

New state agency beginning July 1, 2023

The mission of the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) is to foster coordinated, culturally appropriate and family-centered services that recognize and respect the needs of all children, families and early learning and care professionals. Our vision is that children, families, early care and education professionals and communities are supported and empowered to thrive.

About DELC

DELC is a new Oregon state agency that supports the development and wellbeing of all Oregon children and ensures families in every corner of the state have access to high-quality early learning and care. DELC also supports child care professionals by providing technical assistance, professional development opportunities, business services, licensing, grants and other resources.

DELC was created by the Oregon Legislature in 2021 to unify and strengthen Oregon's early learning system beginning July 1, 2023. DELC brings together the Oregon Early Learning Division (ELD) and the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program. ELD was a division of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and ERDC was a program within the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS).



What's Changing

The creation of DELC is only the beginning of the benefits families and providers can expect. Achieving DELC's vision will take time, and we will continue to grow. We're working hard to make sure you know about the changes. Here are some changes to expect beginning July 1, 2023:



New name, look, email addresses* and website



ELD transitions from ODE to DELC



ERDC transitions from ODHS to DELC (note: families still apply for and receive benefits through ODHS)



Information about early learning and child care, including resources for finding providers and programs, is on DELC's new website starting July 1, 2023



Grantees use a new grant management system to manage and submit all claims beginning with grants issued in 2023-2025. Training and instruction manuals are being provided to support this change

What's Staying the Same

While the DELC launch brings changes, many things are staying the same, including:



Early learning and care programs under ELD such as Preschool Promise and Oregon Pre-Kindergarten



Customer service phone numbers, including the Office of Child Care and Direct Pay Unit



ERDC Billing forms and payment processes



Child Care Licensing and inspections



Background checks



Applying for and receiving ERDC benefits through ODHS

Timeline

This is the beginning of Oregon's plans to strengthen and unify the state's early learning and care system. Over the next few years, DELC will continue to improve and grow to better serve children, providers and families.

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DELC Launches

- Continue services and programs with as little disruption as possible
- Help partners understand changes under DELC
- ERDC moves to DELC and more families become eligible
- New grants management system launches

2024

Improving what DELC offers and how it's run

- Launch phase 2 of new grants management system
- New provider data collection management system to ensure program transparency
- ERDC eligibility expands to all children, regardless of citizenship

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Keeping up and growing DELC

- Measure and report on agency performance
- Reflect on opportunities for improvement
- Provider management platform launches to replace provider payment function, finding child care, and child care licensing information for families.

Questions? Ask us!

For questions about ELD and ERDC transition to DELC: delc.info@delc.oregon.gov