,918	0.0	0.00	

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POP 101 requests: \$5.9 million for Early Learning Program Supports. These dedicated resources support Preschool Promise recruitment, eligibility, placement and enrollment of families, facility improvements, inclusion practices, supports for mental health, social and emotional development of children, coaches and specialists, provider supports for educational degrees, business supports and monitoring, and classroom assessments. These supports promote the high-quality environments Preschool Promise grantees are required to provide.

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Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Program

Program Overview

The Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention program aims to reduce the use of suspensions, expulsions, and other forms of exclusionary practices in early childhood programs by increasing the supports available to early care and education providers, enabling more children ages birth through five (5) years to remain in productive learning environments. The program incorporates an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation model, which makes local mental and behavioral health experts readily available to support providers and families requiring assistance.

Program Funding Request

The 2023-25 Agency Request Budget totals \$19,871,085.

Biennium	General Fund	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$19,871,095	\$19,871,085

Program Description

The Agency has been working with community partners to design and implement the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention program. The Agency anticipates partial implementation of the program across the state by July 1, 2023, requiring additional regional capacity to reach full statewide implementation by the end of the 2023-2025 biennium. The program precedes a ban on suspension and expulsion in early care settings beginning July 2026 established by SB 236 (2021).

When the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention program is fully implemented, it will be accessible to early care and education providers across the state that serve children, birth through five (5) years of age, and their families. When a provider or family needs assistance developing a strategy to address a child's behavior, the state's warmline can be contacted. Technical assistance providers and mental and behavioral health consultants receiving the request will collaborate with the provider and family to identify the best, tailored supports that will enable the child to remain in the educational setting.

The Department of Early Learning and Care will work with technical assistance providers and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants to deliver services. Technical assistance providers will manage the state's warmline and provide professional learning opportunities for all early care and education consultants, coaches, quality improvement specialists, and inclusion

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specialists. Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants work with early care and education providers and families to develop unique and culturally responsive supports that address the underlying impetus of a suspension or expulsion action. Consultants work with early educators to help them build competencies and skills through training, classroom observation and direct guidance to utilize strategies that support children to be successful in relationship-based environments.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

The program offers a key strategy to meet *Raise Up Oregon* Goal 1: Children arrive ready for kindergarten. In a recent survey of 2,105 families with children in early care and education programs, conducted by Portland State University, 6.3% of families reported being asked to leave or “take a break” from the early care and education program. Children with disabilities or with chronic health problems were twice as likely to be suspended or expelled, and Hispanic and Latino and American Indian and Alaska Native children were 1.5 times more likely to be suspended or expelled.¹ The Agency intends to track the rate of suspension and expulsion, across all demographics, with the implementation of the new program.

One objective of the *Raise Up Oregon* plan is to increase the state’s capacity to provide culturally responsive social-emotional supports for young children and their families. The Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention program makes progress in achieving that goal by making mental and behavioral health specialists and professional learning opportunities readily available to early care and education programs.

Another objective of the *Raise Up Oregon* plan is the prevention of expulsion and suspension by strengthening state policies and supports to early care and education programs. In addition to the detail provided above, this program will help meet that goal by providing the state with the opportunity to improve data collection and evaluation efforts and align suspension and expulsion policies across the early learning system and two coordinate with the K-12 system.

Program Performance:

The Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention program is newly funded and is currently under development. The Agency expects that a Request for Applications for the technical service providers and mental health consultants will be published this fiscal year. The Agency has engaged over a dozen partners in the development of the program and has formed a work group to respond to

¹ Pears, K.C., Miao, A.J., Green, B.L., Lauzus, N., Patterson, L. B., Scheidt, D., & Tremaine, E. (2021). Oregon Preschool Development Grant Birth to Age 5 Strengths and Needs Assessment: 2020 Statewide Household Survey Results. Report submitted to the Oregon Early Learning Division and Early Learning Council, March 2021.

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the legislature’s directive of a full ban on suspension and expulsion in the year 2026. The Agency has recruited and hired all legislatively approved positions within the Agency to manage the implementation of the program.

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

The statutory authority for the program resides in ORS 329A.600, which directs the Agency to develop a program that reduces the incidence of suspension and expulsion. Additionally, ORS 329A.625, which becomes effective on July 1, 2026, prohibits suspension or expulsion in early care and education programs.

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

The funding for this program is General Fund.

Mental Health & Behavior Support									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds -			Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
			Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG				
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$7,871,095	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,871,095	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion						\$0			
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0			
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention	\$12,000,000					\$12,000,000			
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0			
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0			
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0			
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0			
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0			
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0			
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0			
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0			
Total Policy Option Packages	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000,000	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$19,871,095	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$19,871,095	0.0	0.00	

Policy Option Package requests \$12 million General Fund to fund 35 additional infant and early childhood mental health consultants and support ongoing, statewide administration costs of centralized services and technical assistance provider contracts.

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Child Care Supports

Program Overview

The Department of Early Learning and Care coordinates the delivery of the following child care supports: Spark, the Inclusive Partners Program, Child Care Resource and Referral entities, 211info, and the early childhood career lattice through Portland State University contracts.

Program Funding Request

The 2023-25 Agency Request Budget is \$145,342,252 total funds.

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Federal Funds – ARPA/PDG	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$38,883,260	\$2,317,595	\$65,285,692	\$38,855,705	\$145,342,252

Program Description

Child Care Supports provided by the Agency include several program strategies to support families and child care providers in Oregon. A brief description of each strategy follows, leveraging General Funds, Federal Funds, and one-time federal resources:

- **Spark:** Spark is Oregon’s quality recognition and improvement system (QRIS). It is required by the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant to ensure consistent foundations of quality in child care settings and to support parent choice and consumer education when selecting a child care program. The Agency is beginning the redesign of QRIS to better reflect a more accessible process that reflects quality as culturally and developmentally appropriate child care settings, with the first phase of the revised Spark launching in 2024.
- **Baby Promise:** Baby Promise increases access to high-quality infant and toddler early learning and care environments for families that earn less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Baby Promise providers participate in professional development focused on providing high-quality infant and toddler care and receive supports to strengthen business practices. Child Care Resource & Referral entities (CCR&Rs) contract with providers in Oregon’s mixed delivery system to

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provide high-quality care for eligible infants and toddlers. Contracts are based on the true cost of providing care and help provide financial stability for providers.

