



Focused 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 of color. They have proven to be a highly effective strategy for increasing QRIS 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. The Quality Improvement Specialist individualizes the professional development and coaching to meet the needs of the cohort.

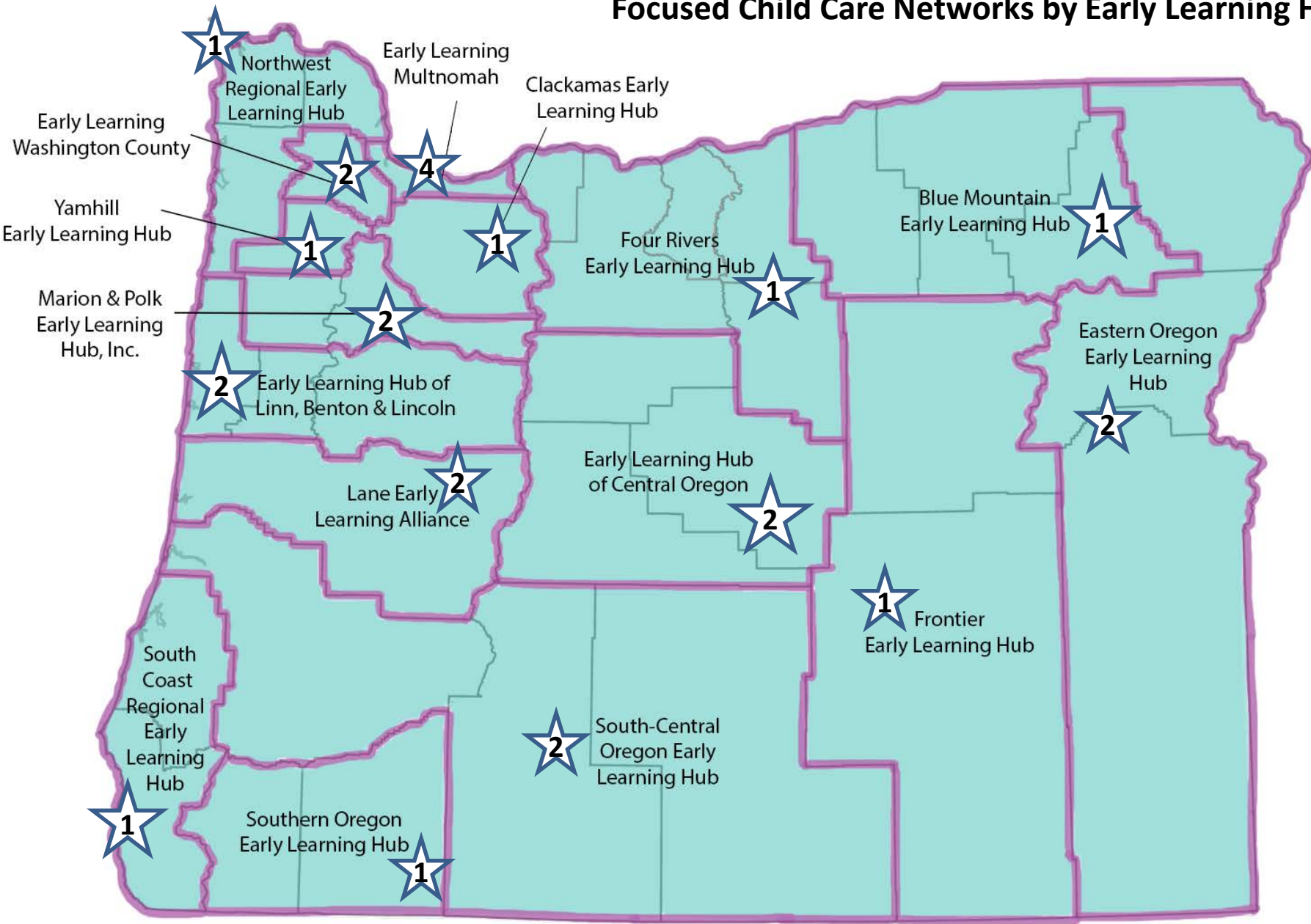
Focused Child Care Networks include a staffed cohort of 15-20 providers, and direct support to each provider for professional development aimed at achieving a certificate, degree and higher step on the Oregon Registry. For a cohort of 20 providers, the total cost of both the network and professional development is approximately \$160,000. 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. Below is an overview of the focus of these networks:

