What is School Readiness?

Head Start School Readiness Graph

This graph reflects the percentage of 597 enrolled 3- and 4-year-olds who met or exceeded school readiness outcomes as defined by the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Children were assessed at the completion of the school year. Fall data is not available due to circumstances of COVID-19.

Head Start’s dedicated approach to school readiness means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children’s learning, and schools are ready for children. For the 2020-2021 school year, results of these targeted efforts were remarkable at 70 percent of four-year-olds served by Head Start are meeting or exceeding developmental expectations at the completion of our Head Start program and 87 percent of children served by Early Head Start are also meeting or exceeding developmental expectations.

Early Head Start School Readiness Graph

This graph reflects the percentage of 188 children enrolled in Early Head Start who met or exceeded school readiness outcomes as defined by the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Early Head Start children were assessed at the completion of the school year. Fall data is not available due to circumstances of COVID-19.
Parent Engagement

Early Head Start and Head Start programs recognize parents as a child’s primary teacher and nurturer. Research shows that positive child and family outcomes happen when professionals and families work in partnership with one another and share responsibility for the learning and care of children. Family engagement efforts support parent-child relationships that are key to a child’s health development, school readiness and well-being—now and in the future.

At Head Start, this partnership begins from the first moment of enrollment. Parents are actively engaged in every aspect of their child’s education. Enrolled families maintain regular communication with teachers and their participation in the classroom experience is encouraged. Programs work alongside parents to offer support and guidance for their child’s success. If the program is unable to meet a family’s need, Early Head Start and Head Start professionals will work to connect families with community resources that will support their continued well-being.

Parents are also involved in program governance, volunteering and a variety of adult trainings. The program’s governing body, Early Head Start and Head Start Policy Council, is primarily composed of parent representatives. The role of the Head Start Policy Council is defined by the program’s performance standards as “guiding decisions about program goals and plans, annual budgets and personnel functions.” A minimum of 51 percent of the policy council are parents of children currently enrolled in the program.
Community Assessment

The below summary of the 2020 Community Assessment provides an illustration of demographic, social and economic trends affecting low and moderate income populations, as well as the Central Oregon region as a whole.

Demographics, Population and Poverty

- For the 10-year period ending in 2020, Deschutes County’s 24.9% population increase was the highest in the state. Population growth in Crook County was 11.7 percent and in Jefferson County, 11 percent.

- Population aged 65 and older is higher in Central Oregon than the state as a whole. Crook County’s senior population and median age are much higher than the region and are among the highest in the state.

- Poverty rates in Crook and Jefferson counties remain above the State average at 13.5 percent and 17.9 percent, respectively. Deschutes County’s poverty rate was 10.8 percent.

- Poverty rates for children continue to be higher than rates for ages 18+. Poverty rates for non-white populations are higher than poverty rates for the white population.

- Birth rates are dropping in Central Oregon. Rates in Crook and Deschutes counties are the lowest in the region, and are significantly lower than the state as a whole.

Employment, Income & Assets

- Levels of educational attainment vary across the region. Deschutes County’s percentage of population with a 4-year degree was 38.8%, compared to 19.8% of Crook County residents and 19.3% of Jefferson County residents.

- Student loan debt levels have climbed dramatically over the past 10+ years.

- According to American Community Survey data, median household income for each Central Oregon county is as follows: Crook, $49,006; Deschutes, $71,643; Jefferson, $53,277; Warm Springs, $45,417.

- Several asset-related trends are improving in Central Oregon, including asset poverty rates, households with zero net worth, and unbanked/under-banked households.

Early Childhood and Child Care

- Child care supply is a major problem in the region; each county has been designated a child care desert. The problem is particularly acute in Crook and Deschutes counties.
Community Assessment

• Child care affordability is a problem in Oregon, ranking 14th highest nationally in terms of infant and toddler care costs.

