



The Oregon Head Start Association is working to ensure that every eligible family is provided with an opportunity to enroll their child in a local Head Start program. In order to do this, we need funding for new facilities and new Head Start classrooms.

Head Start programs are not short-term investments. They provide communities with early child classroom space for decades. We are asking the legislature to invest one-time funding for the following shovel-ready projects.

Gladstone Head Start Center: The Clackamas County Children's Commission (ClackCoKids) is requesting to purchase and renovate a former YMCA property in the community of Gladstone. The property was previously licensed for childcare, contains appropriate outdoor space, kitchen and laundry and could hold 5-6 classrooms for children ages 0-5. ClackCoKids would likely utilize 3 classrooms for 51 preschool age children in a full day program and 2 classrooms to serve 17 infants and toddlers also in a full day setting. There is another space to provide after school care for up to 30 children. While ClackCoKids currently has public funding to serve these children through the programs of OPK, Head Start, and Early Head Start, they may also consider expanding the availability of childcare in the area to allocate some slots for subsidized care (ERDC) and private pay. A total of 97 children would be served in this space. The request for funding is a one-time request that would provide the Gladstone community with quality, stable childcare for years to come. **Please support an investment of \$1.5 million to support the Gladstone Head Start Center.**

Little Explorers Preschool Playground: The North Central Education Service District (NCESD) recently opened a new preschool site in Wasco, OR, within a repurposed former elementary school building. Currently, there is no playground suitable for preschool-aged children at the site, creating an urgent need for installation. This project aims to provide a safe, developmentally appropriate playground that will serve both the preschool and the broader community of Wasco. A parent committee researched playground companies and obtained quotes from two vendors in the Fall of 2024, and the project has support from the City of Wasco. This playground is a high-priority need for the community, providing a safe and developmentally appropriate play space, particularly for children with physical and social-emotional needs. Sherman County currently lacks a preschool playground with inclusive equipment to meet these needs. **Please support an investment of \$150,000 to fund the Little Explorer's Pre-School.**

Woodburn Head Start Modular Classroom Replacement: This project calls for the replacement of a 1991 modular building which houses a Head Start classroom. The project

includes the removal of an old modular, and the installation of new modular, and related site prep and utility work. This location serves 34 preschool age children from the Woodburn area. The new modular classroom will serve 34 preschool age children and 16 infants/toddlers from the Woodburn area, with two classrooms. In order to qualify for the program, families must meet federal poverty guidelines or be categorically income eligible based on receipt of SNAP, TANF, SSI, or because of homelessness or being in foster care. **Please support an investment of \$950,000 for the Woodburn Head Start Modular Classroom Replacement.**

Hermiston Child Development Center: UMHS' Hermiston Child Development Center (HCDC), located across from Hermiston High School, is a 34-year-old modular building currently serving 34 Early Head Start children ages birth to three. UMHS is in the process of purchasing a new \$1.2 million modular to replace the outdated one. However, due to inflation and rising materials and construction costs, we face a \$900,000 shortfall to complete this project. We request your support to secure the additional funding necessary to finalize this project and ensure continuous, high-quality services for our children and families. The new facility will allow us to serve more children in Hermiston. With the growing population in the area, it is important to have the facilities ready for future expansion. **Please support an investment of \$900,000 for the Hermiston Child Development Center.**

In total, these Head Start projects would be an investment of \$3.5 million that would contribute greatly to the future of Head Start programs and future generations.

We ask, and appreciate, your consideration and support for funding as many of these priorities as you can during the 2025 session.