



Board Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2022

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Join via Zoom by clicking [HERE](#)

Passcode: 2022

Via Zoom Phone: 1-669-900-9128

Meeting ID: 885 7468 8282

Passcode: 2022

AGENDA

- | | | | |
|----|------|---|--|
| 1) | 9:00 | Call to Order & Agenda Review | Chair,
Commissioner
Buch |
| 2) | 9:05 | Roll Call | Staff,
Justin Peterson |
| 3) | 9:10 | CWEDD Board Membership (Handout) & Election of Officers (Attachment A & B)
The officers of the District Board shall consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair elected from among the representatives and by the duly appointed representatives on the District Board for one-year terms after March 1st. Officers may be re-elected for up to three consecutive terms.

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall not be residents of the same Council of Governments Region.

ACTION: Election of Officers | Chair |
| 4) | 9:20 | Public Comment | Chair |
| 5) | 9:25 | Minutes of February 10, 2021 Meeting (Attachment C) | Chair |
| | | ACTION: Approval of Minutes | |
| 6) | 9:30 | Family Forward Presentation (Attachments D and E)
Family Forward presentation on Oregon's childcare crisis and how cities and counties can make a long-term sustainable impact utilizing the Child Care Investment Package administered by Seeding Justice. | Chair Buch
Introduction and
Guest, Family
Forward
Representative |
| 7) | 9:55 | Albany YMCA Childcare Presentation
Chris Reese, CEO YMCA of Albany, presentation on local solutions to the childcare crisis. Growing Leaders Early Child | Guest, Chris
Reese |

Care preschool for ages 3-5 years old is a unique, replicable solution.

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|-----|-------|--|---|
| 8) | 10:15 | Childcare Working Group Update
The Linn, Benton, and Lincoln County Childcare group continues to meet regularly. | Staff |
| 9) | 10:25 | Presentation: Mass Timber
The Mass Timber project was selected as one of sixty finalists (only Oregon finalist) for Phase 1 of the American Rescue Plan's \$1 Billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge. The coalition, led by the Port of Portland, aims to expand the regional mass timber industry cluster. | Guest, Leigh Mcilvaine with DLCD |
| 10) | 10:45 | Discussion: CEDS Working Groups (Attachment F) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Broadband Action Team (BAT)</i>• <i>Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)</i>• <i>Early Childhood Education</i>• <i>Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)</i>• <i>Lane Economic Committee (LEC)</i>• <i>Other workgroup updates?</i> | Staff, Jenny Glass and Justin Peterson |
| 11) | 10:50 | Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Executive Committee Updates</i>• <i>Staff Updates</i>• <i>Jurisdiction Updates</i> | Chair/Staff |
| 12) | 11:00 | Adjournment
<i>Next Meeting: August 11, 2022 (may be rescheduled to September or cancelled)</i> | Chair |

Attendance (For Quorum Purposes)

OCWCOG Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
Pat Malone	Commissioner	Benton County	
Claire Hall	Commissioner	Lincoln County	
Jim Lepin	Mayor	City of Millersburg	
Sherrie Sprenger	Commissioner	Linn County	
Alan Rowe	Councilor	City of Adair Village	
Dean Sawyer	Mayor	City of Newport	
Paul Shuytema	Executive Director	EDALC	
Chris Workman	City Manager	City of Philomath	
Kelly Hart	Director	City of Lebanon	
John Pascone	President	AMEDC	
Pam Barlow-Lind	Tribal Planner	CTSI	
Kate Porsche	Economic Development	City of Corvallis	
Lane Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
Greg James	Board Member	WillamaLane Parks and Rec	
Tom Cotter	Council Member	City of Veneta	
Randy Groves	City Councilor	City of Eugene	
Heather Buch	Commissioner	Lane County	
Patti Chappel	President	Emerald People's Utility Dist.	
Mary Walston	Board Member	4J School District	
Greg Ervin	Council Member	City of Cottage Grove	
Matt Michel	City Manager	City of Veneta	

Quorum Requirement: CWEDD business may be conducted provided a quorum of members attends. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the membership of the District Board. The CWEDD members may participate by telephone or other means of electronic communication, provided the meeting is called to order at a meeting place where the public can attend, hear, understand and/or read the comments of the members participating by telephone or electronic means and the members so participating can fully hear, understand, and/or read the comments of the other members participating in the meeting.

CASCADES WEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD**BYLAWS****I. PURPOSE AND DUTIES**

The purpose of the Cascades West Economic Development District Governing Board (District Board) is to serve as the governing body of the Cascades West Economic Development District (District), which is an Economic Development District Organization recognized by the federal U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. Purpose and duties of the District are enumerated in its Articles of Agreement.

