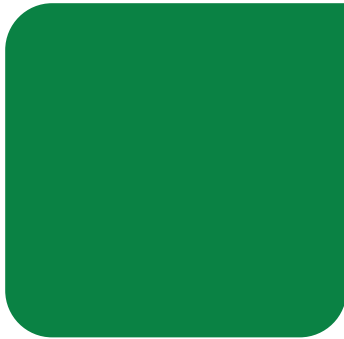


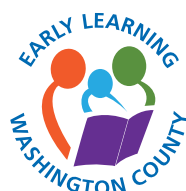
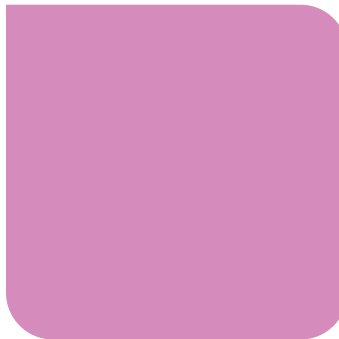
# Early Learning

WASHINGTON COUNTY

[www.earlylearningwashingtoncounty.org](http://www.earlylearningwashingtoncounty.org)



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 4  | Who we are...   |
| 5  | Leading with an Equity Lens                                 |
| 8  | Parent Advisory Council                                     |
| 9  | Hub Association and Advocacy Work                           |
| 10 | COVID Recovery  |
| 11 | Preschool Promise and Coordinated Enrollment                |
| 13 | Parenting Together Washington County                        |
| 17 | Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI)       |
| 19 | Early STEM Framework  |
| 21 | Schools, Parents, and Communities Engaged (SPACE) EXPANSION |
| 22 | Early Life Systems and Supports                             |





# Access! Access! Read all about it!

Improved and increased access to early childhood care and education stands out across all programs as we reflect on the work of ELWC in 2022. Access to ELWC services is more important than ever as our community continues to deal with the challenges exacerbated by the pandemic and accompanying economic, environmental, and social events of the past few years.

We are most proud of ELWC programs and community partners offering training and resources in more languages than ever before and the immense amount of work they have done to significantly increase the number of qualified child care providers. All this hard work is informed by parent voices and fueled by community partners and child care providers, which is the key to success!

This year, ELWC sponsored events to bring everyone together to learn, celebrate, and connect. Family Science Night for Parents at OMSI, in partnership with the BIPOC-focused STEAM Ecosystem, brought more than 800 people together! This shows the strength of our unity, and the importance of the bonds early learning hubs create between providers, parents, and community partners. We did an amazing job of leaning on our partnerships this year, for the benefit of the children in our community.

In 2023, ELWC will delve into optimizing systems and resources to sustain this increased access for children and families by scaling up the child care workforce, facilities, and infrastructure. Health and social emotional education will be a priority to supporting families and providers as we are all still dealing with the repercussions of the past few years.

We look forward to more opportunities to gather as a community!

Sincerely,

ELWC Steering Committee Co-Chairs

Lacey Hays

Parent Advocate

Katie Anderson

Washington County Public Libraries



# Who we are...

## A little bit about ELWC

Early Learning Washington County (ELWC) is a partnership between United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and Washington County Health and Human Services. This unique partnership brings diverse partners, parents, and communities together to support families in raising strong, healthy children.

**Our Vision:** Our community works in partnership with families to raise strong, healthy children who are life-long learners, with equal opportunities to succeed and reach their full potential.

**Our Mission:** To promote safety, good physical and mental health, stable families and positive experiences that prepare young children in Washington County for success in school.

**Our Purpose:** ELWC establishes a collaborative community to create a coordinated, culturally responsive and effective early learning system that incorporates health, mental health, family support, and early childhood care and education.

### OUR GOALS

1. Improve kindergarten readiness.
2. Increase stability and attachment in families with young children, prenatal to age 6, and prepare them for transition to future opportunities.
3. Champion, encourage and assist the people and organizations that support early learning.

Washington County's population is the second largest of Oregon's 36 counties and soon it may become the largest county in the state.



Approximately  
**610,968**  
people reside  
in the county



**34,892**  
children under 5  
reside in  
726 square miles





# Leading with an Equity Lens

ELWC will reduce the disparity of opportunities and disproportionate risks to make school success possible for all children. Specific efforts will focus on families who are expecting, children of color with disabilities, those that are English-language learners, those who live in low-income, homeless, migrant, or refugee families, and those who have experienced trauma.

ELWC is a CenterPoint for developing, growing and leveraging state, federal and community funds to invest in the local programs and services that are culturally responsive, inclusive, and appropriate for communities in our county. ELWC convenes community partners to continually assess and strategize solutions to emerging and persistent issues.

ELWC has an Equity Advisory Council and a Parent Advisory Council that created our equity lens and selected content and training to advance our racial equity efforts. Council members represent priority populations and organizations and fully participate in policy development.

## EXAMPLES OF THE WORK WE DO...

**Early Learning Bilingual Family Resource Coordinators** are based in Forest Grove, Tigard/Tualatin, Beaverton, Hillsboro and Sherwood school districts. They provide more than **20,000 referrals for services annually** for families with young children.

