

Regional Kindergarten Readiness Network



Start
Strong

A tri-county, cross-sector network for Kindergarten Readiness

Vision

In our community, we know that poverty, racism, and ableism create barriers and gaps in kindergarten readiness. We also know that all families want the best for their children—to see them healthy and thrive. It's our jobs as system leaders to work together, across sectors, to close gaps and make it easy for families to meet their goals.

By 2028, the Regional Kindergarten Readiness Network will redesign how we work together so that race, class, and disability no longer predict families' access to and use of quality early childhood supports and services that ensure readiness for Kindergarten and beyond.

Key partners

Over 60 regional partners have joined this network to advance the vision and goal. Special thanks to the following partners who have committed seed funding for this work:

- Social Venture Partners
- United Way of Columbia Willamette
- Providence Children's Health
- Oregon Community Foundation
- Early Learning Multnomah (representing the tri-county Hubs)



What's been done so far

Winter 2018: Health Share staff conducted structured interviews of 40 cross-sector leaders to learn perspectives, identify gaps, barriers, and opportunities to better ensure that all children had supports and services needed to be ready for Kindergarten and beyond.

May 2018: Convened the same cross-sector leaders for a day-and-a-half long Learning and Strategy Design Session to refine the goals of the network, along with prioritizing critical shifts that would need to happen to meet the network's goals.

Summer 2018: Five workgroups were formed and met twice over the summer to come up with 2-3 "big ideas" to bring forward at the network launch.

September 2018: Launched Kindergarten Readiness Network. Over 60 organizations were represented at the launch and spent a day-and-a-half working together to advance the goals, workgroups and initiatives of the network.

Next steps

Fall/Winter 2018/19: Health Share is supporting three ongoing workgroups to advance specific initiatives leading up to the next network meeting in May 2019.

The Network identified 3 critical shifts that the collaborative must work on in order to achieve its goal:

1. Sectors and systems are accountable for integrated, family-centered, culturally excellent access and care when and where families need it.
2. Systems and institutions actively promote healing, racial justice and community self-determination.
3. Systems and programs impacting young children are well resourced, aligned, and sustainable to support the long-term success of priority children and families across all communities.

After the Network launch in September 2018, the network identified 3 core areas of work to advance first:

1. Align our systems to improve access to services and supports
2. Map the money and power that govern decision making in early life health
3. Embed racial equity with trauma-informed strategies into network member organizations