II. MEMBERSHIP, TERMS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVAL

- (A) The District shall be governed by a District Board of twenty (20) members, appointed as specified in the District's Articles of Agreement.
- (B) Each District Board member serving as a representative of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Executive Committee or the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Executive Board shall serve on the Cascades West Economic Development District Governing Board as long as their Council of Governments term lasts. Each District Board member who is a county representative shall be reaffirmed or reappointed, annually.
- (C) County District Board Members are subject to removal if they miss two (2) consecutive District Board meetings. In such an event, the Council of Governments which originally appointed the representative may remove that member from the District Board. The district Governing Board may request the removal, but shall not have the power of removal.
- (D) In order to be eligible for various types of federal Economic Development Administration assistance, including public works and loan guarantee programs, areas must actively participate in the Economic Development District's planning process. County government participation provides for inclusion of its incorporated area. Active participation is defined as being a member of the Council of Governments:

III. ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES

- (A) The District Board shall meet at least once a year. At least one (1) month notice shall be given to the membership for a regular meeting. Regular meetings shall be held in Benton, Lincoln, Lane, or Linn Counties.

- (B) Additional meetings in person, or electronically, may be called by the Chair with the concurrence of two (2) additional members, or by a majority of the full membership of the District Board.
- (C) Meetings may be held by telephone or other means of electronic communication, and the District Board members may participate in any meeting by telephone or other means of electronic communication with advance notice of 48 hours given to staff. Such telephonic or electronic participation may only occur if the meeting is called to order at a location where all District Board members and any member of the general public can attend, understand, and either hear or read the comments of all members participating in the meeting.
- (D) Each member shall be entitled to one vote on matters before the District Board.
- (E) A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the membership of the District Board.
- (F) Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a simple majority of the members present and voting shall be sufficient to decide a question before the District Board.
- (G) Unless otherwise specified, Roberts Rules of Order Revised shall govern the proceedings of the meetings of the Board.

IV. OFFICERS

- (A) The officers of the District Board shall consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair elected from among the representatives and by the duly appointed representatives on the District Board for one-year terms after March 1st. Officers may be re-elected for up to three consecutive terms.
- (B) A vacancy in the office of Chair of the District shall be filled by the Vice-Chair for the unexpired term. In such an event, a new Vice-Chair shall be elected, at the next regular or special meeting of the District Board and they shall serve the balance of their term of that office.
- (C) Duties of the Chair: The Chair shall have general supervisory and direction powers of the District, shall preside at all District meetings, and shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of all committees of the District. The Chair is the sole official spokesperson of the governing body on all matters of policy and position, unless this responsibility is delegated in writing or electronically, to another member of the governing body, or a member of a board or committee appointed by the governing body.

- (D) Duties of the Vice-Chair: In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall execute all the powers of the Chair.

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall not be residents of the same Council of Governments Region.

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- (A) An annual organizational meeting shall be held by the District Board no later than June 30th of each year during which officers for the coming year will be elected at that meeting
- (B) Nominations may be made from the floor and candidates receiving a simple majority vote of those members present at the annual organizational meeting shall be declared elected.

VI. COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD

- (A) A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee for the District will be appointed by the Boards of the Councils of Governments. Federal requirements and balancing membership between the two Council of Governments areas will be considered in appointing the Strategy Committee.
- (B) Executive Committee
 1. Composition: An executive committee shall consist of one representative from each County, and one at large member for a total of five. The board chair, and board vice chair, shall serve as the chair and vice chair respectively, of the executive committee. The representatives of each County shall be selected annually by the CWEDD board.
 2. Duties: The duties of the executive committee will include, but will not be limited to, acting on behalf of the CWEDD board between meetings. Taking action in situations determined by the Chair to be urgent. Be responsible for routine housekeeping duties, such as determining the content of agendas. Taking needed timely action on issues within the context of decisions or positions previously taken by the CWEDD board. However, the executive committee shall refrain from action on items that can wait for a regular CWEDD board meeting, and refrain from making decisions regarding project priorities.
 3. Chair and Vice-Chair: The chair and vice-chair of the board shall serve as the chair and vice chair of the executive committee and will have similar roles and authority as the chair and vice-chair of the board.
 4. Meetings and Quorum: A quorum shall be four of five members present. Alternates may serve on the executive committee if the representative is not able to attend a meeting and if the representative so decides. The Executive Committee shall meet as called by the Chair or CWEDD Staff. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be conducted in compliance with the Oregon Public Meetings Law as described in ORS 192.610 through ORS 192.690.
 5. Decisions and Recommendations: Decisions and recommendations of the Executive Committee will be communicated to the CWEDD board. When possible that communication shall be in writing via a memorandum.