**Supporting Parent Leaders** ELWC has provided stipends to parent leaders to participate in the Parent Advisory Council, Steering Committee, Executive Committee and Preschool For All meetings and/or focus groups to guide our work. Parent leaders also participated in interview panels and received a stipend for their work. ELWC also continued with the annual tradition of granting wishes to the children of parent leaders during the holidays. Toys, clothing, shoes, books, and more were sent to their homes before the Holidays.

**Early Literacy Campaigns.** ELWC has launched four literacy campaigns during 2022:

**Kindergarten Transition backpacks.** Children that graduated from Preschool Promise 2021-2022 received a backpack to support their growth and skills during summertime. The backpacks included tactile number cards, foam letters, a draw and write journal, an activity calendar as well as books and more. More than 400 bags were distributed.



**Welcome to Preschool Promise bags.** All children that were placed in a Preschool Promise facility during the school year 2022-2023 received a welcome bag. Also, new providers that were added during 2022 also received the bags. More than 800 were distributed. The purpose of this bag is to provide tools and activities for new children arriving to a preschool site.

**Children's Books Permanent Collection for Tigard Public Library.** Having access to multilingual children's books is tied to a child's academic success. Children from immigrant and refugee families are expected to do well in school, learn English quickly, and contribute to the family's successful adjustment. Having easy access

to multilingual books will support these efforts. Furthermore, using dual books can help them value and preserve their mother tongue and protect linguistic diversity as well as it sparks parent-child interactions. Tigard Public Library has received a donation from ELWC allowing us to create a new collection of dual and monolingual books in Marshallese, Chuukese and Chamorro languages.

Hosted a literacy resource fair for home visiting staff working in Babies First, CaCoon, Family Connects, Healthy Families, and Nurse Family Partnership distributed books, musical instruments, puppets, and additional literacy materials for staff to provide to families they support. Partnered with Washington County Cooperative Library Services to provide Every Child Ready to Read workshops for parents and community partners working with families. A recording of the workshop promoting early literacy is available as a professional development tool for home visiting staff in MCF and Healthy Families programs.

**Multilingual Booklets 2022-2023** that include all of the publicly funded early childhood programs and resources in Washington County. The booklets were designed to help families and community partners understand all of the publicly funded resources—for prenatal, infants, toddlers and preschoolers—available in our region.

The booklets are available in English, Marshallese, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Russian, and Vietnamese. The books are available on our website: <https://earlylearningwashingtoncounty.org/preschool-promise/Washington>







**County Preschool For All (WACO P4A)** will give 3- and 4-year-olds in Washington County access to free, high-quality, developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive preschool experiences. The ELWC Hub, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, and Washington County's Maternal, Child and Family as well as parent leaders from the ELWC Advisory Council participated in the different working groups and sponsored the project and recruited members for parent focus groups.

**Diversity Equity and Inclusion trainings** To support our community partners in strengthening their programs, ELWC launched The Intercultural Training Program, which provides a series of workshops to organization's staff working with recently resettled refugees. The aim of the project is to advance equity through offering service providers a refugee-centered, trauma and culturally informed approach. The program will include the delivery of five workshops between July 2022 and June of 2023 designed to address the unique opportunities and challenges to supporting and connecting with resettled families. During 2022 two sessions were offered: **Family Role: Leading with Cultural Humility and the Resettlement Journey: Learning about resources for the Afghan families.** More than 60 staff members from different organizations from our region participated in the workshops.

**Prioritized investments with school and childcare partners that focused on enhanced social-emotional learning.** Three strategies were implemented:

1. **Social-emotional learning grants** to the seven school districts. The funds were used to support strategies that will provide access to professional development, curriculum, and supplies for staff and/or classrooms.
2. **PAX GBG training/expansion** for staffing from four school districts. The PAX Good Behavior Game is an evidence-based universal preventive intervention applied by teachers in the classroom. PAX GBG consists of a set of research-based strategies with origins in behavioral science, neuroscience, and cultural wisdom that operate together to improve children's self-regulation.
3. **Launch a Washington county Playful Inquiry Cohort.** The funding granted by the NREN Coordinating Body resulted in a new partnership with the Northwest Early Learning Hub, WACO CCR&R, and the hub to launch a Playful Inquiry Cohort.

