

## **What is the purpose of the grant?**

The purpose of the grant is to expand high-quality preschool programs, through comprehensive services and family engagement, for preschool-aged children from families at or below 200% of the Federal poverty line. Oregon is eligible for an expansion grant for up to \$15 million in the first year of the grant in order to:

- Implement and sustain high-quality preschool programs to reach and serve additional eligible children in two or more high-need communities;
- Enhance preschool program infrastructure and make quality improvements to deliver high-quality preschool programs;
- and, Deliver high-quality preschool programs through a mixed-delivery system of providers that includes schools, licensed child care centers, Head Start programs, and community-based organizations.

## **How will the high-need communities be selected to participate?**

**Community Readiness:** The grant application team looked for communities with strong existing systems including Child Care Resource and Referral, Head Start, leadership at public schools that is focused on early childhood, and a Coordinated Care Organization. This readiness was indicated through other secured investments such as the P-3, Kindergarten Innovation Grants, Early literacy, and parenting hubs.

**Provider Readiness:** The grant application team considered the number of QRIS rated programs, and workforce qualifications of community providers.

**Need Data:** If a community was seen as having both community readiness and provider readiness, the grant application team looked for significant community need based on poverty, racial/ethnic diversity, kindergarten assessment results, disaggregated third grade reading results, focus and priority schools, size of Medicaid population, and size of child care wait lists.

In making final selections, the team looked for at least one urban and one rural location, a mix of locations that would include a range of child care provider types as well as racial/ethnic diversity of children and child care leadership and staffs. The team looked for at least one site with a high percentage of English Language Learners. Head Start locations with large wait lists

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## **Which regions will be prioritized to participate?**

- Southern Oregon - Jackson/Josephine
- Multnomah
- Lane
- Eastern Oregon – Umatilla/Morrow/Union

**Priority Populations:** Within each of these regions, the grant application team will work with the local early learning hubs to select a catchment area on which to focus services. Underserved populations, and specifically communities of color, within each region that will be prioritized. The Early Learning Division is committed to using the Equity Lens in this process, specifically answering the following questions, “Does the decision being made ignore or worsen existing disparities or produce other unintended consequences? What is the impact on closing the opportunity gap?”