



November 2021

Blue Mountain Early Learning HUB

bluemountainearlylearninghub.org

Newsletter

MORROW UMATILLA UNION COUNTIES

Early Childhood Partnership Team Meetings (ECPT)

Umatilla County

Tuesday, December 7

1:00 - 2:30 pm via Zoom

<https://imesdmeet.zoom.us/j/95752073228?pwd=Z2RDQUdOL3FtSjd3VFRsNHRRYTVUZz09ID=95752073228;Passcode=852035>

Union County

Wednesday, November 10

1:00 - 3:00 pm via Zoom

<https://eou.zoom.us/j/91278523074>
<https://www.facebook.com/Union-County-ECPT-836224543130112/>

Morrow County

Thursday, December 9

12:00 - 1:30 pm via Zoom

<https://umchs-org.zoom.us/j/84557647294?pwd=aUdoZys3TVBBUHh5eHZwOUh4cDRydz09ID=84557647294;Passcode=114923>



Oregon Announces Stabilization Grant Opportunity To Assist Child Care Providers

September 23, 2021

(Salem, Ore) – Child care providers in Oregon are invited to apply for child care stabilization grants through the Early Learning Division (ELD). Oregon received approximately \$224 million in grant funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/child-care-stabilization-grants>) to be paid directly to eligible providers struggling during COVID-19.

“Child care providers have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic, continuing to care for children while navigating uncertainty about the virus and facing challenges in hiring and retaining staff,” said Oregon Early Learning System Director Alyssa Chatterjee. “We hope these funds will provide some much needed relief to offset increased expenses, but we know this doesn’t go far enough. Congress must continue to provide the resources needed to sustain our child care system so providers can continue offering quality care to Oregon families.”

Funding will be available to a broad range of providers, including licensed family child care, center-based care, and license-exempt providers receiving child care subsidies. To be eligible for these funds, providers must be currently open and operating. The funding cannot be used to start a new program. To be considered for the grant, providers must complete an application on ELD’s website (<https://oregonearlylearning.com/child-care-stabilization-grants>) by December 31, 2021. Award amounts will vary based on provider type and other criteria.

Child care providers may use the grants to cover a range of expenses such as personnel costs, rent or mortgage payments, COVID-related supplies, training and professional development related to health and safety practices, mental health supports, and reimbursement of costs associated with the current public health emergency.

Frequently Asked Questions are posted to ELD’s website. Providers can also contact ELD at ECCgrants@state.or.us or 971-707-2029 (Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) with questions.

Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub Governing Board:

Umatilla County:

Lori Hale, Education
Lidwinner Machado,
Human & Social Services
Kim Huling, Business

Morrow County:

Yvonne Morter, Health
Erin Stocker, Education
Dorothy Powell, Migrant &
Second Language Education

Union County:

Robert Kleng, Chair, Education
Jess Hagedorn, Parent
Ashleigh Meeks, Health

Other:

Jon Peterson, InterMountain ESD Lead
Aaron Treadwell, Umatilla-Morrow Co. Head Start Lead
Linda Watson, Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization Rep
Lloyd Commander, Tribal Representative
Tobie Sass, Child Care Resource and Referral Representative

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NATIVE LANGUAGE

Umatilla (Tamalúut) is a variety of Southern Sahaptin, part of the Sahaptian subfamily of the Plateau Penutian group.[2] It was spoken during late aboriginal times along the Columbia River and is therefore also called Columbia River Sahaptin. It is currently spoken as a first language by a few dozen elders and some adults in the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon. Some sources say that Umatilla is derived from imatílám-hlama: hlama means 'those living at' or 'people of' and there is an ongoing debate about the meaning of imatílám, but it is said to be an island in the Columbia River. B. Rigsby and N. Rude mention the village of ímatalam that was situated at

the mouth of the Umatilla River and where the language was spoken.

The CTUIR Language Program will contribute towards revitalization of the Umatilla, Walla Walla and Weyiiletpuu languages and retrieve, preserve, invigorate and teach the three dialects to tribal members and wholeheartedly involve all fluent language speakers to their full capacity. Currently, the Language Program offers a language immersion program for children ages 3 to 5 at the Nixyaawii Community School.

