



Southern Oregon Early Learning Services

Presentation to SOESD Board of Directors
September 16, 2026

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Director

Background

16 Early Learning Hubs in Oregon

Ours serves Jackson and Josephine

Conveners and aligners of the region's early learning system

SOESD serves as fiscal and administrative backbone agency

Target Population: 15,500 children birth through age five,
and their families

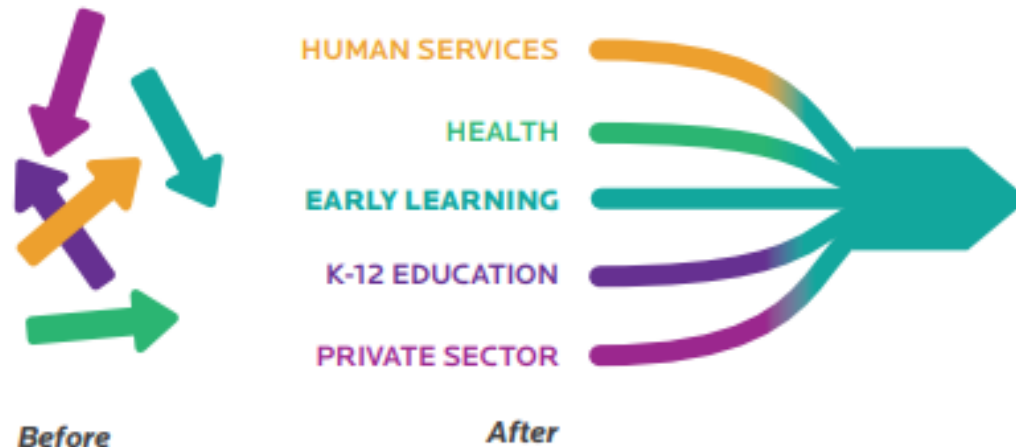
Team: 8 amazing humans

Biennial DELC and OHA Budget: \$2.8M, plus philanthropic funding



Early Learning Hubs are **neutral conveners** and cross-sector **system aligners**.
We use data analysis and stakeholder input to identify gaps and opportunities.

In partnership with other community leaders and members,
we invest funding into strategic efforts to increase regional capacity for strategies
that are working well and to launch new initiatives that will improve outcomes
for families with children 0-5.



Shared goals,
objectives and
strategies to
improve
outcomes for
children &
families

Two Broad Areas of Focus

Addressing the Region's Child Care Crisis

- More than 50% of families cannot afford child care
- 58% of surveyed child care teachers indicated they were considering a job change due to escalated behaviors in children
- 14 communities in our two-county region lack any licensed child care programs
- We've raised \$1.4 M to begin addressing these issues (2024-present)

Strengthening Family Engagement

- Survey: heard from 340 families in 2022
- Fewer than 50% stated they had the resources and support for their children's social, emotional, and learning needs
- We asked what they needed:
 - Social connections
 - Early literacy opportunities
 - Outdoor activities
 - Art and music
 - Infants, toddlers, preschool
 - Support for children experiencing disabilities
 - Spanish language support
 - FREE

So...we built it!

Launched October 2022

- 1 Large multi-purpose room
- 1 Family Support Group Room

150 families per week; 200+ people

- Read Play Talk Groups for Preschool
- Creative Art Groups for Preschool
- Infant Groups for new parents
- Toddler Groups
- Parent Support Groups
- Referrals to services
- Children's Yoga
- Aikido
- Free diaper and formula closet

After 4 years, we needed more space!



Protective Factors are woven into every decision



Room to Grow and Dream BIG

- Opportunity to move to larger space
 - 3 large classrooms
 - Family Support Group space
 - Drop in office space and conference room for family-serving partners
 - New offerings coming soon:
 - Pregnancy and childbirth classes
 - Parenting education classes
 - Child Care Provider trainings
 - And more!
- Grant writing for facility improvements: roof, ramp, plumbing, etc. Secured \$45K since June. Waiting to hear about another \$30K.



In August, we surveyed the families, asking them to use one or two words to describe the center in the new space...