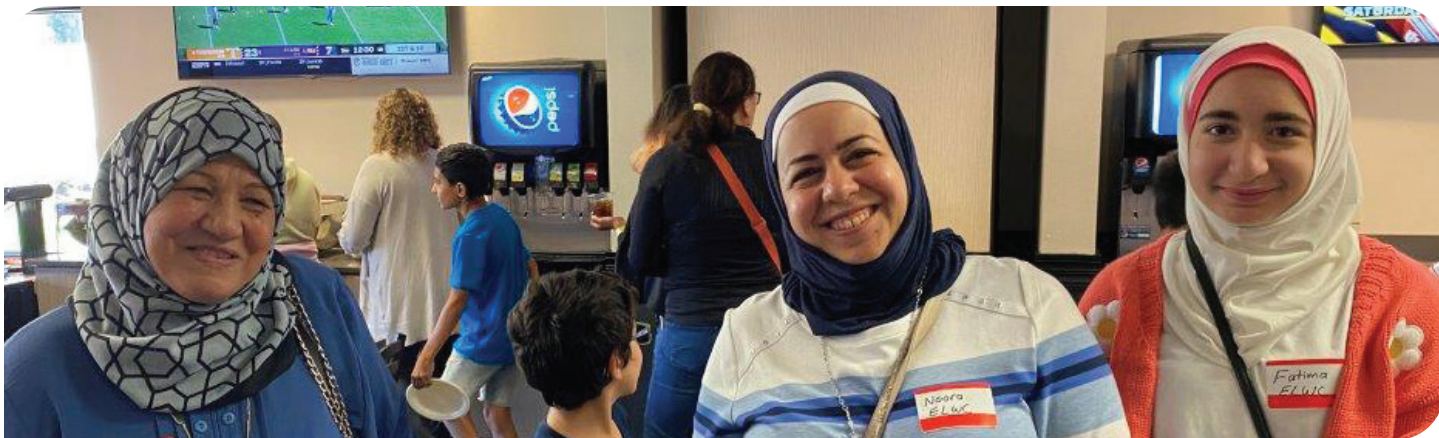
# Parent Advisory Council

ELWC not only engages and centers parent leaders' voices but also supports them to lead and implement strategies and projects.

- Parent Leaders Luis Nava, Zhulma Zarate, Miguel Barrios, Dorila Nava and Laura Ramirez facilitated a workshop at the 2022 OPEC Conference. The name of the workshop is "Liderazgo Compartido de Padres en Education Temprana y como integrar."
- Ana Barrios, Elena Pineda, and Luis Nava represented ELWC in the OR Family Leadership Evaluation Advisory Group."
- Dorila Nava, Miguel Barrios, and Luis Nava were part of the Training for Trainers: Building Confidence and Expertise as a STEM Educator and Trainer and are working on getting the Community and/or Master Trainer accreditation as well as are submitting proposals for new STEM/STEAM workshops to ORO.
- Representing parent leaders in other committees: Executive Committee, Steering Committee, Preschool For All, and ad hoc working groups. Lacey Hays, Zhulma Zarate, Luis Nava and other parent leaders bring the voice of the parents to the table.
- Dorila Nava, Zhulma Zarate, Luis Nava and Juana Garcia attended Community events to promote ELWC programs. The parent leaders also integrated STEM/STEAM activities to boost interest in the ELWC table. Some of the events were Cornelius Vaccination Clinic, ODHS Back to School, Beaverton Family Resource Center back to school amongst others.
- Zhulma Zarate, Luis Nava, Ana Robledo, Micaela Caotlla, Dorila Nava participated in the Community Conversation: Social Emotional Health of Young Children discussion as well as the Stewardship meeting as members to discuss about changes in the ELWC Priority Populations and Selection Criteria for Preschool Promise.
- During 2022 Parent Leaders also developed the Early STEM/STEAM framework for 2023 that includes:
  - Continuing the work around the Infant and Toddler kits.
  - **Preschool Promise STEAM** pilot project led by Zhulma Zarate and Luis Nava. The two facilitators will offer 6 workshops each for children in classrooms that are part of the Preschool Promise program.
  - Investing in **STEAM Summer Camps** for Mesoamerican-indigenous children and those that speak Arabic.
  - Offering a 2nd **Training for Trainers: Building Confidence and Expertise as a STEM Educator and Trainer**.
    - Cohort participants met to discuss changes/challenges that will be addressed in the 2nd cohort.







- Parent leaders are supporting the ELWC team with the of the Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment. Members reviewed new policies, manual, and application and provided recommendations. Members also had discussions for several months about the Selection Criteria for Preschool promise.
- Parent Leaders also share with us what the best way is to engage them and their families outside PAC meetings. During 2022 our PAC did:
- Enjoy the first in-person gathering two years! ELWC team prepared a party for PAC members at the Beaverton Nature Center where families could chat, get to know each other as well as do fun activities during Spring Break!
- Bullwinkle's Entertainment family day! Last October, our parent leaders and their families had a lot of fun at the Bullwinkle's Entertainment center. We share food, games, and fun conversations. Our team was very happy to be able to parents again.
- Family Science Night for Parents. In a partnership with OMSI, the BIPOC focused STEAM Ecosystem rented OMSI for families served through by the Ecosystem partners. Our PAC families were also there!
- Zoo Lights! Thanks to a partnership with the Portland Zoo, our PAC members and their families had the opportunity to enjoy the Zoo lights at zero cost!
- Holidays Gifts. Every year, ELWC opens a holidays wish gift program for PAC members. Parents submit their children's wishes to ELWC team and every year, balls, sports equipment, clothing, shoes, toys, and books are sent to their homes.

## Hub Association and Advocacy Work

- In 2022 the 16 early learning hubs of the State of Oregon joined forces to create an Oregon Early Learning Hub Association. The OELHA first meeting took place last November in Bend.
- Development of a white paper in conjunction with the Oregon Head Start Association. The two associations identify shared recommendations to improve the overall implementation of Preschool Promise and Head Start.
- Advocacy work during the 2022 short legislative session. ELWC staff members also invited elected officials to have discussions in our region: Representative Dexter, Representative McClain, and new Governor Tina Kotek. Materials about the work of ELWC were also sent to other legislators.

