

Frontier Early Learning Hub

Phase I Sector Plan



December 2019

Membership Roster

Early Learning Hub: Frontier Early Learning Hub Regional Stewardship Committee Membership Roster		
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Deliverable I: Analysis of Priority Populations for ECE Expansion

Refined Priority Population List

Children from the Burns Paiute Tribe

- Tribe is very small in Harney County (5% of total population of Harney County.
- No resources for children below age 6 except Head Start

Most fall in the below 100% of poverty

Children whose families are between 100% and 200% of poverty and are geographically isolated.

- Limited public preschool services in Harney for this population
- No public preschool services in Grant
- Children considered high risk for failure in school

Children experiencing homelessness and in foster care.

- Numbers have risen in the last two years.
- Children in foster care are categorically eligible for Head Start.
- Foster children are considered homeless and are in the homeless numbers
- Foster children and homeless children are at risk of failure in school without preschool experiences.

Children with disabilities receive much less service than children living in metropolitan areas.

- Children only get 1 visit per month whereas metropolitan areas average 1 visit per week
- Specialists are difficult to recruit to the frontier areas
- Numbers are increasing because of screening by Clinics and Health Departments
- Must travel to access some medical and evaluatory services instead of accessing them locally.
- Childcare unavailable for this population.

Priority Populations Decision Grid

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
<p>Children from the Burns Paiute Indian Tribe</p>	<p><u>Estimate # eligible children:</u> Native Children: Ages 0-5 is 6. Data Source: Data provided by representatives of the Burns Paiute Tribe.</p> <p><u>Estimate # of children served:</u> Harney County: 3 children ages 3-6 receiving preschool service in Head Start, Great Start, or Faith Based private preschools. Data source: Head Start and Great Start and private preschool enrollment, waitlist and demographic information collected by the Frontier Early Learning Hub bi-annually.</p> <p>Data from parent Surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Children to learn words and phrases of the Paiute language”. • “Nutrition classes for parents and information about native foods” • Parents asked for classes to help with issues like managing behaviors and toilet training. 	<p>The Burns Paiute Tribal reservation is located in Harney County adjacent to the city of Burns. This is the only Tribe in our Frontier Region.</p>	<p>Tribal representatives have held meetings with Native parents about enrollment timelines for Head Start programs. The Family Advocate with Head Start held a meeting with Native families to explain the process.</p> <p>Frontier Hub staff held meetings with tribal representative and parents to determine who is currently enrolled in Head Start or private preschool services and identify issues with enrollment.</p> <p>Ten Tribal families were given surveys. Four were returned.</p>	<p>Cultural differences were brought to light about how children in native families are parented. Native children are experiencing some difficulty in the k-12 system and are being expelled. It was explained that Head Start programs do not expel students but work with families to ensure that children are kindergarten ready and know expectations in the classroom. There are currently no preschool programs on the reservation. The Head Start Family advocate discussed with the Tribal Education Coordinator the process completed to enrolled children in the program. 6 children were identified and applications were given and parents will be asked to complete and turn them in now for next year. Parents want cultural experiences in the classrooms.</p>
<p><u>Stewardship committee discussion of quantitative disparity in service:</u> There are currently 3 Native American children ages 0-5 living on the Burns Paiute reservation that are not receiving any early learning services. Tribal representatives provided that data to the stewardship committee. The number of eligible children is 6. One child is on the</p>				

