



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EQUITY FUND

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

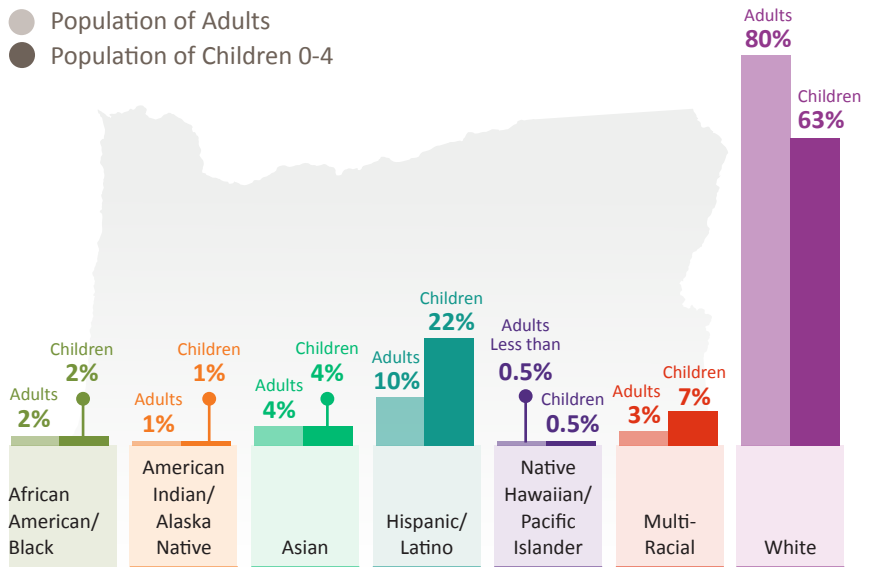
EQUITY IN OREGON

Oregon is an increasingly diverse state, and our young children are leading the way. Oregon’s nearly **275,000 young children** under the age of six are more linguistically, racially and ethnically diverse than the older child and adult population. A quarter of Oregon’s young children speak a language other than English at home.

Diversity is an asset and Oregon intends to build an early learning system that recognizes this to ensure more children and families have access to **culturally responsive** early learning opportunities. These opportunities help to close the gap in opportunities for children and families that historically have been left behind.

The Early Childhood Equity Fund addresses this by allowing for stronger partnerships with culturally specific organizations and Tribal nations and by providing resources to scale culturally specific programs.

PERCENTAGE OF OREGON POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY



Source: 2017 Census Bureau

WHAT IS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EQUITY FUND?

The Early Childhood Equity Fund was created as part of the Student Success Act (HB 3427) and will provide about \$10 million annually in grants to support a broad range of culturally specific kindergarten readiness and family support programming, including:

- Parent-child interactions
- Parenting education
- Early literacy and family literacy
- Native language preservation

The fund is targeted toward organizations focused on closing opportunity gaps for children and families that have been historically underserved due to factors such as race, income, zip code, or language, and who are committed to providing early learning services rooted in culture, home language, and lived experience.

WHAT WILL THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EQUITY FUND SUPPORT?

Through a grant process, the Early Learning Division will award funding to support culturally specific organizations and programs to either plan for or scale an existing program. The Early Childhood Equity Fund will allow organizations to receive funds for start-up costs and ongoing program funding.



LAUNCH | A PROGRAM/SERVICE

Culturally specific organizations can apply for funding to support a planning period to further **develop an idea or program** prior to beginning services.



SCALE | A PROGRAM/SERVICE

Existing culturally specific organizations and programs can apply for funding to **expand their reach** to more children and families.

“CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE” means the ability to respect and understand the social, cultural, and linguistic needs of children and families. The Early Learning Equity Fund Rules Advisory Committee will define related terms specific to the fund.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EQUITY FUND IS ACHIEVING ITS GOALS?