- **Inclusive Partners:** The Inclusive Partners program assists providers to develop and administer individualized supports for children, birth through age seventeen (17), who require additional or specialized accommodations in child care settings at no cost to the provider or family. Inclusive Partners transitioned from the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities within the Oregon Department of Human Services to the Agency on July 1, 2022. The program performs high-needs assessments, trainings, and consultations in child care settings to support children with special needs – and their providers and family. Trainings and consultations help providers and community partners develop the skillsets and resources to ensure children experiencing disabilities are provided developmentally appropriate services within child care programs.
- **CCR&Rs:** Child Care Resource and Referral entities (CCR&Rs) provide services that promote the health, safety, and development of young children in child care settings as part of Oregon’s Early Learning System. CCR&Rs support the Early Care and Education workforce through coaching, training, and other forms of technical assistance that increase programmatic quality for the children in their care and help providers stay up to date with health and safety licensing regulations. CCR&Rs also support recruitment for the early care and education workforce. Additionally, the agencies will assist families with referrals for additional supports or services, such as developmental delay assessments. CCR&Rs also promote healthy, safe, and quality learning environments by identifying evidence-based practices for healthy development of identity, communication, motor skills, cognition, problem solving, and social-emotional development.
- **211:** The 211 database ([Find Child Care Oregon](#)) houses data on all licensed and regulated child care programs in Oregon, including cost, location, capacity/number of slots, current vacancies, ages served, hours of operation, languages of instruction, Quality Rating, availability to families paying with state subsidy, transportation offered, and other data points essential to families searching for early learning and care opportunities. The Agency contracts with The Research Institute (TRI) at Western Oregon University to maintain a child care search website that is connected to the 211 database to ensure the data is up to date and accurate for families. Agency staff access the child care availability and other data points including cost to inform policy, processes, and to inform strategy and funding decision-making. The database is crucial to for data collection, including the Market Rate Study, which is used to determine subsidy rates for child care providers participating in Employment Related Day Care.

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- **Career Lattice (PSU):** The Agency contracts with Portland State University to support the “career lattice,” which is foundational to the Early Childhood Educator Professional Learning System. Programming includes hosting required training, administering educator awards and higher education scholarships, and overseeing the Oregon Registry Online (ORO), Oregon’s early childhood professional development registry. ORO serves as the repository for child care providers to submit their required and voluntary professional development credit hours for continuous quality improvement and compliance with child care licensing requirements.
- **Focused Family Child Care Networks:** The goal of Focused Family Child Care Networks is to increase the supply of high quality child care in priority populations in order to target resources to child care providers serving children in communities that have been historically underserved or under-resourced. They have proven to be a highly effective strategy for increasing the number of Spark-rated providers serving priority communities and recognizing the importance of home-based child care providers in serving many of these communities. These Child Care Networks are particularly well-suited to create linguistically- and culturally-specific supports and are staffed by Quality Improvement Specialists that reflect the cohort of child care providers. Focused Child Care Networks include a staffed cohort of 15-20 providers and direct support to each provider for professional development aimed at achieving a certificate, degree, and higher step on the Oregon Registry. Each cohort spends about two years in the network. Focused Child Care Networks are administered through the Early Learning Hubs to specifically target their priority populations.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

These services are primarily focused on supporting the early childhood educator and child care workforce across Oregon, while also ensuring families have easy access to information when making decisions about child care for their family. Each program is a critical part of the comprehensive strategy to meet all three of *Raise Up Oregon’s* goals: 1) children arrive ready for kindergarten; 2) families are healthy, stable and attached; and 3) the early learning system is aligned, coordinated and family-centered.

Programs improve access to quality child care and support supply by creating pathways and offering scholarships for early childhood education providers, including family, friend, and neighbor caregivers. These opportunities focus on building the skills necessary to implement best practices in early childhood education and child care and promote inclusive settings for children with diagnosed disabilities and their families. They support families by ensuring they have access subsidized infant-toddler child care – which is the most expensive and least available care setting across the state – while also providing the most up-to-date information on available child care slots in communities.

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Program Performance:

Spark, Oregon’s Quality Recognition and Improvement System, launched in 2013 and has been in operation ever since. The table below reflects the number of programs that have achieved a Star-rating in the Spark system. Between 2018 and 2022, there have been between 665 and 730 star rated programs. We have been in a state of equilibrium where new programs and newly rated programs equal the attrition rate of those that close.

Spark Programs by Rating from 2014 to 2022

Spark Rating	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Commitment to Quality	461	804	857	852	719	760	789	751	731
3 Star	21	125	180	229	278	275	272	268	255
4 Star	4	42	78	66	94	93	86	84	80
5 Star	11	68	165	315	348	365	364	353	342
Total Participating Programs	497	1039	1280	1462	1439	1493	1511	1456	1408
Total Programs in Oregon	4320	4204	4269	4160	4044	3794	3843	3174	3582
% of Programs Participating in Spark	12%	25%	30%	35%	36%	39%	39%	46%	39%

Although not fully illustrated in the table provided above, there is substantial movement happening within the ratings. For example, when there is a decrease in C2Q programs, it is usually because those programs have submitted their portfolios and received a 3, 4, or 5 star rating. On average, there are about twelve (12) programs per quarter receiving higher star ratings, and the Agency expects this trend to continue during 2023-2025. On a quarterly basis, there are also about six (6) rating revocations and two (2) rating

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reinstatements. In addition to the movement within ratings, the Agency anticipates at least fifteen (15) new participating programs during 2023 and even more after the revised version of Spark, “Spark 2.0” is launched in 2024. Spark 2.0 will include a strong emphasis on continuous quality improvements and equitable supports to achieve program identified goals, as a result, the Agency predicts this will entice even more programs to participate and the total number of participating programs will likely exceed 1,500 before the end of 2025. There will also be a substantial increase in the engagement level of current Spark programs as the Agency moves to develop a system that encourages and supports annual quality improvements.

