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Student Success Act  
Early Care & Education Sector Plan

# Eastern Oregon Regional Stewardship Committee Membership Roster

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## Refined Priority Population List

Priority Populations
<p><b>Refugee Children living in Ontario</b></p> <p>Malheur County, especially the community of Ontario, has welcomed immigrants for many generations. They are now becoming known as a safe and welcoming place for refugees from Africa and the Middle East. A Welcome Center for Refugees has been established as part of the equity work of the Early Learning Hub. The need for quality child care and education for parents about child care is extremely high. Parents are finding jobs but do not have child care options that are linguistically and culturally relevant.</p>
<p><b>Latinx Children in Malheur and Baker Counties</b></p> <p>Malheur and Baker Counties have vibrant Latinx communities, yet the number of child care options do not match their population. With data that shows school district catchment areas with low kindergarten assessment the same areas of high Latinx student population proves we need to do a better job at the community level.</p>
<p><b>Children experiencing Foster Care</b></p> <p>Baker County has the highest foster care rate in the state with Malheur County not far behind and growing rapidly. Across the region, the need for high quality child care for foster children is critical. Potential foster parents are less likely to foster children when the availability for child care is low. It is extremely important that the child care where foster children are placed is high quality and able to address their social and emotional needs.</p>
<p><b>Children with no parents in the workforce</b></p> <p>The PDG data provided from the ELD began an important conversation in our region, especially with parents. Wallowa County is known for its gorgeous landscapes and people flock there during warm months making job opportunities more abundant. The unemployment rate the rest of the year is extremely high. Many parents who do not have a college degree or specific trade skills, are working minimum wage, part-time and often seasonal jobs.</p>
<p><b>Children 0-2 whose families are below 100% Federal Poverty Level and live in geographically isolated and/or frontier areas.</b></p> <p>Baker County does not have an Early Head Start program. While Malheur and Wallowa counties have Early Head Start and Head Start Child Care Partnerships, it's not nearly enough to meet the needs of families with children 0-2.</p>

Priority Populations Decision Grid

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
<p><b>Refugee Children living in Ontario</b></p>	<p><b>Estimate # eligible Refugee children 0-5:</b></p> <p>19 Middle Eastern Families:                      6 Syrian                      12 Iraqi                      1 Afghani                      All speak Arabic except the family from Afghanistan who speak Farsi/Persian                      Pregnant – 1                      8 Children Ages 0-3                      5 Children Ages 3-5                      19 Youth Ages 6-18                      4 Young unmarried adults less than 25</p> <p>15 African Families:                      11 Somalia                      3 Congolese                      1 Sudanese                      The Somali families speak Somali and the Congolese families speak Swahili except the Sudanese person who speaks Arabic                      Pregnant – 5                      10 Children Ages 0-3                      12 Children Ages 3-5                      19 Youth Ages 6-18                      5 Young unmarried adults less than 25</p> <p><u>Data Source:</u> Four Rivers Welcome Center for Refugees Nov 2019</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Priority:                      Ontario in Malheur County where Refugee Children live and attend school.</p>	<p>The Four Rivers Welcome Center in Malheur County had individual conversations with the refugee families to get their feedback. They were able to speak with 13 families</p>	<p>Refugee families shared that they really want someone who can understand their language and whom they know and can trust. Many families have night and weekend hours. Those with teenagers recruit them to watch the younger children during these working times. Other parents expressed the desire that the providers understand their language in order to better teach and communicate with their children. Transportation was a barrier for some of the families.</p> <p>Through conversation with the Director of The Four Rivers Welcome Center, we learned that there is a huge distrust among the different African tribes and therefore the refugees have a tough time coming together in the same room. These feelings are deep and go way back. She also shared that parents stated they want their children to be treated well and the facility to be clean and safe. Parents want to be spoken to or written messages in their own language so they can understand what is happening in their child's program. Some other feedback shared. Families have been successfully enrolled into programs, yet some of the children do not</p>

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	<p><b><u>Estimate # of Refugee Children 0-5 being served:</u></b>                      5 of the 35 refugee children are currently being served in an ECE programs (3 Head Start and 2 Early Intervention preschool).  <u>Data Source:</u>                      The Four Rivers Welcome Center</p> <p><b><u>Discussion of quantitative disparity in service:</u></b>                      Ontario has become a welcoming community for Refugee families to settle. Historically, Ontario has welcomed people from various cultures. The opening of the Welcome Center for Refugees only happened recently and is working diligently and respectfully to serve families. The director has a background in Head Start and is well equipped to assist families with most needs.</p> <p>31% of children 5-18 speak another language than English in Malheur County. This is HIGH on PDG data.</p>			<p>attend regularly. For one family, a young child was left with no adult supervision while a parent went to work. Therefore, The Welcome Center for Refugees is working with parents to understand responsibilities in the local culture.</p>
<p><b>Latinx Children living in Malheur and</b></p>	<p><b><u>Estimate # eligible Latinx children:</u></b>                      Malheur County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1412 or 55% Latinx children</li> <li>• 62% of students in Ontario 8C School District are Hispanic/Latino</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Priority:                      Malheur County- Ontario in Pioneer and Cairo Elementary School catchment</p>	<p>The migrant and seasonal head start through ODCD had a fall festival night where families circulated to</p>	<p>Latinx families in Malheur County shared that they want a safe place (this includes the way food is prepped, teachers having background checks, and the equipment that kids play on) for their children to go where they can learn their numbers and letters. They need longer</p>