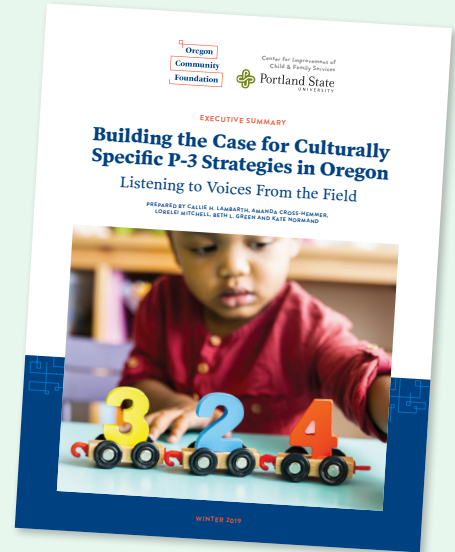
The fund includes support for evaluation of the program. The Early Learning Division will identify an evaluation/research partner and will use data to ensure this fund remains accountable and transparent regarding outcomes and impact. The division is required to update the legislature on the Early Childhood Equity Fund in September 2021.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

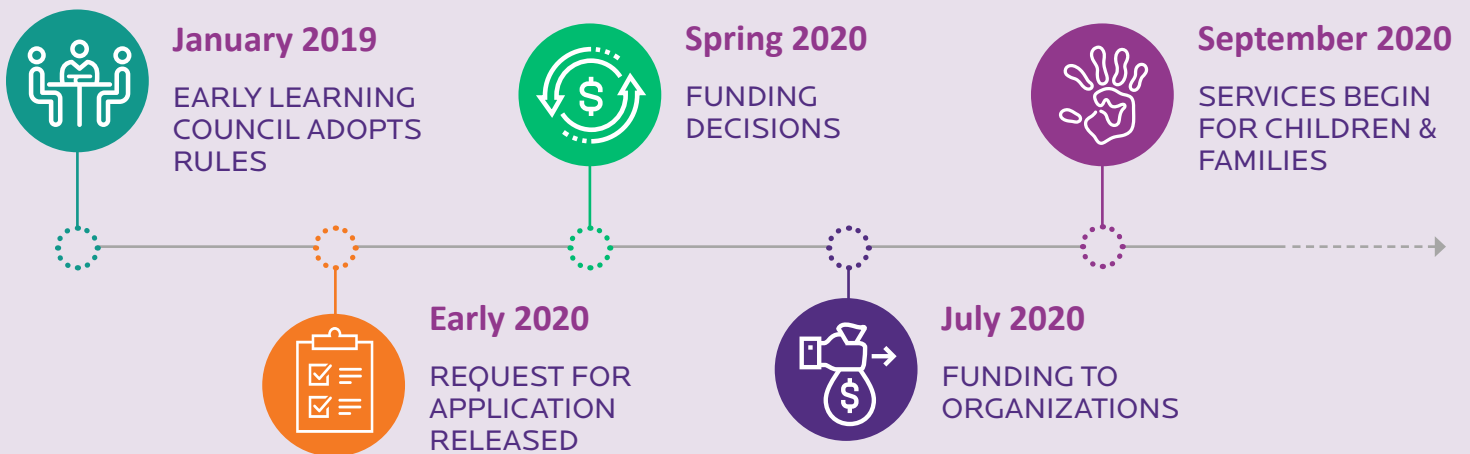
The Center for Improvement of Child & Family Services at Portland State University: Building the Case for Culturally Specific P-3 Strategies in Oregon, <https://oregoncf.org/assets/PDFs-and-Docs/PDFs/ocf-case-for-culturally-specific-prenatal-to-third-grade-strategies-oregon-summary.pdf>.

“The Equity Fund is a step toward expanding access statewide and transforming Oregon’s system to make it more inclusive and equitable.”

THE CHALKBOARD PROJECT
CHALKBOARDPROJECT.ORG



Early Childhood Equity Fund in The Student Success Act Timeline



For more information, go to <https://oregonearlylearning.com/student-success-act#equityfund>.

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#StudentSuccessAct

