Early Childhood Hub of Lane County's

2022-23 Annual Report

The Early Childhood Hub of Lane County's mission is for **all parents and caregivers to have the knowledge, tools, and support they need to nurture their child's optimal development and success** from birth to age eight. Previously known as LaneKids and the Early Learning Alliance, it is a hub for parenting & caregiving support, works to strengthen local early childhood systems, and is an initiative of United Way of Lane County.

2,669 children served through our **Family Resource Centers** across the county

485 children enrolled in free, full-time preschool through **Preschool Promise**

46 children ages 0-8 participated in the **Black Early Learning** program

22,216 books were mailed to **2,410** kids in rural areas through **Imagination Library**

16 regular members comprise our **Family Leadership Council**

2,748 kids received free, age-appropriate books through **BookFest**

The Early Childhood Hub of Lane County was able to invest $1,945,737 in our community in 2022-23.

920 children and their parents participated in **KITS** to prepare for kindergarten

949 kids served by our three **Family Preservation Grantees**

836 families received parenting education through our 15 **Parenting Education Grantees**

IMPACT SNAPSHOT: LETRS Program

Even with Bachelor's and Master's level education, many teachers do not enter the field with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively teach students how to read. Thanks to a grant from United Way, funded by Meyer Memorial Trust and the Miller Foundation, the Eugene 4J School District is now offering the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) course to educators. Based on the Science of Reading, it provides teachers with key knowledge on how students acquire literacy skills, as well as training on how to use it to effectively teach a range of learners. Almost 200 local educators have now taken the course, with many more eager to participate.

> **LETRS will be a game changer in our district.** The depth of learning involved exceeds all that I received in my Special Education Masters and Reading Specialist Degree. The thought of a huge cadre of teachers becoming reading experts will allow them to provide literacy instruction the likes we've not seen in 4J. **We will be changing students' lives. THANK YOU.**
> *- 4J Educator*

2022-2023 Milestones & Accomplishments

Improving Health Aspects of Kindergarten Readiness

Studies show clear links between long-term health outcomes and children who have complex health conditions, in addition to challenges like child welfare involvement or poverty in early childhood. Developing focused interventions to address all of these complexities is essential. This past year, the Early Childhood Hub began working closely with partners at PacificSource and in the community to develop and implement strategies around four focus areas specifically designed to support the social emotional wellbeing of young children and families, perinatal through five years old in Lane County.

Hub Chosen to Design Scalable Child Success Blueprint

If anything were possible, what would it take to ensure that every child, family, and community has an equitable opportunity to succeed? The Early Childhood Hub of Lane County was recently selected as one of five organizations from across the state to design a Child Success Model blueprint to answer this question, part of Oregon Health and Education Collaborative's Upstream Initiative. Over the next year, the Hub will engage local communities to create the blueprint, which will inform statewide policy in the upcoming legislative session.

Assessing Barriers to Early Learning and Care

This past year, the Hub sought to more deeply understand the barriers families face in accessing high quality, affordable early learning and care. After hearing from 800 families through focus groups and surveys, the Hub, their Family Leadership Council, and Governance Consortium chose to focus on one of the local root causes of the issue: low wages and limited benefits for the early learning workforce. The Hub is now leveraging knowledge of local leaders and our county's Child Care Sector Strategist and looking to state-level solutions to advocate for change to help increase wages and benefits for local providers.

Celebrating Ten+ Years of KITS in Lane County

Kids In Transition to School (KITS) is an evidence-based program that supports kids, families, and educators in making a smooth transition into kindergarten. United Way and the Hub have invested in KITS for over 10 years. From pilots in two Promise Neighborhoods, to securing federal funds that helped scale KITS across Lane County, the program is now embedded in schools as a part of how school districts welcome kindergarten families each year.

Families Benefit from Preschool Promise Expansion

One of Oregon's free preschool programs for 3- and 4-year olds in income eligible families, Preschool Promise, expanded to serve 2000 more families in 2022. Lane County received 260 additional slots, almost doubling how many Lane County families we can enroll. This allowed six existing providers to expand their programs, and 11 new providers to become Preschool Promise programs, including in rural Mapleton, McKenzie, and Pleasant Hill.

2022-23 Funded Partners

90by30
Bethel School District
Bethel School District FRC
Center for Family Development
Creswell School District
Creswell School District FRC
Eugene 4J School District
Eugene 4J School District FRC
Family Relief Nursery
Fern Ridge School District
Fern Ridge School District FRC
Junction City School District
Lift Every Voice
Lowell School District
Lowell School District FRC
Marcola School District FRC
McKenzie School District FRC
Nurturely
Oakridge School District
Options Counseling
Oregon Community Programs
Oregon Social Learning Center
Parenting Now
Pearl Buck Center
Pleasant Hill School District FRC
Relief Nursery
Riverview Center for Growth
South Lane School District
South Lane School District's Early Learning Center
St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Kids
Springfield School District
Willamette Family Treatment Services

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-23 FUNDERS:

Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative | Department of Early Learning and Care | Oregon Health and Human Services | Lane County | James F. and Marion I. Miller Foundation | Meyer Memorial Trust | Lane Education Service District

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Early Childhood Hub's 2022-2023 Governance Consortium

Heather Brey
Early Childhood CARES

Maria del sol Granados
Parent Representative

Kellie DeVore
PacificSource Health Plans

Noreen J. Dunnells
United Way of Lane County

Debi Farr
Trillium Community Health Plan

Leslie Finlay
Relief Nursery
Early Learning Stakeholders Representative

Jacob Fox
Homes For Good

Tina Gutierez-Schmich
Bethel School District

Todd Hamilton
Springfield Public Schools

Cheryl Henderson
Lane Community College, Quality Care Connections

Melissa Ibarra
Eugene 4J School District

Brian Johnson
Lane County Health & Human Services

Becky LaMoureux
Moss Street Children's Center, Early Learning Stakeholders Representative

John Lively
Oregon State Representative

Judy Newman
Early Childhood CARES

Adrian Pollut
Parent Representative

Tony Scurto
Lane Education Service District

Kraig Sproles
Bethel School District

John Stapleton
PIVOT Architecture

Charleen Strauch
Head Start of Lane County

Sheila Wegener
Oregon Department of Human Services