	<p>waitlist for a Head Start slot and two are currently enrolled in Head Start. 1 child is receiving services in a faith based private preschool. 5% of the total population of Harney County is Native American.</p> <p>Three Native American children are being served in the Early Childhood Centers Head Start program. This data was collected from the waitlist & demographic data request sent from the Head Start program. It was confirmed by the Family Services Coordinator. When it came to light that some children had not been enrolled, a meeting was scheduled between the Tribal education coordinator, Head Start Director, Head Start Family Advocate, and Tribal personnel to identify those children and families and get them on the programs waitlist. They also will work to develop a formal process for enrolling families from the Tribe into the program.</p>			
Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
<p>Children who live in geographically isolated and/or frontier areas between 100% and 200% of the Federal poverty level</p>	<p><u>Estimate # eligible children: 26.</u> In Harney County: The current estimate of the number of children who are currently on a waitlist for a preschool program and do not qualify for Head Start as they are over income is 21. In Grant County: 5 children on a Head Start Waiting List that are over income. Data source: Preschool enrollment, waitlist and demographic information collected by the Frontier Early Learning Hub bi-annually. This is data was collected from all preschool programs in October of 2019.</p> <p>PDG data source: For Grant County it is estimated that 162 children 0-6 live at 100-200 percent of the poverty level. 38 of these children 0-5 are listed as living in high poverty. In Harney County 141 children live in the 100-200% range.</p>	<p>Throughout the Frontier Hub region in Grant and Harney County.</p> <p>Harney: 141</p> <p>Grant: 162 From PDG data</p>	<p>Families on the Head Start waitlists were interviewed by the family advocate.</p> <p>Parent Surveys were distributed throughout the region by CCR&R's and program personnel. Twenty-five were given to the CCR&R with 2 returned.</p> <p>Head Start of Harney County interviewed 25 parents with the survey.</p>	<p>Results from interviews with Head start parents and surveys showed the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are not getting into programs because they are full. • Parents need full time classes. • Classrooms that are safe and instruction provided by nurturing and licensed staff was a high priority to parents. • Cost of programs is out of parents reach. • There are no infant and toddler programs. • Childcare is impossible to find.

Estimate # eligible children served in preschool programs:

In Harney the number of eligible students 23 currently served in the Great Start Classroom at the Early Childhood Center and approximately 25 in a private faith based preschool for a **total of 48**.

In Grant it is more difficult to determine due to children receiving services in small school districts which accept all children at no cost. In John Day there are 5 private preschools and 1 infant toddler program that serve children.

Data from the CCR&R & Hub enrollment, **52 children are being served in these private programs.**

Total: 100 children in the region are being served in a preschool program for this income level.

Stewardship committee discussion of quantitative disparity in service: These are children of families that do not meet income guidelines for Head Start and cannot afford to pay for a program. There is an unusual number of children on waitlists this year more than we have seen historically in Harney County for the Head Start program slots. Numbers in Grant County are lower but they offer more options for parents in the community. The small school districts in the county offer preschool through their k-12 system for no cost. However this has been a heavy burden on those districts to maintain programs and develop qualified staff. There are no such options in Harney County

Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
<p>Children experiencing Foster Care/Homeless</p>	<p><u>Estimate # eligible children:</u> Harney County's rates for children in foster care move between 30 and 70 in care at any given time. Grant counties rates have been somewhat stable at around 17. This data was provided by DHS supervisor.</p> <p><u>Estimate # eligible children served:</u> Harney: Currently 10 foster children/ 4 homeless are being served in Head Start. In Grant County we do not have the number of foster care children being served in preschool programs.</p> <p>Opportunities to serve children experiencing foster care and homeless from birth to five are being explored.</p> <p>Data source: This data was obtained from the family advocate at the Early Childhood Center's Head Start program.</p>	<p>Harney County has seen a threefold increase in the number of children taken in to care. Only 6 children of the 30-70 children in care are enrolled in Head Start. Serving these children needs to be a priority.</p>	<p>Foster care parents and DHS supervisor were interviewed.</p>	<p>Foster parents interviewed stated that the geographic distance to services for foster children was a challenge. Many services that foster children need are out of the area. These include family visits, specialty medical appointments and assessments.</p> <p>Lack of access to childcare and early childhood programs make it difficult foster parents to have regular employment.</p>
<p><u>Stewardship committee discussion of Quantitative disparity in service:</u> Due to the small population size of our communities the number of foster care families are very few. Many services that foster children need such as Health and medical appointments and visitation with family are out of the geographic area and extensive travel is required. Children move in and out of care periodically making it difficult to know what services are provided to them and where they are placed. Support for foster parents is limited without childcare and early learning programs for foster parents to access they make a decision to not foster.</p>				
<p>Data shows that children in foster care have a lower likelihood of graduating on time and performing well in school. -</p>				