- (C) In order to carry out work of the District Board, committees may be created by a majority vote of the District Board. The purpose and scope of activity of each committee shall be outlined in writing.
- (D) The Chair may appoint committee chairs and members.

VII. STAFF AND FINANCES

- (A) The OCWCOG shall provide staff and administrative services for the Cascades West Economic Development District. The Executive Director of OCWCOG shall be the Executive Director of the Cascades West Economic Development District.
- (B) At the direction of the District Board, the Executive Director is empowered to pursue and enter into such contracts, grants, and agreements as to carry out the planning functions of the district consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- (C) The District shall be funded by grants, gifts, contracts, and contributions. All revenue shall be deposited with the OCWCOG for use in conducting the Cascades West Economic Development District work program. Cascades West Economic Development District funds so deposited shall be accounted for in a manner that maintains this identity separate from other revenues of OCWCOG; however, they shall be integrated into the OCWCOG normal accounting system and audited as a part of the OCWCOG's annual audit. OCWCOG will provide an annual account summary at the same meeting in which the Chair and Vice Chair will be elected.
- (D) Expenditures shall be authorized, approved and completed as if they were OCWCOG expenditures. The Cascades West Economic Development District shall be assessed its share of OCWCOG indirect costs in the same manner as other programs of OCWCOG.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Bylaws shall be adopted by the Councils of Governments which are parties to the Articles of Agreement establishing the Cascades West Economic Development District. The District Board shall not amend its own bylaws, but may propose amendments for the consideration of the Councils of Governments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these Bylaws to be adopted by motion of their respective governing bodies, signed by the Chief Executive Officer and duly attested to by the respective clerk, recorder, or secretary.

OREGON CASCADES WEST
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

LANE COUNCIL OF COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS

Date

Date

ATTEST:

CWEDD Board Chairmanship History

**No noted Chair and Vice Chair prior to 2016.*

2016	2017
Chair – Mayor Sharon Konopa Vice Chair – Susy Lacer <i>Date of election: January 7, 2016</i>	Chair – Mayor Sharon Konopa Vice Chair – Susy Lacer
2018	2019
Chair – Councilor Dann Cutter Vice Chair – Rob Scoggin <i>Date of election: June 14, 2018</i>	Chair – Mayor Dann Cutter Vice Chair – Rob Scoggin
2020	2021
Chair – Commissioner Pat Malone Vice Chair – Greg James <i>Date of election: May 14, 2020</i>	Chair – Commissioner Heather Buch Vice Chair – Mayor Jim Lepin <i>Date of election: February 11, 2021</i>
2022	
Chair – Vice Chair <i>Date of election: May 12, 2022</i>	

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CWEDD BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 10th, 2022
9:02 am – 10:19 am
Zoom Remote Connection

DRAFT MINUTES

Committee Members: Commissioner Heather Buch, Mayor Jim Lepin, Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger, Councilor Jones, Paul Schuytema, Greg James, Councilor Randy Groves, Councilor Greg Ervin, Matt Michel, Commissioner Wyse, Kelly Hart, Alysia Rodgers, Chris Workman, Kate Porsche, President John Pascone, Anne Whittington

Guest Presenter: Patrick O'Connor

Staff: Jenny Glass, Justin Peterson, Emma Chavez, and Brenda Wilson

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION / CONCLUSION
1. Call to Order & Agenda Review		Meeting called to order at 9:02 am by Chair Commissioner Heather Buch. There were no changes to the agenda.
2. Roll Call		Staff Justin Peterson completed roll call.
3. Public Comment		There were no public comments.
4. Minutes of September 30, 2021, Meeting		Consensus to approve the September 30, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.
5. Final Approval to add the RAIN amended language and CWEDD metrics framework to the CEDS appendix	Staff Justin Peterson stated that the Board approved moving forward for public comment on the two amendments. There were no public comments received. Staff recommend moving forward to officially add amendments to the CEDS (the changes for RAIN and the appendix added). Councilor Randy Groves moved to approve the RAIN language. Consensus was unanimously approved. Staff Emma	Consensus to approve RAIN language as well as the CWEDD metrics framework