# COVID Recovery

ELWC has played an on-going role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, our role shifted from emergency response to understanding and mitigating long term impacts of the Pandemic. Two projects were launched which focused on the pandemic's impact of child care in Washington County.

## FOCUSED CHILD CARE NETWORKS

Focused Child Care Networks (FCCN) are a method of supporting child care providers with professional development and on-going technical assistance in a cohort of their peers. ELWC sponsored several cohorts of providers from underrepresented populations to help build the capacity of child care providers in our region. The work is on-going but already over 40 providers have been engaged. The project is being done in partnership with Community Action Organization of Washington County which houses the Child Care Resource and Referral Program.

## CHILD CARE ANALYSIS STUDY

Understanding how the landscape of child care was impacted by COVID-19 as well as systematic barriers providers face is the first step to long term recovery for the sector. ELWC partnered with EcoNorthwest to look at several key components of child care, most notably: Child Care Capacity, Regulatory Environment & workforce development. The study is on-going with a completion date of mid-2023.



## COVID-19 RAPID TEST KITS DISTRIBUTION

In a partnership with Washington County Child Care & Referral, OCDC, Northwest Christian Church of Tigard, thousands of COVID-19 Rapid test kits were distributed in Washington County.

The targeted population for this effort were in-home providers and those providers that do not offer publicly funded programs that did not have access to COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits.

For an equitable access in the distribution, ELWC and CCR&R came up with a West and East side of the county approach for distribution. OCDC were the partner that provided kits in the West side of the county and Northwest Christian Church of Tigard provided kits in the East side of the county. The two partners offered different times/dates for the pick-up. Thousands of kits were distributed in the community.



# Preschool Promise and Coordinated Enrollment

The Preschool Promise program is a high-quality, publicly funded preschool program that serves children ages three and four in families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. It also serves children in foster care and children from other historically underserved populations.

Coordinated Enrollment for Preschool Promise is led by ELWC. This effort streamlines the process for families to access publicly funded preschool.

The program's mixed delivery includes providers that offer bilingual education programs in English-Spanish, Arabic-English and Somali-English. The nature of the mixed-delivery approach of Preschool Promise allows Washington County families to choose providers based on family preferences. Mixed-delivery sites include K-12 school districts (Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Beaverton and Tigard-Tualatin) along with center-based, home-based and Head Start programs and culturally specific organizations.



**PRESCHOOL**  
P R O M I S E



### WHAT PRESCHOOL PROMISE ACCOMPLISHED

- Coordinated ongoing enrollment for 2022-2023 school year.
- Prioritized returning children and families for smooth transitions.
- Supported staff, providers and community partners by sharing knowledge, experiences, and networking toward solutions.
- Built a coordinated enrollment system for the entire county based on the Zengine database for managing and archiving applications and a web portal for gathering applications.
- Make on-going changes to the ELWC as requested by community partners to create direct access to other publicly funded programs as well as CCR&R.
- Created and implemented ongoing recruitment, multilingual outreach strategies and communications for the Preschool Promise program and for individual PSP providers and sites that included radio, social media, fliers and other strategies.
- **Tweak portal and website to add the new providers added during the 2022 expansion. Additional 276 slots were added to our region.**
- Trained new providers and other community partners like the Family Resource Coordinators, to use the Zengine database and web portal.
- Hosted on-line training sessions in English and Spanish
- Created manuals and guides for database and portal navigation
- **Our team received and processed more than 1,400 applications for the 2022-2023 school year and 85% of these applications resulted in a successful placement of children. 530 were matched.**
- **The coordinated enrollment system allowed the gathering of data and demographics on priority populations, and it is providing up-to-date and accurate population metrics served by the Coordinated Enrollment program.**
- Created a Preschool Promise program enrollment assistance service based on a telephone line and an email address dedicated exclusively to families interested in enrolling in the program. **More than 2,000 calls received answers and assistance with the enrollment process during the July-December 2022 period.**

<https://earlylearningwashingtoncounty.org/preschool-promise/>





# Parenting Together Washington County

**Mission:** Parenting Together Washington County (PTWC) builds and sustains lifelong learning connections between children, families and communities to enable all to thrive.

