



**Date:** January 27, 2025

**From:** Alyssa Chatterjee, Director of the Department of Early Learning and Care

**To:** Chair Lisa Reynolds, Vice-Chair Dick Andersen, and Members of the Senate Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee

**Subject:** DELC Responses to Questions from January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Senate Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee

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**Sen. Gorsek:** Are Head Start facilities only limited to serving Head Start recipients? Can other groups join?

**Response:** Facilities that Head Start agencies use typically fall into three categories: owned by Head Start agency, Head Start agency is a paying tenant for use of space, or Head Start agency is receiving use of space as in-kind or donation (non-paying tenant). For facilities that are owned by a Head Start agency, they may rent out space at market value or rent/share space at a reduced or non-paying/in-kind/service trade arrangement. Since many of the facilities have federal interest (feds paid for through grant), Head Start agencies must follow all federal fiscal requirements for use/lease of space and ensure that federal Head Start funds are not being used for non-Head Start or unallowable uses.

Most federally funded Head Starts in Oregon also participate in the state funded Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK) program. The OPK program aligns with the federal Early Head Start and Head Start service delivery models. Essentially, OPK is state funded Head Start programming.

Some Head Start/OPK entities also participate in the state funded Preschool Promise program and or receive local and/or private funding to offer services. Entities that receive multiple funding sources are able to serve children in mixed funding classrooms. For example, a preschool classroom of 18 children in a Head Start/OPK facility could have nine children funded by Preschool Promise and nine children funded by Head Start/OPK. This provides for a more socio-economically diverse classroom composition and offers more options to families in the community.

**Sen. Patterson-** Referring to [slide 23](#), How much would we need to fund the 60% of children eligible for publicly funded programs (not including ERDC) that we're not currently serving?



**Response:** We did a research report in 2019 that estimated this cost close to being a billion dollars, and we can make copied of the report and send to offices. Getting the cost with more recent information would be a longer term project for our research team, but it's something we can consider doing.

**Sen. Andersen:** Is there a way to get the availability of childcare for children under 5 (reference to slide 23) by zip code?

**Response:** The Department of Early Learning and Care is working with Oregon Child Care Research Partnership at OSU, as well as our own research and data team, to determine zip code break downs from the latest child care desert report due Spring 2025.

**Sen. Gorsek-** Referring to [slide 27](#), Is there a map of counties involved with Equity Fund?

**Response:** The Early Childhood Equity Fund provides programming in the following 17 counties; Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Lane, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Union, Wasco, Washington, Wheeler, and Yamhill. Please note that the info in the slide deck presentation is not for current year of programming. It represents programming for 2023-2024 program year. With the new Birth Through Five Literacy Initiative funds, DELC has expanded the reach and number of grantees participating in the Early Childhood Equity Fund program. We are still in the process of executing the new grants and can provide an updated list of grantees and counties served in the 24/25 program year very soon. Our report of the Early Childhood Equity Fund (ECEP) has a list of grantee organizations and the counties they serve in on [page 26](#).

**Sen. Patterson-** Would like more details on Healthy Families- what entails the screening process and follow up.

**Response:** Healthy Families Oregon (HFO) is a free, voluntary home visiting program offering support and education to families that are expecting or parenting newborns. HFO offers voluntary screening to prenatal families and families with newborns up to three months of age. The program is nationally accredited by Healthy Families America.

The screening process uses the New Baby Questionnaire (NBQ), a research-based tool adapted from the Hawaii Risk Indicators Inventory. The NBQ measures families' level of risk for adverse family and child outcomes. Completing the NBQ is entirely voluntary. Families must first sign



the *Consent to Participate* form before proceeding with the NBQ or any other forms. Trained HFO staff conduct the NBQ in an interview style and provide support throughout the process, making every effort to accommodate the family's primary language. From Jan-Dec 2023, we screened 3,212 families of which 2,120 families received at least one home visit.

**Eligibility for home visiting services is determined based on the following criteria:**

**Single Factor Indicators (Automatically Eligible):**

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Substance use
- Involvement with child welfare

**Additional Risk Factors (Two or More Needed for Eligibility):**

- Late or lack of comprehensive prenatal care
- Teen parent
- Unmarried parent
- Multiple children under the age of five
- Child with special needs
- Less than high school education
- No stable employment
- Lack of social support
- Relationship problems
- Unstable housing
- Trouble paying for basic expenses

Families who qualify are offered voluntary ongoing home visiting services. For those who do not qualify, HFO staff provide resource connections and support to address their needs.