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<p><b>Baker Counties</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66% of students in Nyssa 26 School District are Hispanic/Latino</li> <li>Based on ages 5-18, we assume approximately 658 children (31%) speak a language other than English</li> </ul> <p>Baker County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>79 or 8% Latinx children</li> <li>10% of students in Baker 5J School District are Hispanic/Latino</li> <li>Based on ages 5-18, we assume approximately 73 children (9%) speak a language other than English</li> </ul> <p>Wallowa County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29 or 6% Latinx children</li> <li>7% of students in Wallowa School District are Hispanic/Latino</li> <li>Based on ages 5-18, we assume approximately 9 children (3%) speak a language other than English</li> </ul> <p><u>Data Source:</u> KidsCount 2017 ACS, 2017 Oregon Department of Education/At-a-glance district profile 2018-19</p>	<p>area and the Nyssa School District catchment area.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> priority: Baker County - Baker City in the Brooklyn Elementary School catchment area.</p>	<p>different tables to learn about resources and were engaged in a conversation at one of the tables regarding their needs. We received feedback from 16 families.</p> <p>Malheur County Child Development Center requested that their families fill out the Family Engagement Survey. 39 families participated. Some were during school and some were during a home visit.</p> <p>A Latina liaison through the Baker School District had a parent night where this discussion took place among Latinx families. 11 families</p>	<p>hours and transportation to and from. Some need evening and weekend hours as well. Families would like their children taught by someone who knows their language and will help preserve their culture. Some families have difficulty paying for care when they have more than one child. Sometimes they can't get multiple children in the same facility.</p> <p>In Baker most of the Latinx families send their kids to the family with the youngest child and trade services instead of money. Sometimes older siblings stay home to care for the younger children as well. They would like a centralized location where the children would be safe and the provider would communicate with the parents on the success that their child is making. They would also like training opportunities – where they can learn how to prepare their children for school and help with behavior challenges.</p>

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
	<p><b><u>Estimate # Latinx children served:</u></b></p> <p>Malheur County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 313 Latinx children at Oregon Child Development Coalition</li> <li>• 92 Latinx children at Malheur County Child Development Center</li> </ul> <p>Baker County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 Latinx children at Eastern Oregon Head Start</li> </ul> <p>Wallowa County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One child in Umatilla Morrow Head Start</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Data Source:</u></b> Head Start Programs from all three counties</p> <p><b><u>Discussion of quantitative disparity in service:</u></b></p> <p>Malheur County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31% of children 5-18 speak another language than English. This is HIGH on PDG data.</li> <li>• In Ontario School District, Pioneer Elementary School was below the state average 13 times in 7 domains in the last two years' Kindergarten Assessment and Cairo Elementary</li> </ul>		<p>attended and participated.</p>	

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	<p>School was below state average 11 times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47% Hispanic/Latino attend Pioneer Elementary.</li> <li>• 62% Hispanic/Latino Students attend Cairo Elementary.</li> <li>• Nyssa School District serves 66% Hispanic/Latino students and was below the state average on the Kindergarten Assessment 10 times in 7 domains within 2 years.</li> <li>• Data Source: Oregon Department of Education/At-a-glance</li> </ul> <p>Baker City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When groups of community partners and businesses get around the table, the perception is that there is a small population of Latinx families.</li> <li>• Baker School District has a strong relationship with most Latinx families.</li> <li>• There are about 76 families according to the Baker School District Latinx Liaison in Baker City that are or have been served in some capacity.</li> <li>• Has a population of approximately 9,800 people</li> </ul>			

