



# Oregon Child Development Coalition

CULTIVATING OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

Co-Chair Frederick and Co-Chair McClain, and members of the Education Subcommittee.

For the record, my name is Donalda Dodson and I am the Executive Director for Oregon Child Development Coalition. We provide early learning services in several counties across Oregon with an emphasis on Migrant and Seasonal Head Start and Early Head Start as well as Oregon Prekindergarten Head Start and Early Head Start. We have been providing early learning for 50 years and can speak to the benefit of coordinated services.

I am writing in support for fully funding Early Learning Hubs in the 2021-2023 budget.

I would like to speak to the huge benefit of the Early Childhood HUB systems throughout the state. The HUBs role as a community convener has assisted local communities to come together collectively, to coordinate our efforts in a more focused and collaborative manner to maximize services. They have worked to assure there is no wrong door for families seeking access to the various programming and services needed by young children and their families. HUBs have been able to get school districts, health providers, business, social service, and early learning together on a regular basis to not only identify the best approaches to needs and opportunities in the community but what collaborative processes we might put in place to assist the community in achieving the goals identified.

The HUBs also provide a place where parent voices can meet together. These opportunities allow families/parents to identify services and processes that would be most helpful in the delivery of early learning services and in the accomplishment of desired outcomes. Since HUBs are not providers of services, they are able to look and work outside the service circle. HUBs are able to move outside agency silos to connect agencies, school districts, health providers, and other identified players in the community to build the needed response identified by families and communities.

Through the community assessments and data analysis in their sector plans, HUBs have been able to direct resources to the most needed populations and areas. The HUBs have been addressing the needs of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) through their planning and coordinating efforts. These activities have been as basic as getting books in the communities that reflect the languages spoken in the area, to Family Resource workers positioned throughout the county to assist families in obtaining appropriate services and resources.

The strong coordination and collaboration activities of the HUBs help to ensure that providers of early learning services are accountable in the delivery of cost effective and cost efficient services. The identification of redundancies and gaps in the early learning system help with better utilization of limited resources and helps to move agencies to more efficient service provision and utilization of resources.

Fully funding HUBs across the state will help facilitate increased efficiency of other funded early learning programs and services. The HUBs are the leveraging agent that helps maximize results from other investments.