Spark Participation Increases Forecasted for 2023 to 2025

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total Participating Programs	15	30	60

Baby Promise: The Baby Promise pilot program began serving children in May of 2020 in three regions in Oregon: Multnomah County, Central (Jefferson, Deschutes, and Crook Counties), and South Coast (Coos County, Curry County, and the city of Reedsport in Douglas County). As of July 2022, the program actively serves 170 children within these three (3) regions. The average cost per child is \$25,033. The program anticipates serving 250 children by November 1, 2022.

Inclusive Partners: The Inclusive Partners program’s objectives are to increase access to inclusive and supportive child care for children with disabilities, increase retention of children with special needs in child care settings over time, and successfully support providers. Trainings are provided to child care providers who are currently serving children with diagnosed disabilities or are committed to promoting an inclusive classroom setting for children. The specialized trainings provide early childhood educators with the tools to best serve children in their programs.

Fiscal Year	Number of Trainings Conducted	Number of Early Educators Attended
FY 2020	52	1,282
FY 2021	15	321
FY 2022	35	981
Total	102	2,584

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Career Lattice (PSU): Child care programs must report that they have received training in order to maintain their licensure with the Agency.

Program Year	Training Slots Available in Calendar Year	Individuals Created in ORO
2016-17	38,142	14,960
2017-18	32,556	12,942
2018-19	38,990	12,947
2019-20	37,179	12,552
2020-21	28,556	12,384
2021-22	39,734	13,628

Focused Family Child Care Networks: The program has provided stability to child care providers through the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching early childhood educators across the state in a variety of program settings.

Focused Child Care Networks (Data 2020 –2021)		
Measure	Description of Services	Total Served
Number of FCCN led by Quality Improvement Specialists	Reach and availability of network based professional learning, and the use of funds dedicated to supporting network based professional learning	45 focused child care networks statewide
Number of early educators participating in FCCN	Levels of participation and impact of FCCN on professional learning, and the gap between capacity and demand Measure progress towards a job-embedded and competency based professional learning system, and engagement in continuous quality improvement	511 early educators participating

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Focused Child Care Networks (Data 2020 –2021)		
Measure	Description of Services	Total Served
Number of programs working on Spark recognition in a FCCN	Connection between FCCN engagement, level of technical assistance and effects on Spark follow-through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 230 licensed child care centers • 64 licensed exempt child care centers • 519 licensed family child care • 12 licensed exempt in providers home • 105 programs serving children who receive CCDF subsidy
Number of programs increasing quality through Spark participation	<p>Technical assistance provided by a QIS and quality improvement evidenced in Spark participation</p> <p>Quality of technical assistance provided to programs by a QIS</p>	Evidence provided in Spark participation data

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

Spark is authorized by ORS 329A.261 and required by the federal CCDBG Act of 2014 658G(b)(3); Child Care and Development Fund, 45 C.F.R. § 98.53(a)(3) (2016).

The federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) requires states to develop and implement strategies to increase the supply of and improve the quality of child care services (45 CFR 98.53). ORS 329A.100 through 130 establishes the state’s resource and referral system.

The Baby Promise program is authorized by ORS 417.784 and directs the Agency to contract for infant and toddler slots. Oregon state statute 329A.010(2)(a) charges DELC with administering the federal Child Care and Development Fund; Inclusive Partners responds to the federal CCDF regulation 45 CFR 98.53.

ORS 329.219 requires the Agency to establish and implement policies and practices to achieve vigorous and comprehensive early childhood professional development systems in this state that incorporate improved recruitment, preparation, induction, career

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advancement opportunities and support for early learning providers and professionals, including professionals who provide home visiting services.

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

The Child Care Supports programs are funded with General Fund, Other Funds, Federal Funds and Federal ARPA Discretionary (one-time grants that end 2024 and PDG grant which ends 12/30/2023).

Child Care Supports									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$1,990,726	\$2,317,595	\$0	\$65,285,692	\$38,855,705	\$108,449,718	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion						\$0			
POP 102 ERDC Implementation	\$24,892,534					\$24,892,534			
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0			
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion	\$12,000,000					\$12,000,000			
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0			
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0			
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0			
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0			
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0			
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0			
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0			
Total Policy Option Packages	\$36,892,534	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,892,534	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$38,883,260	\$2,317,595	\$0	\$65,285,692	\$38,855,705	\$145,342,252	0.0	0.00	

The 2023-25 Agency Request Budget requests no increase above Current Service Level for the programs described above. However, Policy Option Package 102 requests General Fund to support funding for IAAs with ODHS for services to support ERDC program, IT System modifications for family eligibility expansion; to increase child care supply; to increase the number of families accessing services; and to increase the number of child care providers who are approved and provide quality child care services to eligible families.

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Employment Related Day Care (child care assistance) Program

Program Overview

Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) is Oregon’s child care assistance program, subsidizing child care for eligible families to support employment, education and family well-being in stable child care arrangements that support child development. The program previously resided in the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), before moving to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) as a result of HB 3073 (2021), which also greatly expanded program eligibility.