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
<p><b>Children experiencing Foster Care</b></p>	<p><b><u>Estimate # Eligible Foster Children 0-5:</u></b></p> <p>Baker County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 children ages 0-5 spending at least one day in foster care (This is 43% of all foster children 0-18 in Baker County)</li> <li>For abuse and neglect victims rate per 1,000 ages 0-17, Baker County ranks 35th in the state of Oregon which is the highest possible ranking.</li> </ul> <p>Malheur County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>114 children ages 0-5 spending at least one day in foster care (This is 44% of all foster children 0-18 in Malheur County).</li> <li>This is almost double the number of 0-5 in 2009 which was 63.</li> <li>Malheur County ranks 32 in the state of Oregon for abuse and neglect victims' rate per 1,000 ages 0-17.</li> </ul> <p>Wallowa County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 children ages 0-5 spending at least one day in foster care (This is 41% of all foster children 0-18 in Wallowa County).</li> </ul>	<p>Baker County is top priority for having the highest rate of children in foster care and only 2 children being served in Head Start.</p> <p>Malheur County is second priority due to its significant trend upward over the past ten years and it comparative ranking position near the bottom.</p> <p>Wallowa County is third priority due to its increase from less than 5 children before 2016 and now nearly double with 9 and only 2 being</p>	<p>DHS District 13 (Baker Union and Wallowa) Child Welfare Manager sent out a Family Engagement survey blast to all foster parents in that district. We received responses from 3 families. (Unknown whether any were from Union County)</p> <p>DHS District 14 Certification Supervisor called foster parents serving Malheur County children to get their feedback on the Family Engagement survey. She spoke to 4 families.</p> <p>Wallowa County CASA program reached out to foster parents by</p>	<p>Many Foster parents shared that they need providers to understand trauma and how to care for children with emotional and behavioral challenges. This understanding of trauma was important so behavior challenges were not forcing providers to remove foster kids from their programs and causing foster parents to feel that they "are no longer welcome there".</p> <p>Some of the trauma that cause these behaviors in the children that are being fostered were: High poverty, toxic stress, drugs, involvement with criminal justice system and domestic violence.</p> <p>A few more barriers that foster parents expressed were: affordability and availability especially for sibling groups or multiple children in care, a place with smaller teacher to child ratio so there would be more individual attention given, and home daycares that provide structure.</p> <p>Wallowa County CASA director shared that even though they currently do not have any 0-5 children in care directly from Wallowa County, they are serving kids from other jurisdictions which include Baker County. She heard from foster parents who work that they would not be able to have these</p>

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	<p><u>Data sources used:</u>                      2009 and 2018 Child Welfare Data Book (number of children experiencing at least one day in foster care and &amp;)                      Children First for Oregon stated what the counties ranked</p> <p><b><u>Estimate # Foster Children being served:</u></b></p> <p>Baker County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 children are currently being served at Head Start</li> </ul> <p>Malheur County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 children are currently being served at Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC)</li> <li>• 11 children are currently being served at Malheur County Child Development Center (MCCDC)</li> </ul> <p>Wallowa County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 children are currently being served at Early Head Start</li> </ul> <p><u>Data Source:</u>                      Current enrollment numbers from our Local Head Start programs.</p>	<p>served in Early Head Start.</p>	<p>posting the survey on social media for their feedback on this topic. Three families participated.</p>	<p>children unless they had a spot in a certified center. They also shared that the requirements from the state dictate where foster children can be cared for making it harder to find care.</p> <p>Through conversation with community partners, we learned that along with expansion of child care and preschool, there are local efforts to reduce the number of children being removed from their homes. Coordination with DHS Self Sufficiency, home visiting programs, housing programs, WIC, and other social services are critical to support families and foster families.</p> <p>Other efforts include Family Connects in all three counties, expanding the Relief Nursery in Malheur County and the creation of a Relief Nursery in Baker County.</p>

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
	<p><b><u>Discussion of quantitative disparity in service:</u></b></p> <p>According to DHS Child Welfare Data Books 2009-2018, Baker begins (20 children) and ends with an increase (25 children) but has peaks in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017 with its highest of 44 in 2015. The Head Start wait list for Eastern Oregon University Head Start Baker City program is 5.</p> <p>Malheur shows fairly steady increase from 63 children in 2009 to 114 children in 2018. According to DHS District 14, the number has continued to climb in 2019 to approximately 145 children. Malheur County has two Head Start programs. Malheur County Child Development Center has 77 children on their wait list and Malheur County, Oregon Child Development Coalition has 40 children on its waitlist with 19 of those entering Kindergarten in fall of 2020.</p> <p>Wallowa County is also a priority due to its increasing number of children being placed in foster care. They showed less than 6 children until 2016. Currently, there are 10 children on the Early Head Start waitlist in Wallowa County, 6 children on a waitlist for Wallowa Head Start and 15 on a waitlist for Enterprise Head Start,</p>			

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	<p>all are part of the Umatilla Morrow Head Start program.</p> <p>The need for local Foster Parents is critical for children to stay in their own community. A primary barrier for qualified people to become foster parents is the need for child care. According to DHS District 14 Child Welfare Manager, 80% of foster children are in care outside of the foster home. This confirms the urgency for quality slots in counties with high rates of children in foster care in Baker and Malheur counties as their rates rank with the worst in the state.</p> <p>Nearly half of all Foster Children are under the age of 5. DHS District 13 &amp; 14 (includes Baker, Malheur and Wallowa) are desperate for qualified foster homes and quality care while foster parents work outside of their homes. (Trends according to DHS Child Welfare Data Books 2009-2018)</p> <p>The number of foster children currently being served will not correlate to the number of children spending at least one day in foster care since one data is "point in time" (current) and the other is cumulative over the period of a year. Even with this consideration, the</p>			