Hub Name	Target Population
Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub, Inc.	Spanish & English in Woodburn, Salem and Monmouth/Independence, English in Stayton.
Early Learning Multnomah	Russian and Spanish speaking providers. African-American providers (Woodlawn, Rosa Parks, King, Chief Joseph/Ockley Green school regions). Second round funding added an additional Russian speaking provider focused network.
South Central Oregon Early Learning Hub	Lake County and rural areas of Douglas County Spanish speaking licensed exempt and newly licensed providers
Yamhill Early Learning Hub	Family child care providers in rural Yamhill County
Lane Early Learning Alliance	Family and center based providers in rural western Lane County (Junction City and Veneta areas). Second round funding added a network for Spanish speaking providers.
Frontier Early Learning Hub	Licensed exempt and licensed providers in the Frontier counties
Early Learning Washington County Hub	Spanish speaking providers living in the very-highest need elementary school catchment areas. Second round funding added a second network for these providers.
CEL Hub Clackamas County	Family child care providers in rural and underserved areas of Clackamas County serving "hot spots" and communities of color.

Eastern Oregon Community Based Services Hub	Malheur County and Baker County, Spanish speaking providers. Second round funding added network focused on Baker, Nyssa, Ontario, and Vale school districts. Includes a focus on recruiting license exempt providers.
Linn,Benton, Lincoln Early Learning Hub	Licensed child care programs with priority placed in the rural areas. Second round funding added a network for Spanish speaking providers.
Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub	Licensed exempt and licensed providers in the Irrigon Boardman area.
Northwest ELC	Poverty hot spots and other small rural communities; both licensed exempt and licensed providers in Columbia and Tillamook Counties.
Four Rivers Early Learning Hub	Licensed exempt and licensed English and Spanish speaking family child care providers in five counties.
Southern Oregon Early Learning Services	Spanish speaking family providers in Jackson and Josephine County, located in high poverty hot spots, including Jackson School area.
Early Learning Hub of Central Oregon	licensed family child care programs in Crook, Deschutes & Jefferson Counties with a focus on children with high needs.
South Coast Regional Early Learning Hub	Providers serving families in the area around the call center in Coos Bay, which are low income, at risk.

Focused Child Care Networks by Early Learning Hub



Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System

Explanation of Enhanced Supports for Focused Network Participants

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education and Department of Human Services

Sub-Grants Program CFDA #84.412A

Administered by the Teaching Research Institute, Western Oregon University

Through Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), enhanced supports are available to Early Learning and Development Programs that are participating in Focused Networks. Focused Network (FN) providers will be identified by the FN Quality Improvement (QI) Specialists and communicate eligibility for enhanced supports to the Teaching Research Institute. Identified programs are eligible for "double funding" which means QRIS support and incentive funds in an amount equal to double the typical amount which is determined by the program's licensed capacity as indicated in the chart below. Providers who may have already received some QRIS funds are eligible to receive the balance of what they are eligible for.

What qualifies a program to be eligible to receive enhanced supports in Oregon's QRIS?

- Participating in a Focused Network through an Early Learning Hub with a signed agreement, AND
- Identified by a FN-QI Specialist.

What types of enhanced supports are available to qualifying programs in the QRIS?

- **Support funds** to help defray costs of quality improvements needed to complete a portfolio in order to achieve a 3, 4 or 5 star rating.
- **Incentive funds** are awarded to programs after they submit a portfolio and achieve a star rating. These funds serve as a reward for achievement and helps pay for ongoing costs of increased quality.

Star Level	Small Programs 0-20 Licensed Capacity		Medium Programs 21-49 Licensed Capacity		Large Programs 50 + Licensed Capacity	
	Support \$	Incentive \$	Support \$	Incentive \$	Support \$	Incentive \$
Commitment to Quality	\$2,000	0	\$3,000	0	\$4,000	0
3 Star		\$1,000		\$2,000		\$3,000
4 Star		\$2,000		\$3,500		\$4,000
5 Star		\$3,000		\$4,000		\$5,000

Support and incentive funds are contingent upon availability of funds and are subject to change without prior notice.