Program Funding Request

The 2023-25 Agency Request Budget totals \$562,067,835

Biennium	General Fund	Federal Funds - CCDF	Federal Funds – ARPA	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$346,344,100	\$119,087,995	\$96,635,740	\$562,067,835

Program Description

The ERDC program helps families offset the cost of quality child care by making payments on their behalf to eligible child care providers. Child care supports are crucial to maintain the labor market and assist parents to obtain and maintain employment and upward mobility by way of education and training, while quality child care settings support child development and early education necessary for preparation for kindergarten and beyond. Families must have incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to be eligible for ERDC and, once enrolled, can continue in the program until their income exceeds 250% FPL.

ERDC offers families flexibility to choose a child care provider that best meets their needs, whether that is a child care center, a licensed family child care home, or a licensed-exempt provider or relative. Families whose incomes are above 100% FPL are required to make a co-pay on a sliding scale, not to exceed 7% of their household income. The Agency pays the child care provider for the remainder of the cost of the child care, up to the maximum reimbursement rate. As of August 2022, the program has approximately 3,800 active child care providers, who are serving an average caseload of 9,286, with over \$90 million in direct payments being made to child care providers each year. As a result of ERDC, the state is a significant purchaser of child care in Oregon, and ERDC provider policies, including payment rates, impact the overall child care market.

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In 2021, House Bill 3073 passed and directed the transfer of the ERDC program to Department of Early Learning and Care from the Oregon Department of Human Services. The legislation included expanded eligibility for parent physical presence, family well-being activities, coverage for full-time students, and coverage for undocumented children. In addition, the legislation expanded 12-month eligibility for all families who are eligible for the program and requires a shift from basing provider reimbursement on the market rate to referencing the cost of quality care through an alternative rate methodology.

Beginning July 1, 2023, the Early Learning Council, as the rulemaking body for DELC-administered programs, has rulemaking authority for ERDC. The Agency continues to contract with ODHS for certain functions necessary for the administration of the program, such as eligibility determination, which is conducted through the ONE Integrated Eligibility System and with the support of ODHS field offices. A significant portion of ERDC funding is from the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and ERDC is subject to federal CCDF regulations, which includes eligibility determination, provider payment rates, family co-pays and on-site health and safety monitoring of ERDC child care providers. DELC, as the CCDF lead agency and administrator of ERDC, is responsible for ensuring that ERDC complies with these federal requirements.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

The ERDC program directly supports many of the goals and objectives within *Raise Up Oregon*. ERDC's dual focus on promoting child development and supporting families to work supports both Goal 1: "Children Arrive Ready for Kindergarten" and Goal 2: "Families are Healthy, Stable and Attached." "Goal 1: Children Arrive Ready for Kindergarten," Strategy 2.3 is strengthen child care assistance programs. The consolidation of the program administration that has happened under HB 3073 with the creation of DELC is a significant step towards unifying policymaking and policies across all child care assistance programs.

In addition to the governance change, HB 3073 significantly expanded family eligibility. During the 2023-25 biennium, the program will have expanded eligibility for parents and caregivers who are full-time students, children in foster care, and children who are undocumented. The program will also strengthen 12-month eligibility for all families and increased child care hours eligibility for non-traditional working schedules and family well-being activities, all of which directly contributes to family stability and self-sufficiency.

Additionally, in alignment with "Goal 3: The Early Learning System is Aligned, Coordinated, and Family Centered," eligibility for the ERDC program remains in the cross-sector ONE Integrated Eligibility (ONE IE) System, which allows families to complete a single application for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), ERDC, and

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Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Families do not have to apply separately for programs for which they have overlapping eligibilities, which reduces the burden of applying and submitting supporting verification documents for each program individually.

Program Performance:

The ERDC program caseload is constrained by the amount budgeted for the program. An increase to the average caseload was approved during the 2021-23 biennium budget process. Average case load increased 8,286 to 9,286, or an additional 1,000 additional families. The Agency is requesting \$242 million to increase the caseload in anticipation of newly eligible families who will qualify for services under HB3073 as part of POP 102.

Until the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget for the Department of Early Learning and Care, the budget to support child care assistance had General Fund appropriation in the Oregon Department of Human Services and federal limitation in the Oregon Department of Education, Early Learning Division, for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grants. The table below reflects the move of all funds to DELC for the 2023-25 Biennium.

Biennium	General Fund	Federal Funds - CCDF	Federal Funds – COVID/ARPA One Time Funding	Total Funds
2019-21 Legislatively Approved Budget	\$0.00	\$120,205,729	\$0.00	\$120,205,729
2021-23 Legislatively Approved Budget	\$0.00	\$134,993,413	\$76,125,658	\$211,119,071
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$346,344,100	\$119,087,995	\$96,635,740	\$562,067,835

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

The Early Learning Division is responsible for administering funds received by the State of Oregon pursuant to the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (CCDBG) under ORS 329A.010. The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is the funding mechanism to transfer funds to the State under CCDBG. ORS 329A.500 gives the Early Learning Council the authority to regulate the ERDC program, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Human Services.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

The child care subsidy program is funded by General Fund and Federal Funds. Sixty-four percent of the subsidy funding for ERDC is supported by the federal CCDF, which gives states, tribes, and territories funding to provide child care services for low-income working families. Thirty-six percent of the funding for ERDC subsidies is General Fund, which prior to 2023-25 Agency Request Budget was part of the Oregon Department of Human Services. At the beneficiary level, eligible families make a copayment for child care services. Eligibility for the program is defined by a combination of state and federal law. 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 98.20 defines eligibility for CCDF funded child care programs.

The Agency is requesting \$242 million General Fund appropriation above Current Service Level as part of POP 102 for the increased child care assistance payments due to the average caseload growth in anticipation of newly eligible families who will qualify for services as a result of HB 3073 (2021). POP 102 increases the average cost per case for current caseload for 18 months based on the cost of quality care, as well as increases the average caseload of families eligible for services.