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	number of foster children being served is too low.			
<p><b>Children with no parents in the Workforce</b></p>	<p><b><u>Estimate # eligible children 0-5 with no parents in the workforce:</u></b></p> <p>Wallowa County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>57 or 15% of children in Wallowa County have no parent in labor force (PDG)</li> <li>Currently in Wallowa County, 14 families with 22 children 0-5 were reported by the Family Coach in District 13 Department of Human Services to have no parent in the workforce</li> <li>Wallowa County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been averaging 6.4 which is the third highest in the state. State average is 3.6</li> </ul> <p>Baker County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>124 or 13% of children in Baker County have no parent in labor force (PDG)</li> <li>Currently in Baker County, 75 families with 58 children 0-5 were reported by the Family Coaches in District 13 Department of Human Services to have no parent in the workforce.</li> </ul>	<p>Priority 1: Wallowa County, having the highest number of children with no parent in the workforce and the third highest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the state.</p> <p>Priority 2: Baker County with the second highest number of children with no parent in the workforce and an average of 5.1 unemployment rate.</p>	<p>DHS District 13 (Wallowa County) self-sufficiency family coach shared the Family Engagement Survey with parents that they are working with and received feedback from 5 families in Wallowa County.</p> <p>Early Head Start in Wallowa County shared Family Engagement Survey with their parents and we received feedback from 6 out of the 7 families enrolled.</p> <p>A home visitor in Wallowa County was</p>	<p>Parents state that they want to work but say that there is no availability for childcare. Some parents shared that the costs and time getting their kids to and from care is expensive and does not align with work schedules of jobs that are available such as weekend or night work. A lot of the jobs need a degree and the ones that don't are usually seasonal. This includes tourism in Wallowa County and agricultural related jobs in Malheur and Baker Counties. Parents said that sometimes they chose to stay home and live with state assistance until they can afford care for their child.</p> <p>Through home visits, parents who are not working shared that because they have past criminal history, it makes it difficult for them to get a job. Others shared that their mental health also makes it difficult to get jobs and sometimes keep them. Single parents not working shared that they typically don't utilize childcare or preschool services because of the costs associated with getting them there. Sometimes they are unable to</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baker County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been averaging 5.1. State average is 3.6</li> </ul> <p>Malheur County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>208 or 9% of children in Malheur County have no parent in labor force (PDG)</li> <li>Currently in Malheur County 64 families with 93 children 0-5 were reported by Family Coaches in District 14 Department of Human Services to have no parent in the workforce.</li> <li>Malheur County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been averaging 4.5. State average is 3.6</li> </ul> <p><u>Data Source:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACS, 2017</li> <li>Oregon State University PDG data</li> <li>Current numbers by District 13 (Wallowa and Baker Counties) &amp; District 14 (Malheur County only) DHS self-sufficiency family coaches</li> <li>State of Oregon Employment Department-Qualityinfo.org (April 2019- October 2019)</li> </ul>		<p>able to have conversations with families on their caseload. 6 families gave feedback.</p> <p>WIC in Baker County received one Family Engagement Survey during their appointment.</p> <p>WIC in Malheur County gave out the Family Engagement Survey to families while they attended their appointment. We received 3 in Spanish and 6 in English.</p>	<p>meet the qualifications of the programs to get it such as having to be in school or working.</p>

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
	<p><b><u>Estimate # Children 0-5 being served:</u></b></p> <p>Wallowa County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently, District 13 Department of Human Services Self-sufficiency in Wallowa County reports that 5 out of 22 children whose parents are not in the workforce are accessing ECE services.</li> </ul> <p>Baker County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently, District 13 Department of Human Services Self-sufficiency in Baker County reports that 18 out of 58 children whose parents are not in the workforce are accessing ECE services.</li> </ul> <p>Malheur County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently, District 14 Department of Human Services Self-sufficiency in Malheur County reports that 29 out of 93 children whose parents are not in the workforce are accessing ECE services.</li> <li>Currently, Malheur County Child Development Center reports that there are 41 children accessing services whose parents are not in the workforce.</li> </ul>			

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	<p><b><u>Discussion of quantitative disparity in service:</u></b></p> <p>The PDG data provided was 2017. In order to get numbers of children accessing ECE services while their parents are not working, we reached out to our local DHS office and Local programs. We all agreed that being out of the workforce creates stress for families and increase stress can have negative effects on children within the household. We assume with the unemployment rates continuing to climb or stay the same our numbers of children living with parents not in the workforce could also rise. Malheur County had the lowest percentage of children living with parents not in the workforce while having the highest poverty rates. These could be the parents who are working part time, minimum wage jobs. Since Idaho borders Malheur County some of these minimum wage jobs could be there. Idaho’s minimum wage is \$7.25/hr. In Wallowa County tourism brings the greatest job opportunities and therefore is seasonal. In addition to the seasonal and lower paying jobs, being frontier has its own set of barriers.</p> <p>In looking at the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for 2019 and 2018 Wallowa’s unemployment rates have continued to rise, Baker’s rates have slightly decreased</p>			