	<p>"Oregon teenagers who spent time in foster care were less than half as likely as their classmates in the class of 2017 to graduate on time. Of the states that did release their rates, Oregon had by far the lowest rate. Oregon test results showed 31 percent of children in foster care during the 2017-2018 school year scored proficient in reading and writing and just 18 percent scored as proficient in math. That compared with all-student proficiency rates of 55 percent in reading and writing and 41 percent in math" (US News, March 2019)</p>			
Potential Priority Populations	Quantitative Data Analysis	Geographic Areas	Family Engagement Efforts	Findings from Family Engagement
<p>Children with a diagnosed disability or developmental delay</p>	<p><u>Estimate # eligible children:</u></p> <p>The estimated number of kids needing to be enrolled is 50 in Harney.</p> <p>The number in Grant County is 27.</p> <p>Data source for this information came directly from EI/ECSE programs in both counties.</p> <p><u>Estimate # eligible children served:</u></p> <p>Currently all children are being served in our region but due to limited number of staff what happens in rural communities is that all kids get a little service. The frequency of that service is the disparity, instead of once a week it is most likely one a month.</p> <p>Data source for this information came directly from EI/ECSE programs in both counties.</p>	<p>Grant & Harney County</p> <p>It has been a priority to identify and provide a developmental screening to all children in the Frontier Early Learning Hub geographic area.</p> <p>Harney County has advertised for a speech path for 8 years with no applicants. Data source: Harney ESD</p>	<p>Community Screening week in Grant County and Head Start programs in Harney screen children and collect data and results for referral to local EI/ECSE programs. Parent participation and input has been great throughout the region.</p> <p>Parent surveys were distributed by EI/ECSE staff.</p>	<p>Parent surveys revealed that the services being provided to their children are good they wish they could have more frequency.</p> <p>Parents also would like to have more frequent appointments for occupational and physical therapy.</p> <p>More trained staff is needed to accommodate the numbers.</p>

Stewardship committee discussion of quantitative disparity in service: Due to high rates of children receiving developmental screenings in our region referral and identification for special education services has skyrocketed. Our rates of screening are some of the highest in the state due to our collaboration with community partners, medical clinics, our local community advisory boards and the EOCCO. We screen approximately 85% of all children birth to 5. In a rural region it is very difficult to recruit & hire trained staff to deliver speech and language, OT and PT services. Now that children are identified we need to be able to offer sufficient services that is the disparity. When more children enter the system the frequency of service is decreased to accommodate numbers. Children are being served once a month rather than once a week. For those specialty services families travel great distances out of the area or clinician travel great distances to provide the services in local communities

Deliverable 2: Regional Mixed Delivery Profile

Family Needs & Preferences Grid

Narrative of family engagement efforts: The Frontier Early Hub engaged with community partners to reach out to all identified priority populations. We started with our stewardship committee members which included staff that worked directly with these populations and had existing relationships. Staff from home visiting programs and Head Start & Great Start Family advocates interviewed parents and helped them complete the surveys. CCR&R coordinators in both counties surveyed providers and parents. Families First Parent resource Center staff surveyed parents in multiple programs such as Healthy Families Oregon, and Parents as Teachers participants. Tribal representative delivered surveys to native parents on the Burns Paiute reservation. Our region is very geographically large. It is difficult to hold community meetings when families have to travel great distances to attend. Many phone calls and email requests were made and our communities stepped up to the challenge and short deadline.

Priority Populations	Preference #1	Preference #2	Preference #3	Other considerations	Family Input
Children from the Burns Paiute Tribe	<p>Children’s Safety:</p> <p>~Time spent in the classroom is in an enriching and safe environment.</p> <p>~Trained and certified teachers that are nurturing and</p>	<p>Having a variety of Early Childhood programs that are available and include services to parents.</p> <p>~Preschool & childcare programs that are all day.</p>	<p>Parents want their children to have cultural experiences.</p> <p>~Hands on cultural activities are provided.</p> <p>~To learn words and phrases of the Paiute language.</p> <p>~All children to learn their culture.</p>	<p>50% of native parents stated that they needed access to childcare and preschool programs.</p> <p>Parents needed help understanding the enrollment procedure and timelines for Head Start applications.</p>	<p>“Parent classes and activities to work on at home with the family.”</p> <p>“Hands on cultural activities”</p> <p>“Nutrition classes for parent and information about native foods”</p> <p>“To learn words and phrases of the Paiute language”.</p>