The expansion of the ERDC (child care assistance) program in POP 102 will increase the average cost per case from an estimated \$1,498 to \$1,904. The estimated increase is approximately 22% above estimated current service level average cost for 18 months of the biennium. The increase to the average cost per case is an estimate to move Oregon from an average cost based on market rate, to an alternative rate methodology based on the true cost of quality child care.

POP 102 also expands the average case per month from 9,286 by an estimated 3,700 for an average caseload of 12,986. The requested average caseload increase will allow families who are newly eligible to qualify for child care assistance, including parents and caregivers who are students, foster families, 12-month eligibility for all families and increased child care hours eligibility for non-traditional working schedules and family well-being activities.

The Agency is leveraging one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through CCDF to fund the reduced co-pays, expanded caseload, and increase in provider rates required by HB 3073 and HB 4005 (2022). The Agency has identified resources to sustain these investments through the 2025-2027 biennium.

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Employment Related Day Care (Child Care Assistance)									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$122,311,298	\$0	\$0	\$119,087,995	\$96,635,740	\$338,035,033	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion						\$0			
POP 102 ERDC Implementation	\$224,032,802					\$224,032,802			
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0			
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0			
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0			
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0			
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0			
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0			
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0			
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0			
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0			
Total Policy Option Packages	\$224,032,802	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$224,032,802	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$346,344,100	\$0	\$0	\$119,087,995	\$96,635,740	\$562,067,835	0.0	0.00	

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Healthy Families Oregon

Program Overview

Healthy Families Oregon (HFO) is a free, voluntary home visiting program offering support and education to families who are expecting or parenting newborns.

Program Funding Request

The 2023-25 Agency Request budget is \$44,928,012 million.

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds – Early Learning Account	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$35,313,994	\$3,539,250	\$6,075,668	\$44,928,912

Program Description

Healthy Families Oregon (HFO) is an accredited multi-site state system with Healthy Families America (HFA) and is one of Oregon’s largest child abuse prevention programs. HFO program sites offer this voluntary program to families prenatally or immediately after a child’s birth, supporting families for up to three (3) years. Consenting families work with HFO to identify personalized referrals to community services. Families whose children may be at higher risk for adverse childhood outcomes (using a standardized, research-based screening tool) are offered ongoing home visiting services. Home visits assist families in achieving goals around parenting and improved family functioning by increasing parent child relationships and building on family strengths.

HFO promotes positive parent-child relationships, supports healthy growth development, and enhances family functioning by tailoring assistance to meet each parent’s need and by improving the support systems through appropriate referrals to community services. Trained home visitors support parents in cultivating and strengthening a nurturing, positive relationship with their baby at each visit. Parents receive information on topics like child development, infant care, and keeping their baby healthy and safe. Parents also learn what is available in their communities to support new families and are connected to appropriate resources and supports.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

The HFO program is a unique resource for new and expecting parents, furthering the Agency’s goal of supporting stable and attached families. The program provides access to evidence-based services that include parenting education and promotion of parent-child relationships, child development screenings and supports, and linkages to community-based health, mental health, housing, financial, and educational resources. Notably, HFO furthers the objective in *Raise Up Oregon* that families feel confident in their ability to be their children’s first teacher. The program also helps identify a child’s socio-emotional, developmental, and health care needs at early stages, preventing the need for more intense services later.

Program Performance:

Healthy Families America sets caseload standards for HFO programs. As a result, if a local program experiences high levels of turnover among their home visiting workforce, overall caseloads will decrease until staff are sufficiently trained over 36 months. The data below provides an overview of the HFO program with the data on the number of HFO sites reporting data, number of home visits completed and the number of home visitor professionals performing the home visits completed.

Source: Healthy Families America Site Tracker (HFAST)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of sites reporting	15	12	16	15	14	14
Number of Home Visits Completed	36,350	22,791	42,184	38,495	30,723	25,118
Number of Home Visitors Professionals	157	149	155	139	134	136

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

The Healthy Families Oregon program is authorized by ORS 417.795.

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

The HFO program is funded by the following funding sources; General funds, Other Funds: Title XIX Medicaid and Title IV-B2, and Other Funds - Early Learning Account.

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Healthy Families Oregon								
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget								
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$30,180,227	\$3,539,250	\$6,075,668	\$0	\$0	\$39,795,145	0.0	0.00
Police Option Packages								
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion	\$5,133,767					\$5,133,767		
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0		
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0		
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0		
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0		
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0		
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0		
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0		
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0		
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0		
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0		
Total Policy Option Packages	\$5,133,767	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,133,767	0.0	0.00
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$35,313,994	\$3,539,250	\$6,075,668	\$0	\$0	\$44,928,912	0.0	0.00

POP 101 proposes an increase of 10% above current service level as well as expanding services to Lincoln County. In 2017, the Lincoln County HFO grantee relinquished the grant back to the state and at that time no other service provider was able to continue services. The funds for Lincoln County were distributed to other grantees to increase service levels in their communities. Lincoln County now has eligible providers to apply for a grant to reinstate services in this community.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Relief Nurseries

Program Overview

Relief Nurseries offer integrated early childhood therapeutic and family support services to prevent children and their families from needing additional child welfare services in the future as a public-private partnership with the Department of Early Learning and Care.

Program Funding Request

The 2023-25 Agency Request Budget totals \$27,084,868.

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds – Early Learning Account	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$16,564,308	\$2,350,446	\$8,170,114	\$27,084,868

Program Description

The Relief Nursery model serves children birth through five (5) and their families. Families experiencing multiple stressors in areas such as mental and physical health, financial, and violence, are eligible for the program. Children and their families can receive home visits, respite care, parent support and education, as well as tangible supports such as clothing and food, developmental screening, transportation support, and nutritious meals. Children in the Therapeutic Early Childhood Program receive three to six (3-6) hours of therapeutic class time per week, home visits weekly to monthly, and all the supports named above. Therapeutic classrooms have low group sizes and adult-child ratios (e.g., 3:6 for infants) and use trauma informed and culturally responsive social-emotional curricula. Staff are required to meet specific education and experience thresholds as well as complete initial and ongoing training on components of the Relief Nursery model and trauma informed services.

