



Mid-Willamette Valley

**COMMUNITY ACTION**

**Child Care  
Resource & Referral**

**March 29, 2021**

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain  
Co-Chairs  
Sub-Committee On Education  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Oregon Legislature  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain, members of the Education Subcommittee:  
my name is Shannon Vandehey, Program Director of Child Care Resource & Referral of Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties, a Program of Community Action Agency. I am here today to offer my support for fully funding Early Learning Hubs in the 2021-2023 budget.

**The Early Learning Hubs:**

- Are Oregon's solution to addressing the complex needs of families raising children from pre-birth through age five.
- Are local conveners with the goal of ensuring there is no wrong door for families attempting to access the myriad of programming and services that support young children and their families.
- Interface with the organizations delivering programming to ensure that when there is a gap in services, it is identified and filled.

**As a Child Care Resource & Referral partner:**

- We have found great advantages to the hub system, which moves outside of agency silos and connects the work of Oregon Health Authority, Oregon DHS, Early Learning Division, the broader ODE, private funders, and community-based organizations, like our own Community Action Agencies Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R).
- We know that the Hub role is meant to be nimble to adjust to the needs of their local community, which is why you hear a variety of different examples of the work hubs do. At their core, Hubs ensure providers of early learning services are accountable for outcomes and that services are provided in a cost-efficient manner.
- Too often the good work being done is stymied by the lack of coordination which can both identify redundancies and gaps in the system to more efficiently serve families.

**For Child Care Resource & Referral this means:**

- Collaborating on professional development opportunities for up to 600 early learning professionals.
- Partnerships on Curriculum and other supports to promote quality improvement for our Coordinated English, Spanish and Russian Focused Family Child Care Provider Networks that serve an estimated 120 providers.
- Connecting us to other community based organizations to assist us in outreach to children and families in need of quality child care.
- Bringing the community together to highlight equity and anti-racist work, and/or efforts to meet the needs of underserved communities.
- Creating a continuum of professional learning from childcare, preK and kindergarten.

I write in consideration of Senate Bill 5513, which provides funding for Oregon's critical Early Learning Hub System. The current budget contains a \$1.4 million cut which was levied on hubs during a COVID-related special session in an effort to balance the budget. We are just beginning to

understand the impact of the pandemic on families with young children. Families are struggling to care for their children while maintaining employment, and those who faced economic insecurity prior to the pandemic have taken the brunt of the impact of the last year. Families need coordinated services now more than ever before. In addition, BIPOC families have been disproportionately impacted by the virus, and women have disproportionately borne the burden of childcare throughout the shutdown. We have a real risk of undoing the progress we've made. With enhanced investment from the federal government and a healthy revenue forecast, we have a responsibility to fully fund the local coordination that ensures a healthier, well informed community.

**A cut to Early Learning Hubs mean:**

- The high risk that early learning communities become disconnected again.
- Less oversight on duplicative work.
- A decrease in leveraged supports for community early learning programs and school districts.
- A decrease in high quality national professional development opportunities for our region early learning professionals.
- A Decrease in capacity to support families seeking to enroll to Preschool Promise.
- CCR&R's and Early Learning Hubs work hand in hand, in building a supply of quality providers who are ready for initiatives like Preschool Promise or Baby Promise. If Early Learning Hubs are not fully funded, these efforts are at risk of being extremely reduced and children will be the ones who will, in the end, deal with the consequences of this.

We urge your support for full Hub funding. Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Respectfully,



Shannon Vandehey  
Program Director

**Child Care Resource & Referral  
Of Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties**

A Program of Community Action Agency

[Shannon.Vandehey@mwvcaa.org](mailto:Shannon.Vandehey@mwvcaa.org)

(503) 585-2491 Ext. 1319

---

**Child Care Resource & Referral of Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties**

A Program of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency  
2085 Commercial St NE Salem, Oregon 97301  
[www.mwvcaa.org](http://www.mwvcaa.org)