	Chavez asked to clarify if motion needed to include RAIN and CWEDD metrics separately for vote. Chair Commissioner Heather Buch noted both approvals need to happen. Councilor Groves moved to approve CWEDD metrics framework to the CEDS appendix. Consensus was unanimously approved.	
6. Discussion: Regional Economic Update-Presentation	<p>Key notes of presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job loss was 15% in spring of 2020 • Benton, Lane, and Lincoln remain at Deficit • Leisure and Hospitality; Education and Health Services; and Government show the largest employment decline statewide • During the pandemic employment declined most in local government education; leisure and hospitality; private education; and health services • Linn County's total employment is back to pre-pandemic level. Large gains in transportation and warehousing have offset large manufacturing losses • Oregon's metro areas that experienced the steepest job loss during the pandemic have grown fastest over the year. • Most common reason adults are not returning to work is lack of childcare. Children not in school due to pandemic or no daycares available • Noted from Indeed.com many with spouses that are employed do not have the same urgency as employers right now • Statewide: Office of Economic Analysis expects a return to pre-pandemic job levels by 2024 <p>Greg James asked if the information was able to be accessed to share with Boards. O'Connor shared the link to the chat.</p>	Presenter: Patrick O'Connor

	<p>Councilor Greg Ervin asked analysis of other states has been done for comparison contributing to lag?</p> <p>O'Connor stated same industries are being hit throughout different states nationally. States with highest unemployment rates are Hawaii and Nevada. Rural counties did not see as big of an impact vs large metro area.</p> <p>Councilor Ervin noted bus driver shortage may not be primary income for some areas. For local areas, vaccine mandates impacted bus drivers. No information from legislation or governmental on how it was handled regarding jobs. Asked if any of this was factored in?</p> <p>O'Connor stated there was a struggle to get information regarding this. Seems people are handling it differently. Healthcare is a concerning area from burnout and turn over.</p> <p>Councilor Groves stated the importance of the data received. Would like to share with the Chamber of Commerce with where we are now and where actions are going to get them to.</p> <p>O'Connor commented the demographic challenges as new generation is smaller then "baby boomer" generation was. Added challenge.</p> <p>Councilor Groves asked if any data that ties workforce shortages with the metric to supply change shortages? Not aware of measures that tie two together.</p> <p>O'Connor stated response is largely labor shortage issue bigger challenge vs supply chain issue. Cost wise supply chain will be felt in inflation.</p> <p>Glass thanked O'Connor and stated it is good to have data to track down priorities, strategies, and check if in the right spot.</p> <p>Councilor Ervin asked if given advice for where to focus to be more resilient in the future, what industries should be a focus on to increase</p>	
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	<p>this regions resiliency? O'Connor stated it is hard to predict. Pandemic is rare. Important to work with industries you have and making them the best you can is best for Economic Development.</p>	
<p>7. Discussion: CEDS Working Groups</p>	<p>Staff Jenny Glass referred to the agenda packet for Working Groups informational update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Broadband Action Team (BAT)</i> <p>Updated material provided from Rachael Maddock-Hughes. Glass reported the effort to get mapping done of broadband infrastructure and speed around the state. Mapping has been completed for Washington State. Statewide effort plan scheduled for February in effort with Link Oregon and Geopartners. Glass reported there is potentially up to half of a billion dollars in funds coming into the state for broadband thru Broadband office. Glass noted Rachael Maddock-Hughes was elected to sit on the rules committee for the Broadband Fund and that Maddock-Hughes had applied for available grants for different programs. Glass updated still working thru Economic Development Administration Broadband Grant. Lane County did exit grant.</p> <p>Matt Michel asked EDA Broadband Grant focus. Glass reported it was written four years ago with all four counties as a feasibility study to look at testing broadband availability across the region and cost to build out access. With new state mapping plans, the regional grant scope will change to leverage this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)</i> <p>Chris Workman reported CWRC received a grant to study publicly owned mitigation banks. Helps knowing what costs would be and what it will look like. Studies getting ready to kick off.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Early Childhood Education</i> <p>Anne Whittington reported continuing to work with LBCC, OSU, Workforce and Economic Development offices on how to aid in opening more childcare slots in the region. Noted that \$100 million is allotted to rebuild childcare supply. Also noted the loss of 20% of childcare supply due to COVID. Whittingham stated there is an open position at LBCC as a business liaison to help jumpstart childcare facilities or expand on existing ones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Other workgroup updates?</i> <p>Chair Buck noted childcare is a hot topic. The childcare package in the legislature right now, short session, got a lot of energy behind it but its only a drop in the bucket for the need in Oregon without a more systematic approach to childcare. Chair Buch confirmed with Glass that there will be a more in-depth Board meeting on this topic in May.</p> <p>Councilor Ervin stated one of the areas of interest for either a presentation or noted is what initiatives or what coordination's with superintendents on schools there has been with the arena issuing additional charters in school districts to broaden opportunities for kids.</p> <p>Glass responded that it is a strategy they can look into.</p> <p>Mayor Jim Lepin responded the development: YMCA in Albany has purchased a building to expand the early childhood education and childcare. Millersburg is also looking to do the same thing by acquiring the temporary firehouse for the same purpose. Mayor Lepin questioned if there are discussions going on about bringing in other big businesses that can help support childcare.</p> <p>Glass responded that it is a workforce issue with employers. Some businesses are wanting/needing to be involved in these discussions. Glass noted that there is a shortage of facilities to house childcare programs. The childcare workgroup is asset mapping around</p>	
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	<p>availability of facilities, of providers, of businesses that want to engage in this.</p> <p>Staff Brenda Wilson responded that she was in D.C. recently to learn how to access the billions of dollars that are coming down. Federal dollars for COVID have already come to the states. Wilson noted that the states must use the funds by 2024. \$24 Billion in childcare business grants to use by 2023 and \$15 Billion in childcare subsidy dollars to use by 2024. Wilson noted that there is an opportunity to jumpstart the use of the funds and find childcare workers and facilities. Wilson noted it can be used to inform people how to access the funds and what they can be used for. Wilson noted the importance of gathering the information and starting to get it out to the region in a coordinated way.</p> <p>Greg James noted that there is a need from the release of school until parents are done working that have a need for childcare. James noted it is important to recognize all groups of childcare needs (in school, afterschool and not school aged).</p> <p>Councilor Ervin noted that there is a person interested in creating a cultural hub in Cottage Grove. The question is how to get started and how to access the financial portion. What are some of the restrictions for?</p> <p>Wilson stated she will be summarizing how to access the funds as the response she has received is that the information is “overwhelming”.</p> <p>Update for working group formally know as MVP. Kelly Hart and Alysia Rodgers from Lebanon spoke. Hart stated MVP (Mid Valley Partners) is now REAL (Rural Economic Alliance). Grant funds from COG and Business Oregon with ROI are being used to do rebranding to have landing website for rural communities that are working together. Now nine. Tangent recently joined. Hart stated REAL is working with RAIN to do entrepreneurship piece of economic development.</p> <p>Alysia stated the group has been put together for rural counties to bring a regional approach to economic development. Specifically</p>	
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	<p>focused on two counties. One item working toward website resource for marketing regions as a whole. Some communities have capacity to add more warehouse jobs. Some have capacities to add hospital and caregiving jobs. Communal groups will bring jobs to region as a whole. Hillary Norton noted critical need is group that works on rural vitality that works in Halsey. Work was slowed by COVID but back on track. Asked to be included on economic conversations that affect rural Benton and Linn counties. Would like to be advocate for rural communities.</p> <p>Glass stated the CWEDD Board would like to include REAL in meeting and support.</p>	
8. Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jurisdiction Updates</i> <p>John Pascone noted the Mid-Willamette Mobile Center in Millersburg is nearing completion of construction. Union Pacific Rail is doing South line to main line on site. Pad for the ITSC Con Global who will be operating. Marketing to shippers going well.</p> <p>Chris Workman noted buyer for Brewery in Philomath on west side as anchor. Philomath Family Medicine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2022 Meeting Schedule</i> 	No changes to 2022 meeting schedule for the year.
9. Adjournment		Meeting adjourned at 10:19 am