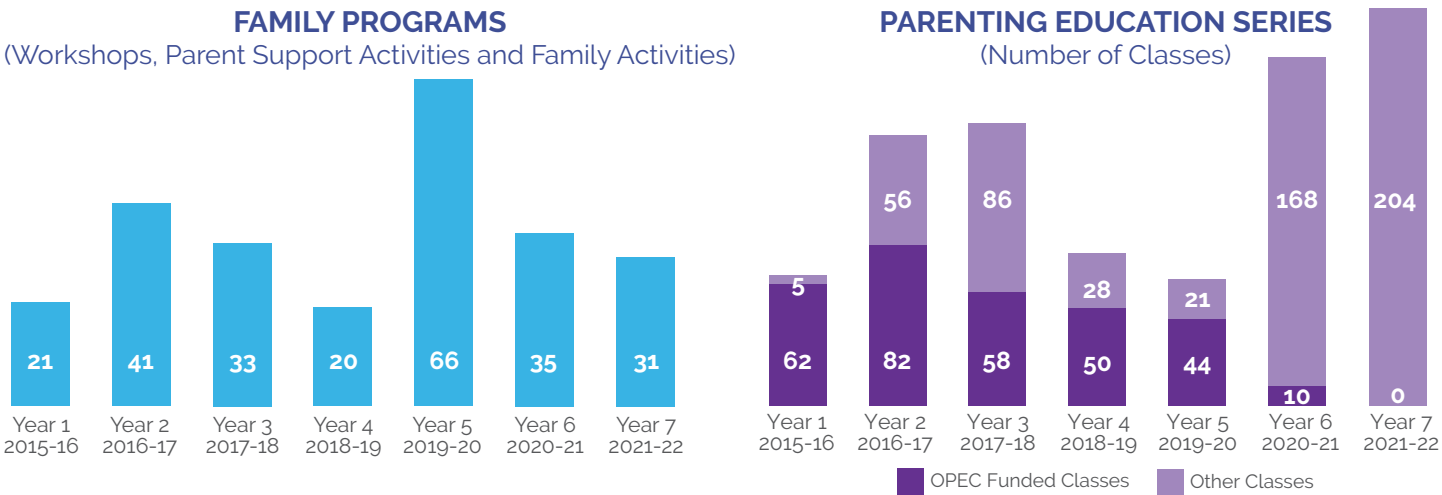
### PARTNERS

PTWC depends on strong partnerships with community-based parenting education providers. PTWC is supported by the Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC) and its partners Oregon Department of Human Services and the Early Learning Division, ELWC, and a combination of Washington County prevention funding. PTWC serves Washington County and is one of 16 regional parenting hubs across Oregon.

### GOALS

- Cultivate healthy and stable families through parent and caregiver learning, connection and engagement in high-quality, evidence-based parenting education programs.
- Align parenting support options with cultural, linguistic and family-centered preferences and needs.
- Increase children and family connections and engagement in community through planning and supporting family-friendly activity opportunities

**PTWC continues on an upward trend increasing the number of parenting education series classes to a seven-year high.**



## IMPACT IS MEASURED BY A FEW OF THE MANY PARTICIPANT REFLECTIONS...

Parents who was part of the IRCO partners Chuukese language facilitated series...

*My kids are learning new behaviors after what I have learned.*

*It changed how I think of parenting here in the US*

Parents who were part of the Nurturing Hope series focused on parents who have children with special health, developmental or behavioral needs

*My kids are learning new I did not know that it was necessary to learn and study to be a better father. For me it has been fabulous it has enriched my life and my son's.*

*It really allowed me to look at how I interact with each child and where I can add small but significant components to our daily lives.*

*Because my children have such significant needs and we are using behavioral therapies, we often lose touch of the very basic parenting elements. I loved talking about temperament. We never had family rules before this class! We really got to review our entire parenting strategy.*

*Open my eyes to listen more and spend more time with my grandson, have patience, learn to breath, take breaks, ask for help, find ways to relax, breath, dance. pay attention to my body; be open to listen other parents' ideas, learn how to help and do not hurt with words or actions.*

*I like the specific strategies, individual consultation, and community support with other parents*

**Parents who were part of the Strengthening Families 10 -14 Parent and Youth Program**

*I'm learning active listening and setting boundaries.*

*Having other parents together was very helpful in knowing we were not alone with our family struggles.*

*I feel more connected/in tune. I feel like I had been on parenting auto-pilot ever since the pandemic started, and this class helped me refocus.*





# Demographics

(of families completing evaluations for parenting series and workshops)