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
	and Malheur’s have stayed consistent with last year’s rates.			
<p><b>Children 0-2 whose families are below 100% FPL and live in geographically isolated and/or frontier areas</b></p>	<p><b>Estimate # eligible children 0-2:</b></p> <p>Baker County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 121 children 0-2 living below 100% FPL.</li> <li>• 61% (95 of 156) of birth deliveries are paid by Medicaid (OHA 2017)</li> </ul> <p>Malheur County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 575 children 0-2 living under 100% FPL</li> <li>• 71% (286 of 401) of birth deliveries are paid by Medicaid (OHA 2017)</li> </ul> <p>Wallowa County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 58 children 0-2 living below 100% FPL</li> <li>• 39% (25 of 64) of Wallowa birth deliveries are paid by Medicaid (OHA 2017)</li> </ul> <p><u>Source used:</u> 2018 Estimating Supply, Oregon State University ACS, 2017</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> priority: Northeast Baker City in the Brooklyn Elementary School catchment where there are NO 0-2 public slots.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> priority: Ontario, near the Pioneer and Cairo Elementary School catchment, Vale, Nyssa and Adrian School catchment. These are also high poverty concentrated areas.</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> priority: Wallowa County where there are</p>	<p>We received 39 responses to our Family Engagement Survey from families through mom groups on social media in both Wallowa and Baker Counties.</p> <p>WIC in Malheur and Baker Counties gave out the Family Engagement Survey to families while they attended their appointment. We received 3 in Spanish and 6 in English in Malheur County and 1 in English in Baker County</p> <p>Malheur County Child Development Center issued the</p>	<p>Families shared multiple needs that they have and numerous thoughts to what is important to them when looking for childcare and preschool opportunities. Parents stated that there is not enough access to affordable care for children under 3 years old. They want to feel assured that their child will be safe and cared for by qualified individuals in a learning environment. They would also like the teachers to be CPR &amp; First Aid certified with experience and education in caring for young children. They expressed that these care givers should be experienced and have low child to caregiver ratios. A few other important factors were: children being able to explore and discover with safe equipment, having nutritious food, a consistent schedule and a possible space for “sick” children so parents would not lose time at work.</p> <p>Some feedback given by parents at the parent café was that they sometimes choose not to work because of how much it costs to put an infant in what child care there may be. If they have more than one child, they will have to pick which one goes into care</p>

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
	<p><b><u>Estimate # children 0-2 served:</u></b>                      There are currently <b>NO</b> 0-2 public slots in Baker County.</p> <p>Malheur County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 111 children currently being served at OCDC that are below 100% FPL</li> </ul> <p>Wallowa County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 public slots</li> <li>• All 8 are filled and are below 100% FPL.</li> <li>• There are 10 children on the wait list</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Data Sources:</u></b>                      ACS, 2017                      Local Head Start Programs (Umatilla Morrow Head Start, Eastern Oregon University Head Start, Oregon Child Development Coalition, Malheur County Child Development Center)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion of quantitative disparity in service:</u></b>                      First priority: Baker County data demonstrates a high need for early care and education.</p>	<p>currently only 8 public slots</p>	<p>Family Engagement Survey to their currently enrolled families. 39 surveys were received.</p> <p>Oregon Child Development Coalition in Malheur County had a Harvest Festival where community partners could set up tables and interact with the families in attendance. I sat with an interpreter and we discussed their needs and what was important to them. We were able to get feedback from 16 parents.</p> <p>DHS District 13 self-sufficiency family coach shared the survey with parents that they are</p>	<p>because of the costs that could be associated with putting multiple kids in childcare or preschool. They also shared that the hours of operation begin later or end sooner than their work hours. For parents working minimum wage, part-time jobs, they choose to have their children cared for by friends, families, and neighbors. These concerns were also shared by parents through social media.</p> <p>Community partners shared that the workforce for child care lacks qualified providers and that there are not enough qualified caregivers for the number of children. They also shared that the costs to the ratio of infants to care givers is high and therefore is difficult to make the investment.</p> <p>Jordan Valley surveyed their community regarding a variety of children and family topics. One question asked "What suggestions do you have to improve the school district's approach to meeting the academic needs of ALL students?" 14 respondents said "add a preschool/pre-kindergarten program."</p>