Oregon's Child Care Crisis

How can cities & counties make an impact?



Access to child care is necessary for joyful children, thriving families, and a strong economy.

But Oregon's system is failing. Without affordable, accessible child care options, many parents are faced with little choice but to leave their jobs. In fact, women lost more than 12.2 million jobs from February 2020 through April 2020, and in February 2021, women were still short nearly 5.1 million jobs compared to February 2020. Black women's and Latinas' unemployment rates continue to be more than 1.6 times higher than that of white men. While parents are unable to afford care, child care providers are not able to charge enough to cover the true costs to provide care, propping up our system with their low wages.

Every one of Oregon's 36 counties is a child care desert for at least one age group of children. That means there are 3+ children for every one child care spot. Plus, at the beginning of the pandemic, we saw close to 50% of our child care capacity evaporate. While some providers have reopened, this already struggling sector was hit hard this last year.

We cannot have an equitable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, or build a more equitable economy long-term, without deep investments in child care.

Cities and counties have the ability to make sustainable and long-term impact.

Build child care infrastructure

- Use city and county funds to help build new facilities. We have a facilities crisis in child care, spaces need to fit certain specifications and can be expensive to develop. Facilities that fit the bill or are developed to fit are rare, and this is making it impossible for providers to grow into larger spaces or to expand. Municipalities can also promote private development by providing incentives or requiring local developers to include child care facilities in their plans.
- Direct grants, donated space in city-owned buildings, and revolving loan funds can also provide much-needed assistance to start new child care programs or to help existing programs to make necessary expansions.
- Additionally, passing protections for providers who rent their homes and grant programs to help providers purchase the homes they provide care in are also great ways to increase child care infrastructure in our communities and support child care providers of all types.