	<p>interactive with children.</p> <p>~Teachers and staff are trained and know how to work with children that have challenging behaviors.</p>	<p>~ Parents would like interaction with programs including home visiting.</p> <p>~Center based or in home care.</p> <p>~Parent education programs to help with parenting problems such as behaviors, nutrition and toilet training.</p>			<p>Parents asked for classes to help with issues like managing behaviors and toilet training.</p>
<p>Children who live in geographically isolated and/or frontier areas between 100% to 200% of the Federal poverty level.</p>	<p>Availability to get children enrolled in Early Childhood programs preschool and childcare.</p> <p>~Parents especially in Harney County are waitlisted take a long time to get into the program.</p>	<p>Parents listed programs that were educational as the second priority.</p> <p>~Kids to be kindergarten ready.</p> <p>~Quality programs with trained staff to help children learn and be safe.</p>	<p>Safety of children in programs was a great concern. Parents want:</p> <p>~Background checks for staff.</p> <p>~Well trained staff that cares about children and can help them have fun and be excited about learning.</p> <p>~Children are monitored well by staff that know how to deal with challenging behaviors</p>	<p>These are the parents that usually don't qualify for Head Start Programs due to being over income.</p> <p>Space is limited in existing programs so children are waitlisted.</p> <p>A quality education is important.</p>	<p>Parents were very clear that they wanted a quality program.</p> <p>"A safe environment where kids can learn."</p> <p>"We would love a 4 day a week preschool"</p> <p>"I want a teacher and a facility that I trust for my kids."</p> <p>"Programs that focus on education & safety."</p>

	~They need extended day and drop in services.	~Nurturing instructors that are trauma informed.			
Foster Care/Homeless	<p>Availability to get children enrolled in Early Childhood programs.</p> <p>Full Day</p> <p>Flexible Hours</p> <p>Drop in services</p>	<p>Certified and Trained Staff.</p> <p>~Trauma Informed</p> <p>~Trained in helping challenging behaviors.</p> <p>~Provide a safe place.</p>	<p>Structured programs with daily routines.</p> <p>~Help to provide socialization</p> <p>~Nurturing environment to help children feel secure.</p>	<p>Large numbers of children are in care especially in Harney County. In order to retain foster parents we need programs that have space available.</p>	<p>Parents need providers that are trained in providing trauma informed care.</p> <p>“Children need structure and to feel safe”.</p> <p>”Children need consistency and a stable environment and foster parents need respite care”</p>
Children with a diagnosed disability or developmental delay.	<p>Parents want to have more frequent services for their children.</p> <p>~Local access to regional services. Instead of having to travel out of</p>	<p>Certified and Trained Staff</p> <p>~More trained staff is needed to accommodate the numbers.</p> <p>~Local therapist for</p>	<p>Children need safe environments to learn.</p> <p>~Teachers and therapists that develop relationships with children and families.</p>	<p>Our region has seen huge increases in the number of referral for special education services.</p> <p>More trained staff is needed to accommodate the numbers.</p>	<p>Parents are glad to getting services but wish there was more especially in isolated rural and remote areas.</p> <p>Parents want access to specialty services locally, instead of having to travel out of the area having appointments locally</p>

	<p>the area for appointments.</p> <p>~ increase the frequency of services.</p> <p>~In home services with families.</p>	OT and PT services.			
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Priority Population	Preference #1	Preference #2	Preference #3	Other Considerations
<p><i>Children from the Burns Paiute Indian Tribe</i></p>	<p>Children’s Safety:</p> <p>~Time spent in the classroom is in an enriching and safe environment.</p> <p>~Trained and certified teachers that are nurturing and interactive with children.</p> <p>~Teachers and staff are trained and know how to work with children that have challenging behaviors.</p>	<p>Having a variety of Early Childhood programs that are available and include services to parents.</p> <p>~Preschool & childcare programs that are all day.</p> <p>~ Parents would like interaction with programs including home visiting.</p> <p>~Center based or in home care.</p> <p>~Parent education programs to help with parenting problems such as behaviors, nutrition and toilet training.</p>	<p>Parents want their children to have cultural experiences.</p> <p>~Hands on cultural activities are provided.</p> <p>~To learn words and phrases of the Paiute language.</p> <p>~All children to learn their culture.</p>	<p>50% of native parents stated that they needed access to childcare and preschool programs.</p> <p>Parents needed help understanding the enrollment procedure and timelines for Head Start applications.</p>