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
	<p>Kindergarten Assessments for the past two years show Brooklyn Elementary falling below the state average in every category. (Kindergarten Assessment 2017/2018 and 2018/2019)</p> <p>Northeast Baker City which includes Brooklyn Elementary School is listed as a Poverty hotspot by the US Census under the County Quick Fact 2017 for Oregon. There are currently no public slots for 0-2 in Baker County and with the elementary scores low and this area considered frontier and a high poverty area, the regional stewardship committee was in agreement that an Early Head Start or some type of center for 0-2 children be first priority here.</p> <p>Second priority: 90% of children 0-5 in Malheur County live in census tracts of high poverty. (PDG). Southwest and East Ontario and Vale are listed as a Poverty hotspot by the US Census under the Oregon the County Quick Fact 2017.</p> <p>According to the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Kindergarten Assessments, Pioneer and Cairo Elementary Schools in the Ontario School District, and Vale, Adrian and Nyssa Elementary Schools all fell below the state average 71% to 93% of all categories over the two years. (2017-</p>		<p>working with and received feedback from 5 families in Wallowa County.</p> <p>Early Head Start in Wallowa County shared the Family Engagement Survey with their parents and we received feedback from 6 out of the 7 families enrolled.</p> <p>We heard from 11 families through a Parent Café in Wallowa County.</p> <p>Jordan Valley community participated in a survey with 50 responses. Of those, 24 were parents, 2 businesses, and 26 community members.</p>	

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
	<p>2018 &amp; 2018-2019 ODE Kindergarten Assessment) Despite the need for early care and education, only 288 Early Head Start slots exist for Malheur County's 575 children. Of these slots 19 are family child care and 213 are center based. Included in the center based program are 56 slots served through Head Start Childcare Partnership Program.</p> <p>Most of the geographic region in these counties is considered remote with sparse population. All of the counties are Frontier by designation and resources are scarce. Frontier defined by US Census 2018 showed Baker County 5.3 population per square mile 2010, Malheur County 3.2 population per square mile 2010, and Wallowa County 2.2 population per square mile 2010.</p> <p>Where Early Head Start and Infant/Toddler Care are offered, there are wait lists including providers who charge market rates. (Head Start and Saint Alphonsus Medical Center Baker City survey of employees fall 2019)</p>			

### Family Needs & Preferences Grid

Priority Population	Preference #1	Preference #2	Preference #3	Other Considerations
<b>Refugee Children living in Ontario</b>	<i>Providers that the families can trust and whom their children like.</i>	<i>Providers who know and understand their language so their children are better understood.</i>	<i>Availability - This is both the costs and hours of operation. Most families need weekend and swing shift hours.</i>	<i>Child care providers who are willing to sleep in the home of children while parents work evenings and nights.</i>
<b>Latinx Children living in Malheur and Baker Counties</b>	<i>Safe environment, including the teachers hired, preparation of food and the equipment used by the children, along with trustworthy staff</i>	<i>Bilingual teachers who can communicate with parents and children teaching them the academics they need in order to be successful in Kindergarten.</i>	<i>Availability - Centralized locations in the different geographic areas and rates that parents can afford</i>	<i>Families child care needs change with the different seasons that they are working in.</i>
<b>Children Experiencing Foster Care</b>	<i>Lower costs and more affordable options. This is most important when they have more than one child to be enrolled in a program</i>	<i>Facilities that have experienced providers in trauma and understanding the behaviors that come with caring for Children in foster care. This would also include supporting foster parents by sharing ideas and helping to keep structure throughout the child's day.</i>	<i>Multiple Qualified and Certified Care options with availability.</i>	<i>Foster parents meeting the many requirements for Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) and Head Start programs in order to not have to pay for child care and/or preschool.</i>

Priority Population	Preference #1	Preference #2	Preference #3	Other Considerations
<b>Children with no parent in the workforce</b>	<i>Safe, clean encouraging environment</i>	<i>Affordability – Out of pocket costs</i>	<i>Flexible hours and days of operation</i>	<i>Programs that allow parents to drop off their child while they seek employment</i>
<b>Children 0-2 whose families are below 100% FPL and live in geographically isolated and/or frontier areas</b>	<i>Having quality care for their child which would include a safe and nurturing environment where staff are CPR and First Aid certified</i>	<i>More availability in multiple locations making the commute for parents more realistic and cost effective. Facilities that only offer half day care make the commute more challenging.</i>	<i>Affordability - Lower costs especially for families with more than one child in the same age group</i>	