Relief Nurseries are public-private partnerships, with each Relief Nursery providing at least a 25% community match to state funds. The Agency is responsible for administering the public funds that the legislature allocates to the Relief Nurseries. The Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries (OARN) supports the practices, monitoring, and certification of Relief Nurseries. Relief Nursery programs employ highly-qualified personnel with diverse backgrounds and must be licensed child care facilities.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

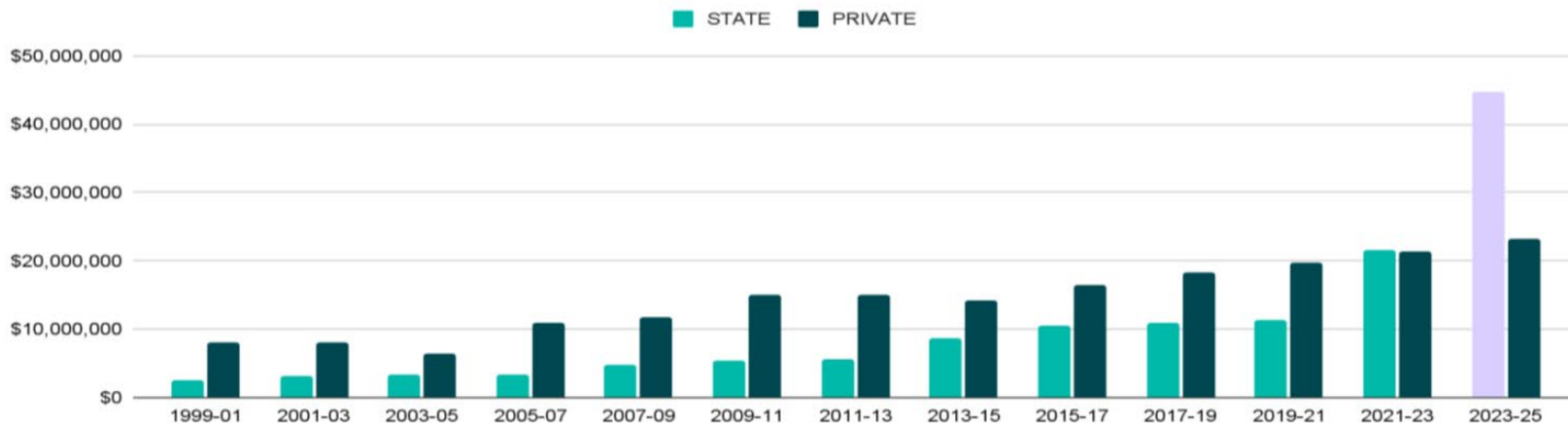
Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

Relief Nurseries make progress toward *Raise Up Oregon* goal: children live in healthy, stable and attached families. Relief Nurseries also further specific *Raise Up Oregon* objectives, including increasing access to coordinated and comprehensive services that reduce participation in the child welfare system. The Relief Nursery logic model (found at this link: <https://www.oregonreliefnurseries.org/outcomes>) demonstrates that 95% of children whose families enroll in a Relief Nursery program do not experience maltreatment. Long-term outcomes include a reduction in the number of children that have adverse childhood experiences and an increase in the number of children that can remain safely in the home.

Program Performance:

The first Relief Nursery was opened in 1984. Since that time, Relief Nurseries have expanded to 20 counties in the state. There has been growth in the number of children served, as well as the number of sites across the state, as the legislature has increased investments in the program. Below is information from the Oregon Relief Nurseries Association on the growth of the program:

OARN Statewide Public & Private Investments Across Biennia



BUDGET NARRATIVE

The table below is a brief history of the state funding for Relief Nurseries from the 2015-17 to 2021-23 biennium:

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds – Early Learning Account	Total Funds
2015-17 LAB	\$8,600,000	\$1,999,466	N/A	\$10,599,466
2017-19 LAB	\$8,918,200	\$2,073,550	N/A	\$10,991,750
2019-21 LAB	\$9,407,092	\$2,002,345	\$2,800,000	\$14,209,437
2021-23 LAB	\$11,811,597	\$2,088,446	\$7,840,800	\$21,740,843

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

Relief Nurseries are authorized by ORS 417.786 and ORS 417.778. ORS 417.788.

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

Relief Nurseries are funded with General Fund, Other Funds-Title XX transferred from the Oregon Department of Human Services, Other Funds– Assets Forfeiture distributions received from local law enforcement agencies from the sale of seized assets related criminal activities and Other Funds – Early Learning Account.

Relief Nurseries									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$12,307,684	\$2,350,446	\$8,170,114	\$0	\$0	\$22,828,244	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion	\$4,256,624					\$4,256,624			
Total Policy Option Packages	\$4,256,624	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,256,624	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$16,564,308	\$2,350,446	\$8,170,114	\$0	\$0	\$27,084,868	0.0	0.00	

POP 101, Early Learning Program Enhancement & Expansions requests a 10% increase above current service level budget and an additional \$2 million due to increased cost of providing service, including wage and benefits and services and supplies.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Early Learning Hubs

Program Overview

Oregon’s sixteen (16) regional Early Learning Hubs serve as the state’s regional partner in building an early learning system that is aligned, coordinated, and family-centered. Early Learning Hubs provide local community coordination for children ages 0-5 and their families, with an equity-driven focus on families who have been historically underserved and under-resourced by bringing together community-partners to develop strategic plans, analyze data, and engage in shared problem solving. The Early Learning Hubs are also tasked with coordinating enrollment for families participating in Preschool Promise.