• Across the 3 counties, the percentage of children under age 5 experiencing poverty is 25 percent. The region with the largest percentage of early childhood poverty is Warm Springs.

Housing

• Rates of homeownership are higher in Central Oregon than the state as a whole. Rates are highest in Crook and Deschutes Counties. Rates of homeownership in Central Oregon are increasing since 2011, and rebounding to their pre-recession levels of 2007-2011.

• An increasing number of households are not keeping up with rent, likely due to COVID-related economic reasons. Rent costs are high while vacancy rates are low.

• Home prices throughout Central Oregon have increased dramatically over the past several years. In most parts of the region, sale prices have doubled, while the days on the market have decreased to the single digits.

Homelessness

• Overall homeless numbers increased by 13 percent in Central Oregon in 2021. Numbers of homeless children have decreased in 2021.

• Despite continued investments in the regional shelter network, 74 percent or 824 of the total homeless population were unsheltered on the night of the shelter count including 226 who were under the age of 25, according to the Homeless Leadership Coalition.

Food

• Central Oregon’s food insecurity rates are high – particularly in Crook and Jefferson counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs where food insecurity rates are significantly higher than rates for Oregon and the US as a whole.

• Central Oregon has a higher percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits than the state as a whole.

• Food distributed by NeighborImpact’s emergency food program has increased dramatically over the past five years. Households served through the USDA food program have increased by 19.6% since 2016. Pounds of food distributed since 2017 has nearly doubled (45.5% increase) since 2017.
## Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Budget %</th>
<th>Budgetary Expenditure</th>
<th>Budget %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wages &amp; Benefits Program</td>
<td>$7,360,152</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>$6,358,601</td>
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<td>Wages &amp; Benefits Administrative</td>
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<td>3%</td>
<td>$307,052</td>
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<td>Administration (Shared Costs)</td>
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<td>Property/Rent/Utilities/Telephone &amp; Liability Insurance</td>
<td>$1,865,444</td>
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<td>Staff Training &amp; Mileage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Fees &amp; Services</td>
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<td>$120,995</td>
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<td>Equipment &amp; Supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child &amp; Family Services</td>
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<td>$493,209</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,118,793</strong></td>
<td><strong>5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,768,701</strong></td>
<td><strong>5%</strong></td>
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## Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Sources</th>
<th>Budgeted Revenue</th>
<th>Budget %</th>
<th>Actual Revenues</th>
<th>Budget %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Head Start</td>
<td>$2,920,382</td>
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<td>$2,372,323</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<td>Oregon Pre-Kindergarten Head Start</td>
<td>$9,582,850</td>
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<td>USDA/CACFP</td>
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<td>Oregon Health Authority Head Start</td>
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<td>$157,847</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>$58,066</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,118,793</strong></td>
<td><strong>1%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,821,695</strong></td>
<td><strong>1%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Focus Area Two Monitoring Review of NeighborImpact’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs found the programs to have met the requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements.

NeighborImpact’s Head Start Financial Audit found no material weaknesses, instances of noncompliance or deficiencies in internal control and the organization was determined to be low-risk.
During the 2020-2021 school year, NeighborImpact’s Head Start Program successes include:

- Head Start maintained an 83 percent average monthly enrolment.
- Served 84 percent of eligible children in Head Start.
- Served 88 percent of eligible children in Early Head Start.
- Served 480 children and families in Head Start.
- Served 597 children and families in Head Start and 188 children and families in Early Head Start.
- 67% of children (that’s 400 of 597 children) in Head Start have had a well-child exam.
- 47 % of children (that’s 88 of 188 children) in Early Head Start have had a well-child exam.
- 92 % of children (that’s 549 of 597 children) in Head Start completed an oral health exam.
- 86 % of children (that’s 162 of 188 children) in Early Head Start completed an oral health exam.
- 61,245 meals and snacks delivered to Head Start families.
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Please call (541) 548-2380 for our regional office locations in La Pine, Madras, and Prineville.

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