## Supply Analysis & Mixed Delivery Profile

Mixed Delivery Profile	
<b>How well is your region equipped to meet the demand and respond to the preferences of the families of your refined priority populations?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Across the three county region, the childcare workforce has not kept up with the demand of the growing needs of Early Care and Education programs. A new Focused Child Care Network (“FCCN”) coordinator and an Infant Toddler Specialist are very well equipped to establish networks immediately to focus on increasing quality and overall capacity. Currently we have a 12 FCCN participants in a bilingual (Spanish with English interpretation) class at Treasure Valley Community College.</li><li>• Umatilla Morrow Head Start Child Care Resource &amp; Referral staff includes an Infant Toddler Mental Health consultant and an Infant Toddler Quality Improvement Specialist that can be deployed throughout their eight county region.</li><li>• In other parts of Baker County, the remote communities of Keating, Haines, Halfway and Unity have half day preschool programs located on school campuses. All are building the capacity to grow and increase quality.</li><li>• In Malheur County, two head start organizations and a private nonprofit are well equipped to expand. Early Head Start is offered in a center-based program, family child care program and Child Care Partnership. One Child Care Partnership is with the Nyssa School District and another with the Ontario Teen Parent Program at Ontario High School. Preschool Promise in family child care programs have been very successful and have capacity to expand.</li><li>• Ontario has established a Welcome Center for Refugees with a strong partnership with IRCO (Immigrant &amp; Refugee Community Organization). Four Rivers Welcome Center has provided interpretation and translation during the following trainings that they offered multiple times: Safe Sleep training; Interpretation for First Aid/CPR (Welcome Center staff not certified to do this training), Food Handlers’ Cards (at Welcome Center), Recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect training, Helped with water testing, Central Background Registry. Through these trainings, five Somali individuals have been prepared to be licensed. All fees associated with the trainings</li></ul>

## Mixed Delivery Profile

were paid by the Welcome Center. Child Care Resource & Referral would like to increase their partnership in training efforts.

- Wallowa County has two Head Start classrooms and one Child Care Partnership. CCR&R continues to develop trust among family child care programs. There is capacity in these programs to expand and increase quality.
- Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness has the capacity for providing mental health services to infants, toddlers and their caregivers. The WVCW is committed to growing additional capacity to continue to serve the needs of Wallowa County Children. This is an identified resource to increase trauma informed practices in Wallowa County.
- Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub region is home to four Head Start organizations, Umatilla Morrow Head Start, Eastern Oregon University Head Start, Oregon Child Development Coalition and Malheur County Child Development Center. Each of these programs provides training and technical assistance to assist staff in Infant-Toddler Child Development Associates and funds to enroll in college degree programs.
- Wallowa County Schools – Joseph School District is in the process of evaluating current facilities and capacity to provide transportation. Wallowa School District is partnering with Umatilla Morrow Head Start with aim to align programs and curriculum, facilities assessment to determine costs, and overall feasibility of expanding preschool on campus. Enterprise began a preschool program in 2019-2020. They will assess further capacity throughout this year to determine feasibility of expansion.
- Eastern Oregon EL Hub provides a Child Development Associates' program for high school students.

<b>Mixed Delivery Profile</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We need additional and ongoing parent input from multiple avenues. Parent input for the EO Hub has been sporadic. Parent feedback through the SSA ECE process has been valuable.</li></ul>
<b>Where are the biggest gaps in service geographically?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parents in all three counties stated the need for odd hour care, including care throughout the night. Many parents are employed in seasonal and shift-work positions where hours are not traditional day schedules. Employers include hospitals, agricultural in both fieldwork (all three counties), food processing (primarily in Malheur County), and tourism (primarily in Wallowa County).</li><li>• Distance between communities can be as close as 12 miles or further than 100 miles. Parents are commuting between communities for child care and their jobs. It's even more challenging when the child is in more than one program during the day such as half-day preschool.</li><li>• Transportation between communities can be difficult when families may not have an automobile and the scarcity of adequate public transportation throughout a 24-hour day.</li><li>• Parents expressed the need for safe environments and staff who are "safe" which includes background checks and training. Spark ratings, education, skills, and competency are not in sufficient supply to meet needs across all three counties.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ Malheur County has 65+ providers with the following Spark ratings<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ C2Q – 8</li><li>○ 3 Star – 8</li><li>○ 4 Star – 0</li><li>○ 5 Star – 4</li></ul></li><li>➢ Wallowa County has 26+ providers with the following Spark ratings<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ C2Q – 4</li><li>○ 3 Star – 0</li><li>○ 4 Star – 0</li><li>○ 5 Star – 3</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>

<b>Mixed Delivery Profile</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Baker County has 41+ providers with the following Spark ratings                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ C2Q – 5</li> <li>○ 3 Star – 1</li> <li>○ 4 Star – 0</li> <li>○ 5 Star – 1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Where are the biggest gaps in service for priority populations?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Refugee children</b> – Ontario has no culturally and linguistically specific child care program for African nor Middle Eastern families</li> <li>• <b>Latinx children</b> – Malheur Latinx children do not have access to year-round care and often move from one program to another to access it.</li> <li>• <b>Latinx children</b> in Baker City are primarily cared for by friends, family and neighbors when a supply of culturally and linguistically appropriate family child care could be a better option for Kindergarten readiness.</li> <li>• <b>Children experiencing Foster Care</b> – not enough trauma informed child care facilities. More Child care facilities for foster children could remove the barrier for potential people to become foster parents. (This is also a huge need.)</li> <li>• <b>Children with no Parent in Workforce</b> – Parents not in the workforce have difficulty meeting the requirements to access publicly funded ECE slots</li> <li>• <b>Children 0-2 living in poverty and geographically isolated</b> – There are NO 0-2 public slots in Baker County and the need for more in the other two counties.</li> </ul>
<b>What program characteristics are necessary to meet the demand in your target communities?</b>	<p>Program characteristics necessary to meet the needs of families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social emotional and trauma informed practices</li> <li>• Transportation provided and/or more programs located in remote communities</li> <li>• Linguistically and culturally appropriate for family child care and/or multicultural programs with staff from the culture or race of the children</li> </ul>

