

2015-2020



Frontier Early Learning HUB

LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN

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History of the Frontier Early Learning HUB

The Frontier HUB coverage area is all of Grant and Harney Counties, and includes the Burns Paiute Tribe. The region, which covers over 15% of Oregon's geography over 14,662 square miles, and is one of the most isolated, most economically challenged regions in the state of Oregon.

We were honored to be chosen as one of the first six Early Learning Hubs in Oregon and have worked over the past two years to organize and implement the new state vision. One key success that came from this endeavor was seeing our two counties become an early learning region and the successful partnerships with our community partners that have flourished. We look forward to continuing our important work over the next biennium and seeing our vision come to light.

MISSION

Our mission is to coordinate access to quality early childcare education programs that meet the needs of children and families in the Frontier Early Learning HUB region.

What We Hope to Accomplish

VISION

The Frontier Early Learning HUB will create a roadmap for improving kindergarten readiness by increasing the number of strong attached families and coordinate an efficient system of early learning for Harney and Grant Counties.

Frontier HUB Guiding Principles

- ❖ The Frontier Region is vast and encompasses 14,666 square miles across Harney and Grant Counties. Our hope is to have a region where services are consistent, aligned and coordinated.
- ❖ We have great community partners throughout this region and wish to work alongside them to reach our common goals.
- ❖ To develop quality early childhood programs and to prepare children for future educational success.
- ❖ Encompass the belief that a parent voice is critical and necessary component of designing the strategies and actions of our HUB.
- ❖ The Frontier Early Learning HUB supports culturally responsive services that are respectful of, and relevant to, the beliefs, practices, culture and linguistic needs of diverse consumer/client populations and communities.

State Metrics

There are 3 specific goals that were adopted by the legislature in 2013 that all Early Learning HUBs must strive to accomplish.

- Create an early childhood system that is aligned, coordinated, and family-centered.
- Ensure that children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn and succeed.
- Ensure that children in Oregon live in families that are healthy, stable and attached.

State Goals and Indicators

The following is what the state will be looking for to make sure the work is being done and results are positive.

Goal 1. The early childhood system is aligned, coordinated, and family-centered.

- The hub has a strategic plan in place that details the role of all five sectors (business, early learning, health, k-12 education, and human services) in achieving shared outcomes for children and families.
- The hub has active participation of leaders from all five sectors within their governance structure.
- Shared agreements are in place with community partners from all five sectors and specify shared outcomes and activities.
- Shared agreements will specify that each sector partner will share data regarding budgets, services provided, and the number of children served within the hub region.
- The hub utilizes mechanisms to share funding and blend/braid resources actively.
- The hub demonstrate meaningful engagement with children and families from all of the communities served by the hub.
- Program participation data demonstrates increases in services to children and families from identified priority populations.
- Hub demonstrates that their operating administrative overhead is below 15% annually.

Goal 2. Children are supported to enter school ready to succeed.

- The hub demonstrated shared activities among early learning providers, families, and K-3 partners.
- Increase the number of children from Early Head Start, Head Start, OPK, Relief Nurseries, Healthy Families Oregon and/or other waiting lists served by a hub partner program.
- Increase the number of 3, 4, and 5-start QRIS providers serving children from “hot spots” and communities of color and an increase in the number of children served in “hot spots” and communities of color.
- Increase in percent of children who receive a developmental screen before the age of 3.
- Increase in the percentage of children enrolled in kindergarten before start of school year.

Goal 3. Families are healthy, stable and attached.

- Increase in percentage of children in Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) in a 3, 4, or 5-star QRIS program.
- Increase the number of children and families served by DHS (e.g., through TANF or child welfare) who are receiving early learning, parent education or family support services.
- Increase in the percentage of children on OHP who make it to 6 or more well-child visits by 15 months of age.