Cities and counties have the ability to make sustainable and long-term impact (continued)

Review zoning regulations for family child care

Local zoning policies can make it difficult or impossible for residents to provide family child care services in their homes. Mayors and other city officials can modify zoning or licensing requirements to facilitate the development of new child care programs in previously off-limits commercial or residential areas.

Make child care more affordable

City and county leaders can support the use of general and/or ARPA funds for child care subsidies to families who do not qualify for federal or state government assistance but still cannot afford quality care. And, mayors and city councilmembers can lobby for increased state and federal funding for child care subsidies to working families.

Provide wage supplements and retention grants

The average wage for child care workers in the state is less than \$12 despite the critical nature of the work they do. While we work for wage increases at the state and federal level, localities can create publicly-funded wage supplement grants to early learning and child care workers or child care programs to increase wages for all types of providers, including those in centers, those in family homes, and those registered to provide friend/family/neighbor care.

Augment and leverage early childhood funding

Counties can follow the lead of Multnomah County and pass a universal preschool measure that gives access to a free, high-quality, developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive preschool to all 3 and 4-year-olds. Universal preschool, if done well, is one part of a universal child care system for kids of all ages. Additionally, it is a better use of public funds to invest in building a program that will universally serve kids, parents, providers than to fund small, stop-gap measures that continue to rely on a partial care system that is underfunded and struggling at every level.

Use the “bully pulpit” to raise awareness and build support

Municipal officials can use their influence and visibility with the general public and other policymakers to foster widespread support for local action. Opportunities to highlight the importance of essential care work, early childhood success and access to child care include: public speeches to community members; town hall and city council meetings; business roundtables; newspaper editorials; television interviews; and special programs on cable TV local access channels.

Who We Are

Family Forward Oregon organizes mothers and caregivers across all identities to fight for economic and reproductive justice for caregivers. We advocate for bold policies that value caregiving—the work that makes all other work possible. We believe that those who are most affected by inequities are in the best position to offer solutions. This is especially key for addressing Oregon’s child care crisis, which has significant consequences for families and providers who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color.

Courtney Helstein • courtney@familyforward.org
Lisa Kwon • lisakwon@familyforward.org



2022 Child Care Investment Package: Capacity Building Grants

Background:

Access to child care is necessary for joyful children, thriving families, and a strong economy. During the pandemic, we saw a spotlight on the need and purpose for child care, previously invisible. We saw child care provide the necessary infrastructure for Oregon's essential workforce to operate.

In 2021, the legislature passed HB 3073 which responds to the state's child care crisis and provided immediate and long-term relief to Oregon families most in need of child care by establishing the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) as an independent agency, incorporating and making reforms to the state's child care subsidy program, Employment Related Day Care (ERDC). HB 3073 creates DELIC beginning January 1, 2023 and ensures the transfer of ERDC from Oregon Department of Human Services to DELIC by July 1, 2023.

Now that we've improved how our Oregon's public child care system is set up, child care providers need additional support that recognizes the decades of financial scarcity rendering child care businesses nearly (and often) inoperable, and that actually invests in growing our child care supply, supporting our providers and educators, and supporting the new Department of Early Learning and Care.

Child care is critical to the economic stability of families and to a stable workforce. The vast majority of our child care workforce are women, and disproportionately women of color. Due to a historic lack of investment in this sector, providers are working with scarce resources to start or grow child care programs. Wages are low, margins are thin, and regulatory requirements are often difficult to navigate alone.

In 2022, we are bringing forward a package of strategic investments to not just stabilize, but to begin expanding the child care and early learning workforce and infrastructure and better prepare for likely massive federal investments in the near future.

As a part of an Early Learning Committee omnibus bill, the package will:

1. Increase child care subsidy rates to the 2020 market rate survey's 90th percentile, providing more financial stability for providers and parents' growing purchasing power with their ERDC subsidy.
2. **Create a new Child Care Capacity Building Grant Fund for the state to invest in beginning to build supply and bring new providers online.**
3. Provide direct relief payments to child care workers to recruit and retain this critical workforce.
4. Provide staffing necessary to ensure the newly formed Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) has the resources necessary to continue implementation of HB 3073 (2021) and stand up the new agency.

