Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant Summary
A Four-year Initiative to Build a Statewide Early Care and Education System
January 2013 – January 2017

The RTT-ELC grant focuses on improving early learning and development programs for young children by supporting States' efforts to: (1) increase the number and percentage of low-income and disadvantaged children in each age group of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are enrolled in high-quality early learning programs; (2) design and implement an integrated system of high-quality early learning programs and services; and (3) ensure that any use of assessments conforms with the recommendations of the National Research Council's reports on early childhood. Race to the Top States were awarded because they are leading the way with ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive early learning education reform.

Project 1: Grants Management. Staffing, TA, RTT reporting and stakeholder engagement to support the ELD and RTT projects.

Project 2: TQRIS Validation Study. A voluntary rating system that uses common, easy to understand standards for childcare and early learning programs. The validation study will determine research based differentiation between the quality levels of the tiers.

Project 3: Increase Participation of ELDP in the TQRIS. Will engage providers with more training, mentorship, and professional development. Rating system gives families clear, practical information to make informed choices about where to send their children and what they need to be ready for kindergarten. **Lead:** Dawn Woods.

Project 4: Early Childhood Workforce, Build Capacity. Professional development to support career pathways for early childhood educators that develop expertise in quality early learning and best practice. Will offer meaningful and high-leverage opportunities for professional learning.

Project 5: Improve rates of developmental screening at regular intervals. Implement a system for statewide screening in Early Learning and Development programs to ensure children receive needed supports early.

Project 6: Enhance the TQRIS Data System. Enhance and connect data systems to capture quality information that will deliver service providers, policy makers, and funders information they need to ensure better outcomes for children.

Project 7: Family and Community Access. Dedicated outreach to build an informed, engaged public around quality early learning environments. Help families better support young children in the home and provide easy-to-access to services in the community.

Project 8: Aligned ECE to K-3 teaching and learning Oregon will align statewide Early Learning Framework with K-12 Common Core standards to promote school readiness and success.

Project 9: Kindergarten Assessment. Kindergarten assessment will help identify children who need additional early support for success.