

Season's Greetings

Director's Corner



THREE-YEAR GRANT EXPANDS EQUITY EFFORTS IN THREE SOUTHERN OREGON COUNTIES



Press Release:

The [South-Central Oregon Early Learning Hub](#) and [Douglas Education Service District](#) have received a three-year regional equity grant totaling \$126,260 to better serve communities of color and families facing financial hardships in Douglas, Klamath and Lake counties.

The grant comes from the Meyer Memorial Trust and is distributed through Meyer's Equitable Education portfolio. It's one of 193 awards totaling \$22.7 million given to nonprofit groups as part of the trust's 2017 Annual Funding Opportunity.

Funds for the regional equity grant will be used to build on work already in place to serve families in the three counties. The grant announcement follows the Hub's efforts earlier this year to assess equity and to recruit leadership teams seeking to learn which diversity, equity and inclusion approaches would best fit the region.

"Because of the work we did on a Hub equity assessment last year, we were successful in this grant application to bring resources to build on leadership opportunities," said Gillian Wesenberg, director of the South-Central Oregon ELH. "We are excited about the opportunity to expand on our equity assessment and to adopt more inclusive practices to serve the children and families who rely on us."

The Early Learning Hub and Douglas ESD are working together to determine how programs can become more culturally responsive to the populations they serve.

In this sense, "culture" has a definition beyond race or income level, requiring different responses for different populations.

Examples of improved responsiveness could be ensuring that materials are available in languages other than English, or being aware of transportation barriers and delivering a service more directly to clients.

"We will have a consultant working with a leadership team to provide that wisdom, which is an evolutionary process," Analia Nicholson, Director of Instructional Services with Douglas ESD said. "It's about building knowledge of how people are the same and different, and how you provide a program that works best for those you are serving."

The grant will help the Hub and Douglas ESD increase representation of underserved communities on governance councils, leadership teams, advisory and parent committees. Their roles will include expanding policies and procedures to be more inclusive of people of color and those dealing with economic hardship.

The Meyer Memorial Trust is a private foundation that has awarded roughly \$700 million in grants and program-related investments to more than 3,200 organizations in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

The [South-Central Oregon Early Learning Hub](#) has been part of [Douglas Education Service District](#) since July 2014. The hub pulls together partners and families to align and coordinate resources focused on children and

Regional Home Visiting Coordination & System Project Community UPLiFT

Community UPLiFT is a collective group of home visiting organizations working together to develop a common intake and referral system to assist families in effectively accessing home visiting services.

We have “four buckets” of work: Internal communication, external communication, a coordinated intake/referral system, and professional development. They continue to make progress in this work.

Community UPLiFT has been working on internal communication for the last year. Internal communication refers to the information sharing that occurs within our home visiting programs about services, trainings, families, or other resources. We continue to build and strengthen trusting relationships. Our one-year data results show that effective communication between home visiting program leaders and home visitors within the region (involved in the collaborative) has strengthened from 23% strongly agreed or agreed to 68% - a 45% change from 2016 to 2017. This data is helpful in confirming the strong foundation that has been built. Also, we have the sense that it is an opportune time to add additional committee members to the advisory/workgroups and regional leadership committees. New committee members include Sky Lakes Medical Center; Women, Infants, & Children (WIC); Cascade Health Alliance in Klamath County.

In September, Community UPLiFT piloted our coordinated intake/referral form and process with two community agencies in each county.



In Douglas County, this includes: Integrated Women's Health Care

Associates and a liaison from Yoncalla Early Works. Klamath County participants are: Klamath Basin Behavioral Health (KBBH) and Sky Lake Medical Center. In Lake County, this includes: North Lake County WIC and Department of Human Services (DHS)/Lake District Hospital home visitors.

Each participating agency has agreed to give feedback about the intake/referral form and the process. The feedback will be received after a 90-day trial through a survey developed by Portland State University. Information gathered from the survey will be used to make adjustments where needed and assist in developing a plan for regional rollout. Feedback will also be included from participating families who volunteer to take a short survey. Since piloting in September, Community UPLiFT has received a total of 10 referrals.

We look forward to building a strong professional development plan in the coming year through collaboration efforts with community partners and stakeholders. In addition, we are excited to develop a logo, launch a web page for community partners and families, and participate in events throughout the region.

For more information, contact [Vanessa Pingleton](#), Regional Home Visiting Coordinator

[Click Here](#) for a one-year summary of the Home Visiting Project

Request for Applications Now Available!

The Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI/P3) grant request for applications (RFA) is now available through an **online** process. If you are interested in applying, please follow

this link to the portal: [Click Here](#). **RFA submissions are due by 5:00 pm on January 5, 2018.**

If you have questions about the grant application please contact [Cynthia Hurkes](#). For portal assistance, please contact [Alysha Barraza](#).



Parenting is hard, but Parenting Wisely can help. It equips parents and caregivers with the tools necessary to engage their children in difficult family scenarios. A Young Child Edition is available FREE to parents in Douglas, Klamath and Lake Counties. A Teen Edition is available in Douglas County through a partnership with CHI Mercy.

For more information about Parenting Wisely: [Click Here](#)

Take Root offers a variety of other parenting education series and workshops, and partners with other community agencies to support their parent education efforts.

For more information: [Click Here](#)



Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)

The Employment-Related Day Care program (ERDC) helps eligible low-income families pay for child care while they are working. ERDC is a subsidy program, meaning eligible families still pay part of the child care cost.

ERDC also works with providers and other child care partners across the state to help families find and keep good child care, improve the availability of quality child care in Oregon, and to develop resources for parents and child care providers.

For more information: [Click Here](#)

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Did you know?

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a federal tax credit for people, particularly with children, who have a low to moderate income. Even if these people do not owe taxes or are not required to file, they may still be eligible!

One out of every **five** taxpayers in Oregon who qualify for this tax credit will not claim it. Why? They don't know it exists.

Please share information about the EITC with the families you work with.

For more information: [Click Here](#)



Congratulations to **Kim Hess**, who has earned her Step 10 in Oregon Registry, which records and recognizes the professional development growth and achievement of people who work with and for children and families.

She has also been awarded a **5-Star SPARK** rating! She is the first registered family childcare provider in Klamath County to have been awarded this!



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Danielle Walker | (541) 850-1138 ext. 2113 | Danielle.walker@douglasesd@k12.or.us