Frontier HUB Strategies toward Desired Outcomes

To ensure our Early Learning system is aligned, coordinated, and family centered, the Frontier Hub will:

- ❖ Establish MOU's with our community partners that represent the 5 sectors mandated by the state, outlining the role of each partner toward achieving shared outcomes for children & families and to share resources.
- ❖ These 5 partners will serve as governance for our Frontier Early Learning Hub and help to guide the development of strategic plans and activities of the HUB using the Oregon Equity Lens toolkit in that decision making process.
- ❖ Data will be shared between community partners and the HUB to track progress toward shared goals and to identify increases in services to priority populations.
- ❖ The business office of Harney County ESD and the Frontier HUB director will work closely to ensure administrative costs are kept below 15%.

Frontier HUB Key Activities

1. Recruit membership to our Frontier HUB Advisory Board to represent the 5 required sectors.
2. Board members will be required to attend 80% of scheduled meetings or send a representative in their stead.
3. MOU's will be drafted and signed outlining cooperation amongst sector members and the Frontier HUB.
4. The Frontier HUB will collaborate with sector partners to explore options for sharing resources.
5. Adopt the Early Learning Divisions philosophical framework for engaging families. We will carry this parent centered approach into the following activities: Parent meetings and classes, engage parents through home

visiting programs, parent resource directories and by launching Vroom in our region.

To develop a system that will ensure children are ready for kindergarten the Frontier HUB will:

- ❖ The HUB will collaborate with K-3 partners, school administrators and the early childhood community throughout the region to develop activities and actions that prepare high risk children for success. These include kindergarten transition and early literacy activities and professional development for providers.
- ❖ The Frontier HUB will monitor waitlists of early childhood providers and facilitate finding preschool experiences for each family that desires it.
- ❖ The Frontier HUB will contract with local CCR&R staff & Focused Network grantee's throughout the region to provide additional resources and to track progress toward increasing QRIS providers.
- ❖ Most children in the Frontier Hub region receive early childhood education services. We will work with these providers, community partners, and the medical community as well as parents to make sure children are receiving early developmental screenings.
- ❖ The Frontier HUB will continue to work with parents and the early learning community working toward early registration of preschool age children for kindergarten.

Frontier HUB Key Activities

1. Use KPI grant funds to promote cross training between early childhood providers and elementary school teachers; home visiting to incoming kindergarten families by kindergarten teachers; promoting move-up or visitation days for preschools to the elementary schools; exploring options for developing a summer school session for incoming kindergartener's; and to continue dialog between HUB staff and school administrators.
2. Monitor waitlists of early childhood providers for the purpose of connecting waitlisted children with openings in other quality programs. Ensuring all children get an early learning experience if so desired.
3. Work with CCR&R and Focused Network grant to increase QRIS providers. Focused Network will purchase .25 FTE of a staff person in each county to recruit, support and encourage providers to enroll in QRIS. CCR&R staff will report on numbers of providers on a quarterly basis.
4. The Frontier HUB will use Early Learning Divisions' data to track the number of children screened with the ASQ.
5. Continue to work with Early Childhood & Early Learning partners to ensure children are registered for kindergarten before scheduled round-ups. Our process will be to advertise transition activities and inform parents at home visits and during parent teachers conferences.

The Frontier Hub's system for ensuring that families of early learners are physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally healthy.

- ❖ Frontier HUB will work with childcare and early childhood program providers to increase the number of 3, 4 and 5 star rated programs.
- ❖ The Frontier HUB will work closely with our DHS partners to explore ways to increase services to high risk families in our region.

Frontier HUB Key Activities

1. The Frontier HUB will contract with Childcare Resource and Referral staff to increase the number of 3, 4, and 5 star rated programs.
2. The Frontier HUB will use existing meetings such as LICC and early childhood meetings as a forum for dialog in identifying high risk families. Having a DHS representative on the HUB advisory board will be a plus.
3. Work with local CCO's to get data from well child check-ups and collaborate with local community partners to increase the number of families served.