Program Funding Request

For the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget, the Agency is requesting \$22,930,579 total funds.

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds – Early Learning Account	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$16,347,374	\$2,779,383	\$3,803,822	\$22,930,579

Program Description

Hubs bring together families with their regional and community partners, including early care and education providers, Head Start programs, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) programs, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) entities, K-12 partners, Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), local Oregon Department of Human Services field offices, businesses, and philanthropic organizations, to develop regional strategic early childhood focused strategic plans and engage in collective problem solving. In addition, Early Learning Hubs serve important functions for the early care and education sector (ECE), completing a biennial community plan to identify priority populations of children and families to inform the Agency and focus the Hub region’s coordinated services and investments. In addition, each Hub produces an Early Care and Education Sector Plan, and Hubs engage with families in their community to better understand their needs and analyze data on availability and access to early care and education programs. Through this process, Hubs identify priority populations for expansion of publicly funded ECE programs and the available mix of ECE providers in their community. Community partners, facilitated by Early Learning Hubs, create plans to reduce barriers to families accessing publicly funded ECE with particular focus on the priority populations of families identified in their Early Childhood Services Analysis. They create marketing and outreach plans, activities, and materials to increase families’ awareness of

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the importance of ECE and the availability of publicly funded ECE in their community. These plans also inform Agency investments across the state.

Hubs are also responsible for the coordinated enrollment of Preschool Promise in their regions. Coordinated enrollment is a systems-building strategy that serves all children and families by increasing access to affordable, high-quality ECE, with a focus on regionally-identified, priority population families. As part of coordinated enrollment for Preschool Promise, Hubs are responsible for determining family eligibility, supporting programs in program selection, and placement into a Preschool Promise program in their region. Coordinated enrollment staff in Early Learning Hubs receive family applications for Preschool Promise, collect eligibility documentation to complete eligibility certification, and inform the families who are selected to be placed with a Preschool Promise program according to selection priorities.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

The Hubs play an essential role in reaching *Raise Up Oregon's* goal of an early learning system that is coordinated, aligned, and family-centered. When families' needs and preferences are used to inform decision-making at all levels, the early learning system is better able to identify and address the needs of the populations being served. By incorporating family needs and preferences into community planning, the Hubs support the Department of Early Learning and Care and other state partners by identifying gaps in available services and building supports that more closely align with family needs and preferences.

Program Performance:

Coordinated enrollment implementation began in the pandemic, and the first evaluation spanned the coordinated enrollment process for both program years 2020-2021 and 2021-22 and is available at this link:

<https://oregonearlylearning.com/administration/pdg/#1645056913652-63576d56-8cb3>. The second year of evaluation collection is underway. Key metrics from evaluation include family feedback on the coordinated enrollment process, policies and partners available in their community and through the Agency.

The Hubs promote coordinated access to services by convening local communities and providing a space for collaborative and intentional engagement, including with families. The Hubs also participate in sector planning and influence where services are best positioned to meet families' needs; they often have the best insight in to the availability of placements for families. When surveyed, the Hub's partners indicated a high level of trust in the Hubs, based on their reliability, common mission, and willingness to engage.

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Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

Early Learning Hubs are established by ORS 417.827.

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

Funding for the Early Learning Hubs includes an appropriation from the state General Fund, Other Funds – Title IV-B2, funds received from the Oregon Department of Human Services, and Other Funds from the Early Learning Account. No increase above Current Service Level is requested for this program for the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget.

Early Learning Hubs									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$16,347,374	\$2,779,383	\$3,803,822	\$0	\$0	\$22,930,579	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion	\$0					\$0			
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0			
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0			
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0			
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0			
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0			
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0			
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0			
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0			
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0			
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0			
Total Policy Option Packages	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$16,347,374	\$2,779,383	\$3,803,822	\$0	\$0	\$22,930,579	0.0	0.00	

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Tribal Hub

Program Overview

HB 2055 (2021) directed the Department of Early Learning and Care to establish a Tribal Early Learning Hub to coordinate early learning services provided to American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) of the nine (9) federally recognized tribal nations within Oregon’s borders. The Tribal Advisory Committee was established to advise the Agency, and the Early Learning Council, on the role, function, and structure of the Tribal Hub.

Program Funding Request

The 2023-25 Agency Request Budget totals \$626,398.

Biennium	General Fund	Total Funds
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$626,398	\$626,398

Program Description

The Agency is engaging in government-to-government consultation through the Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) to establish the role and scope of the Tribal Hub. The TAC has identified the following needs for consideration within the Tribal Hub:

- A grievance system for Tribes;
- Clearer and more direct funding opportunities and processes;
- A networking space to connect with partners in other Tribes;
- Quality consultation to support rulemaking and policy engagement.

The Agency is continuing to engage with the TAC in defining the design and implementation plan for the Tribal Hub in the 2023-25 biennium.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

The Tribal Early Learning Hub will work in support of all three of the *Raise Up Oregon* goals: children arriving ready for kindergarten; healthy, stable and attached families; and a coordinated, aligned and family-centered system – as well as a commitment to preserving culture. The creation of the Tribal Hub will allow a stronger government-to-government relationship between the Agency and the nine (9) federally recognized tribes within Oregon’s borders by streamlining access to early childhood resources.

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Program Performance:

The Agency expects to establish the Tribal Early Learning Hub in 2023-2025, in coordination with the Tribal Advisory Committee.

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

The Tribal Hub is established by ORS 417.831.

Describe the various funding streams that support the program:

The Early Learning Tribal Hub is funded with General Fund. No increase above current service level is requested for the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget.