**163**

parents

Age range **23-84**

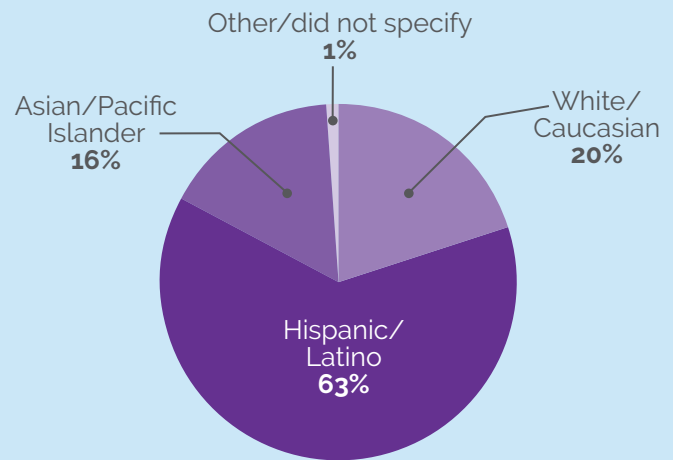
Average age **40**

Parenting with partner **76%**

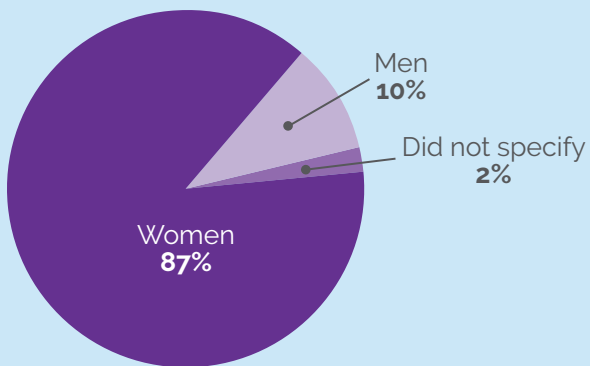
Parenting by themselves **18%**

Did not specify **2%**

## RACE/ETHNICITY



## GENDER



**344**

children

Age range **0-18**

Average age **8**

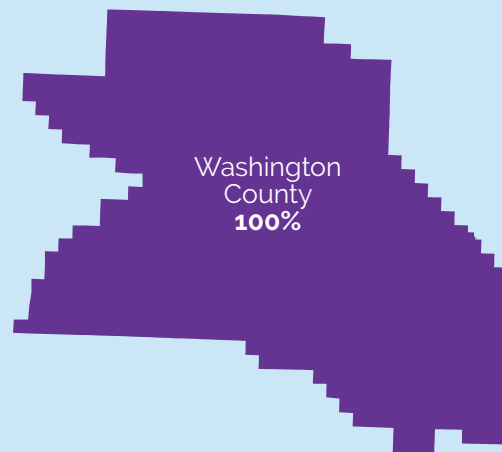
Age 0-6 years **43%**

Children per family **2**



**61%**

use at least one  
resource for low  
income families (WIC,  
OHP, SNAP/TANF,  
free/reduced lunch)



## Parent & Child Skills



| Parenting Skill  | Before Participation | After Participation |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| Know normal behavior for my child(ren)'s age level       | 3.4                  | 4.9*                |
| Show my child(ren) love and affection frequently         | 4.3                  | 5.4*                |
| Listen to my child(ren) to understand their feelings     | 3.4                  | 5.1*                |
| Set and stick to reasonable limits and rules             | 3.3                  | 4.9*                |
| Know fun activities to help my child(ren) learn          | 3.4                  | 4.9*                |
| Find positive ways to guide and discipline my child(ren) | 3.3                  | 4.9*                |
| Play with my child(ren) frequently                       | 3.5                  | 4.9*                |
| Protect my child(ren) from unsafe conditions             | 4.5                  | 5.5*                |
| Talk to other parents to share experiences               | 3.0                  | 4.9*                |
| Deal with the day-to-day stresses of parenting           | 2.9                  | 4.8*                |
| Understand my goals and values as a parent               | 3.4                  | 5.2*                |

| Child Skill                        | Before Participation | After Participation |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Shows concern for others           | 3.7                  | 4.8*                |
| Willing to follow limits and rules | 3.4                  | 4.6*                |
| Gets along with others             | 4.0                  | 4.9*                |

Note: Dependent t-tests were used to calculate significance levels.  
 \*Significant results indicate skills improved after parenting education series,  $p < 0.05$ . N=119.

## Parent Satisfaction

### PARENTING EDUCATION SERIES

**98%**

reported that the class series was somewhat or very helpful

**97%**

reported they would recommend the class series to others

### PARENTING EDUCATION SERIES

**100%**

reported that the workshop was somewhat or very helpful

**100%**

reported they would use the information from the workshop

## QUOTES FROM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

*I'm more confident setting limits and understanding their behavior.*

*I feel more patient, understanding and loving toward my children instead of easily frustrated and getting upset a lot.*

*I take more time to relax, I ask my partner for help; I put in practice some new ideas, I listen to my child better, I put him first.*

*Me he convertido en una mama mas empatica con mis hijos, esto me ayudado a ser mas casinosa con ellos y poder decirles con mas frecuencia cuanto los amo. I have become a more empathetic mother to my children, it has helped me to be more loving to them and to be able to tell them more often how much I love them.*





# Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI)

## WHAT IS KPI?

The Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation Program (KPI) invests in promising models for connecting early learning and Kindergarten through 3rd Grade (K-3) education across the state and encourages community and school partnerships that result in measurable growth in children's readiness for kindergarten.

## GOALS

KPI is designed to establish scalable and replicable models for Prenatal through 3rd Grade (P-3rd) alignment at the local level, with a focus on:

- Professional Development- shared opportunities for early learning providers and kindergarten teachers
- Kindergarten Transition- supporting successful transitions into kindergarten for all children

- Family Engagement- engaging families as equal partners in children's learning and development

## ELWC KPI FUNDING HISTORY

KPI funds were awarded to Early Learning Washington County from the Oregon Department of Education in 2014. For several years, the projects funded by this program were designed by early learning teams and were awarded to Washington County School Districts as sole recipients.

## 2022 KPI AWARDEES

KPI funds were awarded to Early Learning Washington County from the Oregon Department of Education in 2014. For several years, the projects funded by this program were designed by early learning teams and were awarded to Washington County School Districts as sole recipients.

