



Oregon Child Care Cost of Quality Study – Fall 2020

WHAT IS THE COST OF QUALITY STUDY?

The child care cost of quality study will gather data on the true cost of providing high quality early childhood education in Oregon. As opposed to the market rate survey, which collects data on tuition rates, the cost of quality study seeks information about actual expenses to better understand what it takes to provide high-quality child care. The results of this study can be used to inform how the state sets the Employment Related Day Care child care subsidy rate and to understand the current and future investments needed to support a robust early childhood system in the state of Oregon.

WHY SHOULD CHILD CARE PROVIDERS PARTICIPATE?

A key component of a successful cost of quality study is participation from child care providers representing the diversity of the industry across the state. By participating in this study, providers will help policymakers understand what it really costs to provide high-quality child care, and how far current resources go towards covering that cost. This data is crucial to making the case for increased public investment to support providers and increase compensation for the early childhood workforce.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL I BE ASKED TO SHARE?

Programs that participate will be asked to share details of prior year expenses and budgets so that the researchers can see all of the expenses incurred to run a program. Researchers will also gather data on average salaries and benefits, staffing patterns, and revenue sources. The study is collecting data from the pre-coronavirus period in order to establish a baseline, while acknowledging that current expenses may look quite different.

To maintain confidentiality of data, all information is being collected and analyzed by two external organizations (see below) and only combined data summaries will be shared with the state. The data will inform a cost model which can be used to model different types of programs and estimate the cost per child with variations for program type (e.g., family child care home or child care center) size, location, and age of child served.

WHO IS LEADING THIS STUDY?

The Oregon Early Learning Division commissioned the Center for American Progress and a team of researchers to conduct the study. The study will be led by Simon Workman and Jeanna Capito, national experts on early care and education financing. In addition, a technical work group has been formed to provide insight and support to the study. This technical work group is comprised of state and local experts, including center and home-based child care providers, to ensure the voice of practitioners is at the center of this work.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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