Early Learning Tribal Hub									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds -			Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
			Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG				
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$626,398	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$626,398	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion	\$0					\$0			
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0			
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0			
POP 104 Baby Promise Enhancement and Expansion						\$0			
POP 105 Program Quality Assurance						\$0			
POP 106 Family and Program Provider Engagement						\$0			
POP 107 DELC Operations						\$0			
POP 108 Healthy Families Oregon Database						\$0			
POP 109 DECL Positions Clean UP						\$0			
POP110 Program Research and Evaluation Funding						\$0			
POP 111 Fellowship for Career Growth - ECE Policy						\$0			
Total Policy Option Packages	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$626,398	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$626,398	0.0	0.00	

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Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation

Program Overview

The Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation Program (KPI), which flows through the Early Learning Hubs, invests in promising models for connecting early learning and K-3 education across the state. This program promotes community and school partnerships that result in measurable increases in children’s readiness for kindergarten. This program funds direct, collaborative services for families and children preparing to enter kindergarten; alignment and coordination activities for early learning and K-12; and cross sector partnership-building facilitation on a local level that reaches beyond K-12 and early learning to reach mental health, ODHS, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education, and other partners.

Program Funding Request

The 2023-25 Agency Request Budget is \$9,466,578.

Biennium	General Fund
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$9,466,578

Program Description

Oregon’s Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Fund (KPI) was authorized by the Oregon Legislature in 2014 to support innovative, community-driven work to improve children’s school readiness and success and to reduce opportunity gaps for the state’s most vulnerable children. KPI uses a framework for improving these outcomes known as the Prenatal-to-Grade 3 (P3) approach. This approach assumes that individual interventions or programs, no matter how effective, are necessary but not sufficient to create sustained improvements in children’s school success. Instead, the focus of P-3 work is to build a system of aligned, coordinated supports from birth through third grade. Third grade is seen as a key benchmark based on the considerable research that demonstrates children who are meeting academic standards for reading and mathematics in third grade are more likely to be successful in school and to graduate from high school.

The Agency provides KPI funds to the state’s 16 Early Learning Hubs (“Hubs”), which are given considerable local flexibility to implement innovative approaches (often blending and braiding other funding sources) in one or more of the following areas:

- Supporting kindergarten readiness skills and smooth transitions to kindergarten;

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- Increasing family engagement in children’s learning and connecting families and schools as well as families with each other;
- Providing professional development to early learning and/or elementary school professionals to improve knowledge and skills; and/or
- Increasing system alignment, connection, and collaboration between early learning, K-12 and other key partners in the P3 system.

Via the Early Learning Hubs, Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI) Program awards funds to recipients across the state who model innovative strategies for connecting early learning and K-12 and getting children to kindergarten ready to succeed. The goal of this program is to help Oregon create a stronger alignment between its early learning and K-3rd grade (P-3) education systems, by promoting community and school partnerships and innovations that result in a measurable increase in children’s readiness for kindergarten.

Program Justification and Link to Long Term Outcomes:

KPI supports the Agency’s Goal Children Arrive Ready for Kindergarten and families experience supportive transitions and continuity of services across early care and education and K-12 settings. KPI supports successful and seamless transitions to kindergarten, which are associated with success during the early elementary years.

In 2017, the Agency contracted with Portland State University to conduct research demonstrating that KPI funds were being used to support the statewide goal of reducing disparities in kindergarten readiness for those from communities who have been historically underserved and under-resourced. Research confirmed that these funds were being used to support schools with larger proportions of economically disadvantaged students, Latino children, and children who are English Language Learners. These groups of children are known to have less access to early learning opportunities. After controlling for demographics, students in KPI-funded programs knew more letters and letter sounds compared to students in non-KPI programs. While the increase was small, it was statistically significant. In particular, small but statistically significant or near-significant trends were found when comparing Oregon Kindergarten Assessment scores for KPI-funded schools versus matched comparison schools in Oregon.

Program Performance:

Based on the number of post-KPI-event surveys Hubs collected, the number of families participating in the family engagement activities organized by the Hubs as part of their KPI work has increased across each year of KPI, and the number of providers participating in the shared professional development events has increased over the last three (3) years.

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Table below provides an overview of the number of families, early learning providers and Kindergarten to Third grade teachers receiving KPI services from the first year of the program in 2015 through fiscal year 2019.

Fiscal Year	Families	Early Learning Providers	K-3 Staff
2015	716	234	124
2016	1,016	60	117
2017	1,623	150	164
2018	1,935	178	182
2019	1,860	301	231

Early Learning Hubs reported that 12,446 individuals, including 7,210 children and 5,235 adults, attended KPI family engagement events between July of 2019 and June of 2020. Most of those people (7,855, 63%) attended a series event. Almost all of the family engagement series programs were kindergarten transition programs/camps and were geared towards 4-5 year olds (94%). Respondents reported that two-thirds (68%) of the family engagement strategies used a structured curriculum. Twenty-four percent (24%) of the family engagement programs were specifically targeted toward a priority population/multiple priority populations, although only two programs were designed specifically to meet the needs of a specific cultural group. Priority populations for KPI funding include linguistically and culturally diverse families, families with children with special needs, and lower income families.

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization:

The statutory authority for the program resides in ORS 336.101 which established the Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Program.

Describe the various funding streams that support the program.

Funding for the Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation Program (KPI) is an appropriation from the state General Fund. No increase above current service level is requested for this program for the 2023-25 Agency Request Budget.

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Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation									
2023-25 DELC Agency Request Budget									
Description	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Funds - Early Learning Account	Federal Funds	Federal - ARPA/PDG	Total Funds	Positions	FTE	
Current Service Level - Package 060	\$9,466,578	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,466,578	0.0	0.00	
Police Option Packages									
POP 101 EL Program Enhancements & Expansion						\$0			
POP 102 ERDC Implementation						\$0			
POP 103 B-5 Suspension & Expulsion Prevention						\$0			
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Total Policy Option Packages	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0	0.00	
2023-25 Agency Request Budget	\$9,466,578	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,466,578	0.0	0.00	