<b>Mixed Delivery Profile</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Odd hour care and/or flexible days</li><li>• Smaller care giver to child ratios</li><li>• Educated and highly trained child care workforce staff in all three counties. This is critical to expansion of slots to serve children 0-2 years old. Most of the Eastern Oregon Hub geographic region is considered remote with sparse population.</li><li>• Having resources that are shared and easily accessible. All three counties are Frontier by designation and resources are scarce. Frontier defined by US Census 2018 showed Baker County 5.3 population per square mile 2010, Malheur County 3.2 population per square mile 2010, and Wallowa County 2.2 population per square mile 2010</li></ul>
<b>How would small ECE providers meeting these characteristics be supported through a network model?</b>	<p>Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub is forming three Focused Child Care Networks to serve priority populations in all three counties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An Infant Toddler Network in Baker County</li><li>• Networks in Malheur County to serve multiple languages and cultures</li><li>• A Wallowa County Network made up of a combination of center-based and family child care providers</li></ul>

**Regional  
Opportunities  
Expansion**

**EMERGING PROJECTS**

- Baker Early Learning Collaborative is established with the Baker School District, Eastern Oregon University Head Start, Intermountain ESD Early Childhood Special Education, and fourteen community partners. They are focused on services for children 0-5.
- Baker parents and community members are planning for infant and toddler slots in family child care and/or community based programs.
- Baker County is establishing a new Relief Nursery program.
- Some large employers in Ontario, Nyssa, and Baker City (such as medical providers and onion sheds) have met and begun planning for traditional and odd hour care.

**EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES**

- Ontario Multicultural Child Care Partnership – Giggles & Grace Early Learning Center (private nonprofit), Four Rivers Welcome Center for Refugees, and the Immigrant Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) are prepared to expand with a Multicultural Child Care classroom. The program may serve 15-17 children from at least three different cultures. Staff will be reflective of the children in the program. Parents in program will be provided access to a culturally appropriate Community Health Worker and home visits. They will also be encouraged to volunteer in the classroom and participate in parent education, literacy and other professional development opportunities related to the early learning program.
- Treasure Valley Children’s Relief Nursery in Malheur County is ready to expand with existing space available and qualified staff in Ontario.

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS EMERGING & EXPANSION**

**Remote Schools:**

1. Burnt River School (Unity 60 miles outside Baker City)
  - Currently has preschool
2. Pine Eagle Charter School (Halfway 51 miles outside Baker City)
  - Currently has preschool
3. Huntington Charter School (41 miles outside Baker City and 30 miles outside Ontario)
  - Currently has preschool
4. Adrian School District (24 miles outside Ontario)
  - Community conversations about community child care and/or preschool
5. Annex Charter School (17 miles outside Ontario)
  - Currently has Pre-K program
6. W W Jones School District (Arock 121 miles outside Ontario)
7. Harper Charter School (39 miles outside Ontario)
  - Facilities and transportation identified for onsite preschool

8. Jordan Valley School District (91 miles outside Ontario)
  - Surveyed community – identified Preschool as a need
9. Juntura School District (71 miles outside Ontario)
10. Nyssa School District (12 miles outside Ontario)
  - Currently has Early Head Start Child Care Partnership on school campus
11. Vale School District (16 miles outside Ontario)
  - Community conversations about community child care and/or preschool
12. Enterprise School District (County Seat yet 65 outside La Grande)
  - Currently has preschool on school campus
13. Joseph Charter School (7 miles outside Enterprise and 116 miles outside La Grande)
  - Process of evaluating current facilities and capacity to provide transportation
14. Troy School District (50 miles outside Enterprise and 114 miles outside La Grande)
15. Wallowa School District (18 miles outside Enterprise and 46 miles outside La Grande)
  - Partnering with Umatilla Morrow Head Start to align preschool that is on campus
16. McDermitt School District is in Oregon yet the community straddles the Oregon and Nevada state line. (Population approximately 64 persons, 184 miles south of Ontario)

**Schools in Larger Communities:**

17. Baker School District (Baker City population 9,757)
  - Currently has preschools in Haines and Keating
18. Four Rivers Community School (Ontario population 11,080)
  - Has potential to partner with Treasure Valley Community College as they have students on college campus for child care and/or preschool lab school
19. Ontario School District (Ontario population 11,080)
  - Community conversations about preschool onsite in one or more elementary schools