This grant opportunity focused on specific programs and activities in the following subject areas and priority populations:

### SUBJECT AREAS

- Early Childhood Mental Health
- Early Childhood Educator & Caregiver Engagement
- Early Childhood Educator Professional Development centered on Mental Health & Social-Emotional Support
- Parent/Caregiver and Child focused kindergarten transition supports
- Development of culturally responsive or culturally specific Kindergarten readiness curriculum or projects
- Parent/Caregiver Peer-to-Peer support groups
- Community-based Play & Learn Groups
- Father and father-figure focused engagement in any of the subject areas above

### PRIORITY POPULATIONS

Caregivers with children from birth to 6 years of age defined by one or more of the descriptions listed below

- Houseless/Homeless Individuals as defined by McKinney-Vento [www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/ESEA/McKinney-Vento](http://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/ESEA/McKinney-Vento)
- Families with income at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guideline
- Single parent/caregiver families
- Children from underserved communities of color: Asian, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian, Black/African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native or Latinx/Hispanic
- Children ages 0-2yrs of age

### IN JULY 2022, EARLY LEARNING WASHINGTON COUNTY AWARDED OVER \$500,000 TO SIX GRANTEES, WHOSE PROGRAMS INCLUDE A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES:

| Grantee Name                             | Awarded Amount | Project Summary   |
|--|----------------|---|
| Adelante Mujeres                         | \$141,120      | Social-Emotional Wellness focused on early childhood provider education and family support                |
| Greater Than                             | \$10,797       | Family engagement in early kindergarten registration, parent and child workshops, and wrap around support |
| Immigrant Refugee Community Organization | \$110,000      | Culturally specific kindergarten preparedness centered around parent-caregiver engagement                 |
| Little Train Day Care                    | \$59,900       | STEAM focused parent/child program engaging caregivers and children in skill building                     |
| Sherwood SD                              | \$29,250       | Free community preschool & community based early learning space for caregiver engagement                  |
| Tigard-Tualatin SD/ Latino Network       | \$150,000      | Culturally specific caregiver and child engagement emphasizing literacy & kindergarten readiness          |

### LOOKING AHEAD

Based on feedback and recommendations from our community and Steering Committee, we have developed a new award structure for the 2023-2025 Biennium. This award structure will include 2 grant options:

#### Tier 1 - Summer program

Award date: May 1, 2023

Amount: \$50,000 available for up to 4 awardees

#### Tier 2 - Two-year program

Award date: July 1, 2023

Amount: \$150,000 available for up to 4 awardees

### APPLICATIONS FOR THESE GRANTS WILL OPEN IN EARLY 2023!





# Early STEM Framework

Early STEM Framework continued supporting and expanding the ELWC Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) framework.

Our approach is rooted in five main elements: equity and quality in access, parent engagement and leadership, county and state coordination, educator preparation/professional development and curriculum instruction.

Despite all the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, ELWC has been able to grow its Early STEM framework:

- **Professional Development.** Offered two (2) Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), with an Engineering focus, were offered in English and Spanish. **Forty providers** participated in these two-part trainings accruing a total of **240 hours** of professional development combined.
- **2022 Early STEM Summer Camps.** ELWC partnered with The Iraqi Arabic School to serve more than **89 Arabic** and **50 Dari and Pashto speaking children**. Interpretation services in Dari/Pashto supported this effort. Flyers were created in Arabic as well as Pashto and Dari to support the enrollment. Children that participated in the program were from Libya, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Afghanistan. This year K-8 STEM out-of-school activities were offered during weekends in a partnership with other agencies, Clear Water Services, OMSI, Zoo, Oregon Trail, etc.
- **Secured funding** to continue programming around Early STEM. Received funds from PNC, Meyer Memorial Trust, Colling Foundation, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and Portland METRO STEM Partnership.
- **Family Science Night for Parents.** In a partnership with OMSI, the **BIPOC-focused STEAM Ecosystem** rented OMSI for families served through by the Ecosystem partners. More than 800 people joined us in this successful event!

- Participated in a collective grant to build a **BIPOC-focused STEAM Ecosystem** that empowers the community to lead and hold decision-making authority to expand access to high-quality STEM and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) learning opportunities for historically marginalized children and youth. The ecosystem will leverage existing community organizations, programming, volunteers and other assets while also building community capacity to provide high-quality culturally focused STEM learning experiences. Partners include:
  - The PSU Foundation, the Portland Metro STEM Partnership,
  - Adelante Mujeres,
  - Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization (CAIRO),
  - Centro Cultural Del Condado de Washington,
  - Early Learning Washington County (United Way),
  - Iraqi Community and the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
  - The NE STEAM Coalition, Beaverton School District Multilingual Department,
  - Hillsboro School District Multilingual STEM and Multilingual Departments.
- **MAD Scientist! Day.** ELWC partnered with The Iraqi Arabic School to serve more than 50 children in a MAD Scientist! Day organized at the Beaverton City Library. For more information, read our article in how to promote a more inclusive STEAM learning ecosystem [www.unitedway-pdx.org/stories/promoting-more-inclusive-steam-learning-ecosystem-requires-teamwork](http://www.unitedway-pdx.org/stories/promoting-more-inclusive-steam-learning-ecosystem-requires-teamwork).
- **Training for Trainers: Building Confidence and Expertise as a STEM Educator and Trainer** is a Training for Trainers for 12 Black, Indigenous, Latinx/e, Asian, and Pacific Islander (BIPOC) educators who want to become in an Early STEM Master Trainer and/or Community Trainer. This is a pilot project that started in 2022 designed to grow the pool of Multilingual Early STEM workshops not only in English but in other languages as well.
- 10 participants from the cohort were selected to participate in the program and 9 of them received or are about to receive a Community Trainer or Master Trainer accreditation.
- Participants also co-facilitated sections of the STEM NGSS 101 workshops to other early learning educators.
  - Participants received a stipend of \$600 for their participation in the cohort.
- Infant/Toddler STEAM kits. Designed to increase parent-child interactions, ELWC convened monthly a group of community partners from community-based organizations, Early Head Start programs as well as parent leaders to create the prototypes for this project.

