

**At-A-Glance: Early Care and Education Sector Plan
Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub**

<https://www.malesd.org/departments/early-learning>

Backbone Organization: Malheur Education Service District
Serving Baker, Malheur, and Wallowa Counties



Priority Populations	Geographic Regions	Family Preferences
Children whose families are refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario in Malheur County where families who are refugees live and attend school. After January 2022, may expand into other communities in Malheur County. 	<p>Providers that the families can trust and whom their children like. Providers who know and understand their language and culture so their children are better understood. Culturally specific care/preschool. Availability-This is both the costs and hours of operation. Most families need weekend and swing shift hours. Additional considerations: Child care providers who are willing to sleep in the home of children, while parents work evenings and nights. Social/Emotional counseling - trauma informed services. Wrap around (parent child interaction (PCI) with Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)) is needed for families. According to IRCO-Ontario: currently 19 children 0-5 years old.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 19 kids are in PCI program Only three of those are currently in preschool Preschool is a new thing for this population and it is a matter of educating parents on why preschool is important and why they should put their child in preschool-not a trust issue. Every refugee family signed up in English as a second language (ESL) One currently has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
Children who are Latino	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malheur and Baker Counties Malheur County's Race reflects 60.1% White and 34.6% Hispanic or Latino. Foreign born in these communities represent 9.5% of the population. Percentage of children 0-17 who are Hispanic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker: 6-12% Malheur: 46-56% Wallowa: 1-9% Percentage of children 5-17 whose primary language is not English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker: 2-8% Malheur: 30-39% Wallowa: no data 	<p>The majority of parents of children of color and those who primarily speaks Spanish or a language other than English have difficulties finding a provider who reflects the family's cultural background and/or speaks the child's language. Parents see this as a challenge indicates their preferences for providers who reflect their cultures and home languages. This is consistent with the findings from the 2019 Household Survey. Safe environment, including the teachers hired, preparation of food and the equipment used by the children, along with trustworthy staff. Child care needs to be trusted. Part-time and odd hour care is needed. Centralized locations in the different geographic areas and rates that parents can afford. Bilingual teachers who can communicate with parents and children teaching them the academics they need in order to be successful in kindergarten.</p> <p>Additional considerations: Families' child care needs change seasonally while they are working. Rural Development Initiatives (RDI) Pasos el Exito (Steps to Success) for child care business development for Spanish speaking Early Childhood Education (ECE) professionals. Child care needs to be set up as a viable business. Need wraparound business support (Pasos - RDI as resource). Are Spanish-speaking care providers receiving Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) subsidies? Transportation barrier in Baker County - transportation for those who live outside the school district boundary. There is nothing for Head Start families. Transportation to Haines Preschool is provided but not back home from the part day preschool. No Hispanic providers in Baker County. What are tools to get information to families? Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC): Large percentage of families attending OCDC are Latino. They do not like to be labeled "Latino" as they prefer Hispanic or Mexican. Most OCDC teachers are bilingual. Input from Spanish-speaking Parent Café Parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a lot of resources in our community but people don't know about them, more about how to get the word out Nyssa needs after school options Need affordable child care for families that don't qualify but still don't make enough money to pay for care Budgeting classes for families and help with furthering education to pursue non-agricultural work
Children with no *gainfully employed parent in the household **"gainfully employed" means employed for salary or wages on a continuing basis and earning at least an amount equal to the standard of need established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wallowa and Baker counties Baker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children from birth to age 5: 887-1,129 Child poverty from birth to age 6: 13-29% Hispanic children: 6-12% Malheur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children from birth to age 5: 2,298-2,726 Child poverty from birth to age 6: 32-48% Hispanic children: 46-56% Wallowa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children from birth to age 5: 258-500 Child poverty from birth to age 6: 11-34% Hispanic children: 1-9% Percentage of Children from birth to age 5 living in household with no parent in the labor force: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker: 4-17% Malheur: 5-13% Wallowa: 1-32% Baker and Malheur are both above average. 	<p>Safe, clean, encouraging environment. Affordability – Out of pocket costs. Flexible hours and days of operation, after care and half day care for those half-day preschool slots. Programs that allow parents to drop off their children while they seek employment. After school program on business site.</p> <p>Additional considerations: Parents avoid employment that may cause them to lose housing options. Nez Perce land has been purchased, may see a flux in population as tribal families move to Wallowa County. Baker County assessment shows that lack of child care availability causes families to make decisions about family planning. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families(TANF)/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) families – what are family coaches hearing and seeing for family preference, what does the data show – outlining areas Conflicting information: Head Start needs have decreased in Wallowa County. Is this due to poverty guidelines so families do not qualify? Might not be the case moving forward if Wallowa Head Start closes (this includes the 4 Preschool Promise (PSP) slots). Wallowa families primarily work in Enterprise and have to commute. Head Start no longer has transportation. There are discussions of closing the Wallowa Head Start classroom. There is a classroom shared between the school and Educational Service District (ESD) has a priority listing for Wallowa families who work in Enterprise. This priority population takes the Head Start slots and parents are available in the home when single income households need full care to maintain their job - when PSP slots are not available in Enterprise.</p>
Children –from birth to age 2 whose families are below 200% Federal Poverty Level and live in geographically isolated and/or frontier areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker, Malheur, and Wallowa Counties 	<p>Gap in services for children whose birthday fall after September 1 cutoff date – Early Head Start has to transition a child out of their services once they turn 3, if not connected to a Head Start program there is no place to transition to – cutoff date applies to other public funded programs i.e., PSP. Quality care that includes a safe and nurturing environment where staff are CPR and First Aid certified. 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). Lower costs especially for families with more than one child in the same age group. Limited to no available child care slots – child care desert. Need part time care</p> <p>Additional Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker County did not add slots for birth to age 3 Home-based Early Head Start does not offer any care for families, it is an empowerment program, not a child care program Workforce capacity/staffing shortages Needs to be a balance with birth to age 3, and age 3 to 5 slots to make programs financially viable, ratio for infant and toddlers make it difficult to increase slots. New policy changes for providers i.e., sprinkler systems for new facilities. ERDC – help providers understand changes and how they can benefit their business. <p>Oregon Child Care Development Coalition (OCDC): added 16 slots for children from birth to age 3 in Nyssa and home visiting services in Nyssa, Vale and Ontario.</p>