The young learners spend 4 hours a day immersed in the language at Tamalúut as part of the Umatilla Language Immersion Project. We also offer community classes for members to learn from our fluent speakers. Please call us for more information about times and locations.

The CTUIR Language Program also hosts an annual Language Knowledge Bowl where students from Warm Springs, Yakama, Lapwai, Kamiah, Goldendale, and Pendleton meet to compete in the annual event. The competition is composed of a large vocabulary list where student are required to translate verbs, nouns, adjectives, animals, plants and phrases in to their respective languages they are studying. In the past this event has attracted over 80 participants and 200 observers.

Training Opportunity for Families: Imatlamtaamí S'tnwt (Umatilla Language)

Visit Language media: <https://ctuir.org/departments/education/language/language-media/>





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Parent Article: *ChildCare*

Childcare is a unique partnership between a family and a childcare provider which needs open communication and trust. Childcare providers care for & educate other people's children on a regular and consistent basis. As a parent, you are trusting that your child is happy, healthy, and safe in someone else's care. Looking back at being a parent that utilized childcare and my experience as a provider, I wish I could share with parents a few important thoughts.

Childcare is not babysitting. We do not just feed, water, and entertain your child. For most, we choose this profession because we enjoy working with children and we want them to be successful. Providers choose this life and career path because for the most part they feel strongly about early childhood education and making a difference in the lives of children. What some view as days of "just playing", is really us supporting your child's development. Children learn through play and by exploring their world. Providers spent time planning their day to provide a variety of opportunities, activities and experiences to help children learn and grow. They help teach your child important skills such as putting on a coat, sharing, use their words, navigating their world, and so much more.

Time is important, just like you value your time, we value ours as well. Providers have hours of operation and a schedule that supports your child's learning and play. It's important to be on time with both drop offs and pickups. Let your provider know if you are running late or not going to make it at all. You never know when just one absence will make a difference in not needing an assistant, or preparing a smaller meal or activities for that day.

Providers have a Life outside of childcare. If operation hours are 7a.m. - 6p.m. that does not mean 6:40a.m.-6:30p.m. If you need to be late or early, we are usually flexible but check with your provider beforehand. Often times, a provider does not mind the occasional off-hour care, but they have plans too. In addition, they have trainings they are required to attend, cleaning, shopping and paperwork to do. The work does not stop after the eight plus hours with children. Our family needs our time also for school functions, family outings, and self-care. This helps us be ready for children the next day.

Pay on time. We are not in it for the money. We do not make minimum wage, after deducting the cost of the program. Your payment is used to keep our small business open. Children need toys, food, and a clean and safe environment. This includes supplies for laundry, cleaning, and organization. We also have childcare insurance, requirements for licensing, an assistant, continuing education, and taxes; which cost more than you think. When you do not pay, it can put us in a bind and cause disruptions in food service, activities, and keeping the lights on. What would you say if your boss told you that you would have to wait another week for your check?

Sick children need to stay home. Our goal is to keep everyone healthy and safe. As a parent, we know you have to work; you need your job and income to pay for your expenses. If you look at it from a provider point of view, it is the same. If a provider gets sick and has to close their program, numerous families will not have care that day or even week. Also, if you are sick, please keep your child home. Chances are your child has already been exposed to what you already have, especially if you have something highly contagious like the stomach flu. Childcare providers do not usually include paid sick days in their policies or contracts. Try to help your childcare providers out by avoiding getting others sick when you can.

Last, **do not be afraid to ask questions.** Your provider cannot read your mind. As much as we like to think we are always on the same page, there are times you will have questions. As a former provider, I wanted my parents to ask me questions and share their concerns. If there is an issue or something bothering you, do not let it fester. Your provider cannot work with you if you do not communicate. Do not assume your provider knows, even if you have been with them years. You are a team when it comes to your child; you both have a common goal-your child's health, safety, and well-being. So ask them your question.

Jennifer Hook is a Childcare trainer and coach, and a partner of the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub which works to bridge early childhood resources and prepare children for kindergarten. For more information visit www.bluemountainearlylearninghub.org.