Enhanced support funds distribution parameters:

1. FN Provider must be fully engaged in Focused Network as defined by each Early Learning Hub.
2. Support funds will be dispersed in increments as small as \$500 and up to the full amount allocated.
3. If indicated as necessary by the QI Specialist:
 - a. Up to \$500 can be dispersed to FN providers before achieving licensing
 - b. Up to half of the support funds can be dispersed to FN providers before achieving a Commitment to Quality designation.
4. FN Providers accessing support funds are required to work on Quality Improvements toward achieving a Quality Rating.
5. FN Providers accessing funds are required to commit to submitting a portfolio. They will work with their FN-QI Specialist to set an attainable target date for portfolio submission.
6. All required documentation must be fully completed and submitted to TRI in a timely fashion.

Programs can access enhanced financial supports through the following process:

1. FN-QIS determines eligibility for enhanced supports:
 - a. Program meets Focused Network requirements, has signed an agreement and is actively engaged in network
 - b. Program needs financial supports
 - c. Program is willing to fully engage in QRIS process and work to meet requirements
 - d. Program is willing to work towards quality rating (i.e., submitting a portfolio)
2. The FN-QIS identifies the eligible programs and informs the Teaching Research Institute (TRI) of program eligibility.
3. FN-QIS assists the program in completing:
 - a. Quality Improvement Plan
 - b. Request for Enhanced Supports for Focused Network Participants form
 - c. WOU Substitute W-9 form
 - d. Application (if not previously submitted)
 - e. Self Assessment (if not previously submitted)
4. The following are sent to TRI for Processing:
 - a. A copy of the Request for Enhanced Supports for Focused Network Participants,
 - b. Original WOU Substitute W-9

If program has not previously applied for and/or achieved a Commitment to Quality designation:

 - c. Application (copy)
 - d. Self-Assessment (copy)
5. Program will communicate any major changes to the budget worksheet on the Request for Enhanced Supports form with their FN-QIS for approval prior to making expenditure.
6. All programs receiving QRIS funds must submit a complete portfolio for rating. Program and FN-QIS work together to set a target date for portfolio submission.

Oregon's QRIS Quality Improvement Specialists

QRIS

Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System



Quality Improvement Specialists (QIS) provide technical assistance directly to early learning and development programs across the state.

QISs Are Experienced:



Have **more than 5 years** of experience in the field of Early Learning

55% of QISs have held **more than 5 roles** within the Early Learning field

77%

of QISs work part-time (less than 20 hours per week) doing QIS duties

QISs Are Highly Educated:

On the Oregon Registry

100%

Earned a Step 7 or higher on the Oregon Registry

98%

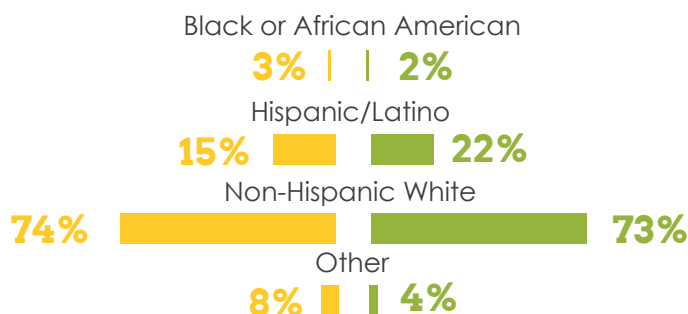
Earned a Bachelor's degree or higher

82%

QISs Reflect the workforce they are working with:

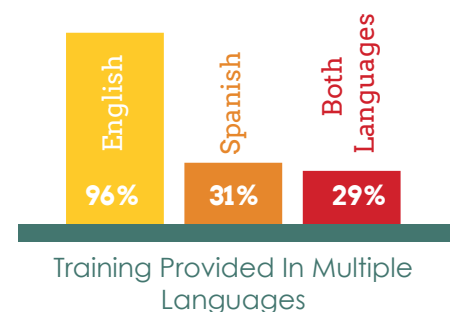
Oregon's Providers *

Oregon's QISs



QIS provide High quality training:

65% are Oregon Registry Master Trainers



* Oregon Early Learning Workforce: Two Years Beyond Baseline. Comparison of 2012 and 2014. Brief by Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education, Portland State University & Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University. Oregon Early Learning Workforce: Two Years Beyond Baseline. Comparison of 2012 and 2014. Brief by Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education, Portland State University & Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University.

The online survey was conducted from February 8-26, 2016. Of 76 Quality Improvement Specialists, 50 responded for a 66% response rate.

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