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<p>Children experiencing disabilities and/or chronic health care needs</p>	<p>Baker, Malheur and Wallowa Counties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimated % of children 3-5 served by Early Childhood Special Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker: 5-8% Malheur: 5-6% Wallowa: 5-6% Developmental screening rate: Estimated percentage of children under 7 years old living below 185% of the FPL who received at least one developmental screening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker: 33.4% Malheur: 41.8% Wallowa: 66.5% Estimated percentage of children from birth to age 2 served by Early Intervention (all above average): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker: 2% Malheur: 3-4% Wallowa: 3-4% Baker/Malheur counties are both above average for served by ECSE and below average for those who received at least one development screening. 	<p>Child qualifies for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) but there are no affordable slots available for the child. Goal that every child with IFSP qualifies for programs no matter their income. EI/ECSE specialists and parents can identify best placement for a child based on child/family needs not based on income.</p> <p>Over income disqualifies families in some programs</p> <p>Baker County has added children over income to ECSE classroom, which is not the best placement at times. Malheur County- Malheur County Child Development Center (MCCDC) works with EI/ECSE to place children into Head Start programs when eligible.</p> <p>Enrollment Network will become a resource to place children in ideal programs to meet family needs and eligibility requirements.</p> <p>Statewide Household Survey Results Spring 2021: Parents of children experiencing disabilities and/or chronic health care needs also reported higher rates of challenges overall. This suggests that there is a lack of services for these children, especially for those in frontier areas.</p> <p>Parents who indicated that their child was experiencing developmental disabilities and/or chronic health care needs were asked whether they typically utilized a number of services. If parents typically utilized a service, they were asked whether their child's access to those services had been affected by COVID-19. The largest percentage of parents reported having problems accessing developmental and special education classroom services. The next largest percentage had difficulties accessing mental and behavioral health services.</p> <p>Families with lower incomes generally had less difficulty accessing services than did families with incomes more than 200% above the FPL.</p> <p>The most striking differences between groups emerged when the frequencies with which children experiencing disabilities and/ or chronic health care needs were asked to leave care were examined. These children were asked to leave care at a high rate (14.7%). Further, they were likely to be asked to leave care because either the provider could not manage the child's behavior or could not provide for the child's developmental needs.</p>
<p>Families who are not income-eligible for other publicly-funded ECE options in their community.</p> <p>Families that fall between the 131-200% FPL</p> <p>Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) - a new way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to afford a bare-bones household budget.</p>	<p>Baker, Malheur, and Wallowa Counties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of children from birth to age 5 living in Poverty <200% FPL/<300%FPL American Communities Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker: 40-70%/56-90% Malheur: 55-83%/69-98% Wallowa: 31-70%/51-96% ALICE 2018 pre-COVID-19 Oregon 44% of households <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker: 46% Malheur: 54% Wallowa: 45% 	<p>ALICE WORKERS ARE MORE VULNERABLE:</p> <p>The pandemic has created two groups of ALICE workers: those who are essential and still working, typically on-site; and those who are non-essential, who are now working far fewer hours or not at all.</p> <p>Single income families - in some cases due to COVID-19, parents are choosing to stay home to care for young and school age children who are home due to COVID-19 uncertainty.</p> <p>Cost of care causes families to choose between child care or working because working disqualifies them for Head Start (<100% FPL),</p> <p>The need for a system to refer families that qualify for Head Start first, so PSP slots can be filled by the 131-200% FPL families. Children 0-100% FPL targeted for Head Start referred to Head Start if there are openings, and those 101-200% FPL should be targeted for Preschool Promise slots are priority populations.</p> <p>Trauma informed practices in Head Start and PSP programs; comprehensive wraparound services at head start</p> <p>Need care children from birth to age 3.</p> <p>Wallowa County Current ECE Slots (10-5-21):</p> <p>Wallowa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently closed Umatilla Morrow Head Start (UMCHS)/PSP enrollment: 15 currently enrolled (Six are <100%, five are 100-200%, four are less 200%) With a waitlist of four, two are less than 130%, and two are less than 200% <p>Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UMCHS Head Start enrollment (20 slots), currently not full but may be shifting some of the Wallowa Head Start families UMCHS Head Start waitlist – 130-200%, five are less than 200% InterMountain Educational Service District (IMESD)/Enterprise School District pre-K, 14 over 130% <p>Joseph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Head Start/PSP providers One person is on UMCHS Enterprise Head Start waitlist Three are enrolled in Enterprise Head Start Two are enrolled in Wallowa Head Start (now closed) Three are enrolled in IMESD/Enterprise school district pre-K

updated February 2022