#### **Building capacity of stakeholders includes:**

- Increasing the number of BIPOC community mentors/educators
- Developing additional resources and assets
- Increasing the frequency of existing programming
- Developing access to year-round programming
- Expanding STEAM programming
- **The BIPOC-focused STEAM Ecosystem has received a \$1,629,410.00 matching grant** from the Oregon Community Foundation. We are currently active in raising the funding for the match!





# Schools, Parents and Communities Engaged (SPACE) EXPANSION

Increased support to the Somali/African children, youth, and families in Beaverton and Hillsboro. Schools, Parents, and Communities Engaged (SPACE) for African Student Success was developed by The Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization (CAIRO) to provide mentoring and tutoring support for school-age students in some Beaverton and now Hillsboro schools.

In 2022, we continued our the work under an ODE grant which saw the model expand sites in Beaverton & Hillsboro School Districts. Students and families have been readily engaging with the work.

The SPACE agents and SPACE tutors are in the following schools:

- McKinley Elementary
- Barnes Elementary
- Five Oaks Middle School
- Meadow Park Middle School
- Southridge High School
- Aloha High School
- Beaverton High School
- Mountainside High School
- Westview High School
- Beaver Acres Elementary
- Mountain View Middle School
- Hillsboro schools (TBD)

# Early Life Systems and Supports

ELWC, Washington County Maternal Child and Family Program and Help Me Grow (HMG) enhances early life systems and supports with ongoing work to streamline communications across the central access point of Help Me Grow.

The vision is for families to easily access information, supports and services from pregnancy through early childhood in a central location and for these services, providers, and partners to be connected through this system.

**Help Me Grow** - A Central Access Point: Help Me Grow is a central access point serving families in need of information, support, or services from pregnancy through early childhood.

- Shared referral data and reviewed quarterly to improve the referral process among referring partners.
- **In 2022**, Help Me Grow made and received over 1,500 referrals from the community referral partners.







In 2022, **Family Connects received over 900 referrals** and completed **217 home visits** to connect families with newborns to services for basic needs, early education, health, and parenting support.

This program continues in collecting data that supports community alignment and provider engagement across perinatal services within the county and has begun to identify service gaps and systems improvement for referrals and connections to needed services and programs. Those include housing services and maternal mental health.

**Served over 400 families** with nurse home visiting services in Nurse Family Partnership, CaCoon and Babies First! These programs support the health and developmental needs of the children and families, while also connecting them to community resources (food, financial assistance, health insurance/Medicaid, housing and health care services). They provide parenting education and early learning opportunities, in the families chosen language, to promote school readiness.

**The Maternal Child and Family Program** leveraged American Recovery Plan federal funds to continue support for a community health worker and provide diapers and wipes for families with diaper need at each visit. Over 1,275 packs of diapers were provided to families with need served by nurse home visiting in 2022.

#### **Outreach and Engagement:**

- Engaged with housing partners, Bienestar, REACH and CPAH, to share and promote MCF and Early Learning services and programs at 25 events reaching over 800 residents.
- Engaged with faith-based, culturally specific, and community-based organizations to promote Help Me Grow and Early Learning services and program at four events reaching over 800 community members.
- MCF held annual celebration for families participating in nurse home visiting programs. Nearly 100 people gathered in-person at Shute Park for family activities including water play, crafts, and bilingual story time with Washington County Cooperative Library Services.

- MCF hired a community health worker (CHW) to support nurse home visiting programs and provide culturally responsive community outreach. In 2022 all CHWs in the program completed certification trainings to register with the State of Oregon as traditional health workers and health care interpreters serving the Spanish-speaking community in Washington County.
- Partnered with Washington County Cooperative Library Services to provide Every Child Ready to Read workshops for parents and community partners working with families. A recording of the workshop promoting early literacy is available as a professional development tool for home visiting staff in MCF and Healthy Families programs.
- Launched virtual Moms Support Circles/Platicas de apoyo para Mamas. The weekly groups provide a safe space for new and experienced moms to share parenting strategies, learn about community resources, and support one another. From March to December 2022, 31 mothers participated across both English and Spanish groups interpreters serving the Spanish-speaking community in Washington County.

## WHAT PARTICIPANTS IN THE MOMS SUPPORT CIRCLES ARE SAYING...



*The Moms Support Group has had a positive impact on my journey as a new mom. I always look forward to our weekly meetings. The facilitators are very professional, insightful, and they provided a safe space for participating mothers to be vulnerable about any challenges. Such an empowering group*

*In this group I feel like I can show my real self – take off my labels and be presenting myself authentically – and not be ashamed of who I am and what I'm about.*