Supply Analysis & Mixed Delivery Profile

Mixed Delivery Profile	
How well is your region equipped to meet the demand and respond to the preferences of the families of your refined priority populations?	<p>Strengths of our region: Harney is serving most of the children that are at 100% of poverty and below. The Home-based Head Start program provides services to all eligible rural children. Tribal children are served through the Head Start program because the numbers are low and the Paiute Tribe does not have facilities. Great Start serves children over-income for Head Start but does not have the funding to provide the hours of services families are asking for or the children need. Grant County has many more opportunities for early learning services. There are center-based services, family childcare services and preschools in public schools. Funding for these programs is limited and programs struggle to keep the services funded.</p> <p>Challenges: Distance and funding are the biggest challenges. Because our population base is small and the distances to travel to services are great, our frontier communities are struggling.</p>
Where are the biggest gaps in service geographically?	Geographically, Harney and Grant counties have made great efforts to provide preschool services to the children in their counties. Children whose families are at 100% and 200% of poverty have limited access to public funding and do not have the funds to pay for preschool. Because of geographical isolation, these children are all at risk of failure in kindergarten.
Where are the biggest gaps in service for priority populations?	The biggest gaps in service are for children whose parents at 100% of 200% of poverty. Because our counties are so geographically isolated, getting special education services for the children who have low incidence disabilities is costly in that we have to take time and travel for the specialists into consideration. Local therapists (usually speech language pathologists) are also challenged by the distances they have to travel. Children with disabilities receive less than the recommended amount of hours of service.
What program characteristics are necessary to meet the demand in your target communities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Parents are telling us that they want longer days of preschool. ~Children with disabilities should have more service time, ~There are preschools in both counties that would like to have preschool for 100 – 200% of Poverty. There are slots available in several settings: private preschool, public preschool and school districts.

How would small ECE providers meeting these characteristics be supported through a network model?

Small providers in an isolated area could benefit from a network. Having resources outside your program would be beneficial. Training, curriculum development, mentoring could all happen through a network. It would bring strength to each program and help to keep staff supported so they will continue to work as teachers/assistants.

Deliverable 3: Emerging ECE Expansion Opportunities

Regional Opportunities Expansion

Regional Opportunities Expansion

The Frontier Early Learning Hub covers two counties that have large geographic areas and few people. The children and families of counties experience geographic isolation. The closest city of any size is at least 2.5 hours away in any direction. Covering the entire county is challenging and requires creative planning.

Harney: Most of the children have access to preschool through the center-based preschool that has Head Start and Great Start. The rural families are covered by Home-based Head Start. Great Start serves families who are over-income for Head Start. Because of funding, Great Start can only serve children 2 days a week for 2 hours. Families are asking for more service and the program would like to expand hours and days.

There are no childcare centers in Harney, three registered family care and no licensed family childcare placements in the county. This lack is something that the Frontier Hub will be addressing through CCR&R now that we have staff in Harney County.

Grant: The preschool system in Grant County is different from Harney in that there is one center-based preschool and daycare that has been in existence for many years. They have the ability to expand preschool services for a 5-6 more children in the 100 to 200% percent of poverty.

There is one other certified center in John Day, one faith-based preschool, and one registered family daycare. None of these placements have expressed an interest in accessing state funding.

There are rural schools in Monument, Prairie City, Dayville, and Long Creek. These schools have preschools in their elementary buildings that are being funded through their general fund dollars. They have been asking the Frontier Hub for financial support. Two of the schools are willing to expand to six hour days if there is money to support it. Each of the schools could take 3-6 children in their preschools.

Regional results of parent surveys:

- Parents are not getting into programs because they are full.
- Parents need full time classes.

- Classrooms that are safe and instruction provided by nurturing and licensed staff was a high priority to parents.
- Cost of programs is out of parents reach.
- There are no infant and toddler programs.
- Childcare is impossible to find.