

IMMIGRANT
AND REFUGEE
COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATION

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MAIN OFFICE

AFRICA HOUSE

ASIAN FAMILY CENTER

INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE BANK

March 30, 2021

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and members of the Education Subcommittee,

My name is Lyn Tan with Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO). I am writing to offer my support for fully funding Early Learning Hubs in the 2021-2023 budget, and the Early Childhood Coalition agenda investment package.

Early Learning Hubs are Oregon's solution to addressing the complex needs of families raising children from pre-birth through age five. In Multnomah County this means centering the voices of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color to ensure every family has what they need to support their young children.

Hubs are one piece of a larger early childhood system that cannot function without stable investment across the board.

The hub system connects all pieces of the systems that support families like health care, education, and childcare. At IRCO, the existence of the early learning hub gives us a way to elevate the voices of our families as we join together to meet the needs of our whole county in policy making and service delivery.

For IRCO this means:

- We work with the hub to nurture a vision for preschool that serves our children well. We joined with the hub to organize our community to design and pass the Preschool For All measure to bring universal preschool to our county.
- We work with the hub to center parent voice from Somali, Slavic, Vietnamese, Black, Indigenous and Latinx communities so that our parents design the services and policies that work for them.
- We work with our hub to create important services that match and fund the needs of our community like P-3 Coordinators and the Community Education Worker program.

We are asking you to fund the hubs at the current service level of \$22.4 million.

Families need coordinated services now more than ever before. BIPOC families are disproportionately impacted by the virus, women have disproportionately borne the burden of childcare throughout the shutdown, and we have a real risk of undoing the progress we have made. We can do better for our families in Oregon.

A cut to hubs means a cut to direct service providers and in Multnomah County, that means a reduction to services designed and delivered by Black, Indigenous and other People of Color.

We urge your support for full hub funding which is a part of the Early Childhood Coalition agenda investment package. Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lyn Tan', is written over a white rectangular area.

Lyn Tan
Senior Manager, Youth Services