

Regional Kindergarten Readiness Network

A Tri-County, Cross Sector Network for Kindergarten Readiness

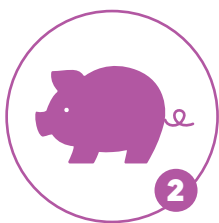
In our community, we know that poverty, racism and ableism create barriers and gaps in kindergarten readiness. We also know that all families want the best for their children—to see them healthy and thrive. It's our job as system leaders to work together, across sectors, to close those gaps and make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

WORKING GOAL

By 2028, we as a 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.

CRITICAL SHIFTS

In order to move toward our goals, the network prioritized five critical shifts.



1 Workforce Development: Families experience systems where the workforces are supported to provide profoundly adept family-centered, trauma-informed care/services.

2 Funding & Political Will: 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.

3 Data & Metrics: All sectors are working collaboratively from a shared set of values, definitions and metrics on Kindergarten readiness. All sectors use these data to identify and reduce disparities to improve outcomes.

4 Systems Alignment & Access: Sectors and systems are accountable for integrated, family-centered, culturally excellent access and care when and where families need it.

5 Structural Inequity: Race, disability and economic status are no longer predictors of early childhood outcomes. Systems and institutions (and the network) actively promote healing, racial justice, and community self determination.

Network Strategies

- Aligned goals and funding for bigger impact
- Elevated and strengthened existing initiatives
- Bridged expertise in early childhood education, social services, health care, and communities

About the Network

BACKGROUND

In 2017, 50 cross sector partners sparked a robust conversation around school readiness and how to better align efforts for bigger impact.

The group included coordinated care organizations, Early Learning Hubs, health plans, the Department of Human Services, housing, funders, education partners, and community-based organizations.

SUPPORT

Six local organizations committed resources to form a Regional Kindergarten Readiness Network in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties, including:

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

PRELIMINARY WORK

Health Share staff conducted structured interviews of system leaders and convened 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 in order to meet those goals.

Six workgroups formed and met over the summer to identify existing initiatives and new ideas that would most powerfully move the network toward its goals, including:

- Systems Alignment and Access
- Structural Inequities
- Workforce Development
- Data and Metrics
- Funding and Political Will
- Family Voice

Interviews of more system leaders continue leading up to the Network Launch on Sept. 24 - 25, 2018.

NETWORK

The Regional Kindergarten Readiness Network is growing. Participating organizations include:

- Adelante Mujeres
- All Born In
- Beaverton School District
- Better Than/I Have a DreamCareOregon
- Black Parent Initiative
- CareOregon
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Children's Health Alliance
- Children's Institute
- Clackamas Education Service District
- Clackamas Early Learning Hub
- DHS
- Early Childhood Mental Health, Wash. Co
- Early Learning Multnomah
- Family Dental Care, Inc.
- Early Learning Washington County
- Federal Reserve
- Future Generations Collaborative
- Head Start
- Health Share of Oregon
- Help Me Grow Oregon
- Home Forward
- IRCO
- Kaiser Community Benefit
- Latino Network
- Maternal Child Health, OHA
- Metropolitan Pediatrics
- Multnomah County Developmental Disabilities
- Multnomah County Public Health
- Northwest Regional ESD
- OCCYSHN, OHSU
- Oregon Community Foundation
- Oregon Pediatric Improvement Partnership
- Portland Children's Levy
- Portland State University – RRI
- Portland State University – School of Education
- Providence Children's Health
- Rose CDC/Baby Booster Initiative
- Self Enhancement Institute
- Social Venture Partners
- Swindells Family Resource Center
- Tigard Tualatin School District
- Tuality Healthcare
- WIC