2022 Child Care Investment Package: Capacity Building Grants

Capacity Building Grant Fund Administered by Seeding Justice

Without investing in new providers and helping existing providers expand, we will be unable to support the sector in rebuilding to even pre-COVID operating levels (which were already insufficient to meet the needs of Oregon's families), and will be even further behind when implementing new state, and likely federal, expanded eligibility to child care subsidies. Capacity grants for new providers and those who seek to make expansions to their programs will help those willing to invest their energy and risk themselves financially to serve Oregon's children and families. These programs have also seen success. The San Francisco-based Low Income Investment Fund, has created a fund for [grants for new and expanding providers](#) that has resulted in the creation of 273,000 new child care slots with a monetary benefit impact to families and communities of \$29.1 billion.

For a variety of reasons, the state agency that would normally administer a grant program like this does not have the current capacity to administer this program. We need a trusted outside partner with a strong racial, gender, and economic justice lens, and experience administering grant programs, to ensure we can get these funds out in the community and into the hands of providers in an equitable and timely way.

The best path forward, to ensure timely interventions to grow access to child care, will be for state funds to be allocated to Seeding Justice, a local 501(c)(3) that has experience managing these types of funds and working with community partners to administer them.

This Child Care Capacity Building Grant Fund will provide funding to community-based organizations who can work directly with new and current child care providers to start new child care facilities or to expand existing facilities to serve more children.

Capacity grant components:

1. Entities that would be eligible to receive capacity-building grants:

Cultural Specific Community Based Organizations that either have 501(c)(3) status or are fiscally sponsored by 501(c)(3) organizations.
Other Community Based Organizations, including Tribal governments, educational institutions and services districts
Child Care Resource & Referrals
Early Learning Hubs
Joint Labor Management Trusts

2. Grant program priorities:

- Grants will prioritize increasing child care capacity for infants/toddlers, children with disabilities, historically marginalized populations, care provided in languages other than English, non-traditional schedules care, and care in rural areas and other extreme child care deserts.

2022 Child Care Investment Package: Capacity Building Grants

- This grant program will be community led and supported, from the fund's leadership and management to the focus of its grant-making. It will ensure that community partners at each level are compensated for their work and supported with sufficient program support, administrative support and grant funding to make it a success.
- The fund will be marketed equitably, with materials and support provided in the top five languages other than English spoken in Oregon. Eligible entities shall receive grants to promote education/awareness of the program, support applicants through the licensure process, support existing providers in expanding services, and provide start-up funds to new providers.
- Child care providers that receive start-up funding from eligible grant-receiving entities shall ensure at least 20% of their increased capacity is to serve families eligible for Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) and other priority populations named in the legislation. Providers shall register as ERDC eligible providers, if they are not already.

3. How funds could be used:

- **Grants may include:**
 - Initial operating costs
 - 3-6 months of funds to cover the costs of getting to capacity of enrollment and to sustain operating expenses
 - Business Supports
 - Developing a child care business plan
 - Marketing & developing marketing materials
 - Child care business coaching
 - Renovation and Capital Projects
 - Expanding usable space
 - Renovating space to meeting child care licensing or other codes and/or to serve additional children
 - Planning and technical assistance to support upgrades or expansion of spaces
 - Workforce support
 - Recruitment and retention efforts, including bonuses, HR support, working with hiring managers, etc.
 - Professional learning support for mandatory trainings or for contracts for free additional training programs
 - Supplies and materials to support opening or expansion
- **Program related expenses:**
 - Facilitation and support for steering committee
 - Grant navigation and application support
 - Technical assistance for grantees
 - Communications about grant opportunities and related translation/interpretation into multiple languages

2022 Child Care Investment Package: Capacity Building Grants

- Outreach and community engagement support
- Data gathering and evaluation of use of funds
- Audits related to use of funds
- Other program related costs, as needed

4. How will funds be managed:

- A Steering Committee, composed of community-based child care stakeholders, will be developed with support from Seeding Justice and will be responsible for overseeing the fund, its administration and its grantmaking.
 - Organizations that will participate in the Steering Committee include, but are not limited to:
 - Family Forward Oregon
 - APANO
 - PCUN
 - Oregon AFSCME
 - Imagine Black
 - Unite Oregon
 - SEIU 503
 - Children's Institute
 - Oregon NAEYC
 - The Steering Committee will be responsible for providing regular reports to the legislature about the fund's activities, progress and barriers that are impeding our success.
 - The Steering Committee will allocate resources to any needed staffing to ensure appropriate outreach, grant navigation, ongoing technical assistance and support to grantees, etc.
- Seeding Justice will work as the fiscal agent, supporting the Steering Committee and providing the following services:
 - Sitting on the Steering Committee for strategic and informational purposes. Seeding Justice will not have a decision-making vote.
 - Will make grants following criteria set by Steering Committee.
 - Will support additional community fundraising efforts, if needed.
 - Will amplify communications efforts.
 - Will amplify community engagement efforts.
 - Will provide the Steering Committee financial tracking and reporting to the Steering Committee (monthly or quarterly).
 - Will provide the Steering Committee limited reporting on external donors, if any.
 - Will provide limited reporting to private funders, if any.

5) Budget and Financial Information:

- \$22M allocated to the Child Care Capacity Building Grant fund.
 - Funds will be used for direct grants, fund administration and other related program costs.

2022 Child Care Investment Package: Capacity Building Grants

- Depending on the proposals, average grants could be in the range of \$350,000 per grant to support the development and/or expansion of approximately 15 new family-home providers; and up to \$4M to support a community organization/other eligible entity to work with providers to develop or expand 10 child care centers. Direct grants will include support for related program and administrative costs.

6) Grantmaking and reporting system:

- Application System
 - a. Seeding Justice to create a user-friendly online application that may be used by all applicants in the top five spoken languages in the state;
 - b. Applications will be reviewed by the Steering Committee with support from Seeding Justice staff.
 - c. Seeding Justice to create a process to submit a completed application.
 - d. Once the Steering Committee approves/declines grant applications, applicants will be notified by Seeding Justice staff.
- Funding Distribution to Approved Applicants
 - a. Seeding Justice will work with grantees to sign grant agreements and distribute approved funds.
 - b. Applicants may qualify for an additional round of assistance, if funding allows.
- Identification & Navigation
 - a. The Steering Committee will develop a staffing plan to ensure the program has skilled navigators, with a background in child care, helping to identify potentially eligible organizations who work directly with child care providers to get resources to new and expanding providers; and helping those organizations to navigate an application process with a focus on equity.
 - b. The Steering Committee and navigation staff will hold the relationship with the applicant, collecting data, transmitting the eligibility decision, and providing other service support.
- Screening, Assessment, Eligibility Determination, Distribution
 - a. Seeding Justice screens all incoming applications, communicates with the navigator (not applicant) about the application, if necessary.
 - i. Assesses eligibility
 - ii. Makes eligibility determination & communicates information to organizations.
 - iii. Distributes funds to grantees
- Support for grantees
 - a. Steering Committee supports staffing of ongoing peer learning and technical assistance supports for grantees, ensuring grantees have opportunities for joint learning and access to support to overcome barriers as they work to implement or expand new programs.
- Data gathering and reporting

2022 Child Care Investment Package: Capacity Building Grants

Seeding Justice will work with the Steering Committee to staff a process for gathering data in qualitative formats from ongoing peer support programs to grantees, and quantitatively through direct reporting by grantees. Data gathering will include, but not be limited to:

- How many new providers have we supported? How many children/families are they enrolling and serving?
- How many providers have been able to make program expansions to serve more children/families?
- How many new children are being served in our target populations? By age, race/ethnicity, income, language spoken in the home, by geographic area, for children or parents with disabilities, etc.
- Additional data as determined necessary by funding requirements and/or in consultation with the Early Learning Division and the Early Learning Council.



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MEMORANDUM

Date: May 5, 2022
To: CWEDD Board
From: CWEDD Staff
Re: Working Group Updates

Broadband Action Team (BAT)

- Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Broadband grant - OCWCOG Staff is in the process of taking over the management of the grant.
- The Regional BAT (Lane, Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties) continues to meet monthly.
- Faster Internet Oregon – Survey will be live soon

Early Childhood Education

- OCWCOG staff Anne Whittington is convening early childhood education and economic development partners in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln County to explore strategies to support the region's childcare systems.
- OCWCOG staff is starting a GIS mapping effort to show childcare centers, large employers, schools, and other economic development data.
- See additional agenda items for additional early childhood education information.

Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)

- The CWRC received funding from Business Oregon's Special Public Works Fund (SPWF) to complete a Wetland Mitigation Feasibility Study that will look at the supply and demand of wetland mitigation credits in the region. ECONorthwest and their team were selected, and the project is underway.
- The next CWRC meeting is scheduled for May 20th at 11am. Please reach out to Alysia Rodgers (arodgers@ci.lebanon.or.us) or Justin Peterson (jpeter@ocwcog.org) for more information.

Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)

- The group previewed the first draft of the official REAL website, which looked fantastic and they look forward to final revisions
- The expectation is that the website will launch in the coming few months
- Both Linn and Benton County Commissioners have been approached with the hopes of splitting the cost of a RARE AmeriCorp member, an intern, or a part-time staff member across the two counties, to help further the goals of the group and plan for the next 5 years.