

E Q U I P

EDUCATION & QUALITY INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
A public-private partnership to improve Child Care in Oregon

(Revised July 15, 2009)

Concept

EQUIP is an innovative public-private partnership aimed at improving the quality of child care, strengthening the early care and education workforce and preparing Oregon's youngest children for success in school.

History

EQUIP is the result of an effort that began in 2008 when state agencies and private organizations came together to create a strategy to raise the quality of early care and education in Oregon. State agencies including the Child Care Division, the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Department of Education-Head Start Collaboration Office worked with The Oregon Community Foundation, the Commission for Child Care, the Children's Institute, the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, the Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network and the Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education at Portland State University to create EQUIP. The Commission for Child Care listed EQUIP as a priority and will provide the oversight and accountability to the EQUIP initiative.

Funding

Initially, EQUIP will be funded by \$2.9 million in federal stimulus funds designated to improve child care quality. The partnership is working to create an ongoing funding strategy, anchored by a \$200,000 commitment from The Oregon Community Foundation. The funds from the federal stimulus are specifically designated for projects that improve the quality of child care.

Strategies

EQUIP utilizes multiple strategies that support both individuals and facilities. First, by offering early childhood professionals incentives to continue their education, EQUIP will help build the skills and competencies of Oregon's early childhood workforce. A better prepared early childhood workforce means better outcomes for children and families. Secondly, a program now in development, focuses on program-level improvements. By providing early care and education programs with evidenced-based benchmarks and technical assistance for achieving them, EQUIP will help programs improve their quality. While participation will be voluntary, EQUIP will provide attractive incentives to make quality improvements possible.

Project Work

EQUIP requires multiple projects to achieve the desired outcomes. An overarching principle of EQUIP is to strengthen and utilize the existing child care infrastructure to support the various components. Several projects are required to support this initiative and are listed on the previous page according to the components they support along with the lead partner and implementation timeline.

EQUIP

Education and Quality Investment Partnership

Equipping Individuals

Document
Individual Training
and Education

- Increase Professional Attitude
- Provide Skill Based Training

Benefits

- Education Awards
- Professional Development Scholarships

Equipping Facilities

Document
Facility Quality

- Equip Programs

Benefits

- Program Marketing
- Facility Assistance Fund
- State Investment in Slots
- Potential for Head Start & EI-ECSE Placements
- Quality Indicators Report

EQUIP – Education and Quality Investment Partnership

Goal: To 1) improve child care quality by linking and expanding professional development and quality improvement programs, 2) improve training and education by creating a new professional development database to track education and training at both the individual and facility levels, and 3) create an investment fund, which combines federal, state, and private dollars, to fund the EQUIP initiative.

EQUIP Component	Project	Project Summary	Lead Partner	Implementation Date
Equipping Individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase Professional Attitude ▪ Provide Skilled Based Training 	Oregon’s Registry Campaign	Targeted campaign to increase professional attitude by increasing the number of providers enrolled in the Oregon Registry, the number of providers awarded a Step 3 or higher and the percentage of providers who advance to a higher step.	R&R	July 1, 2009
	Education Awards	Provide education awards to childhood care and education teachers and providers to recognize and reward their accomplishments towards professionalism and ongoing education. Education awards will be awarded both retroactively and ongoing.	OCCD	May 1, 2009 (retro)
	Scholarship Programs	<p><u>John and Betty Gray Community College Scholarship Program.</u> Scholarships are available through 17 of Oregon’s 17 community colleges, for individuals who are pursuing a degree or certificate in early childhood education and are committed to a career in the field.</p> <p><u>John and Betty Gray Training and Certification Scholarship Program</u></p> <p>Portland State University’s Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education (OCCD) administers the John and Betty Gray Early Childhood</p>	Oregon Community Foundation (funder) Administered by community colleges and OCCD	

		Statewide Scholarship Program. Financial assistance is available to both family child care providers and center-based providers for training, conference attendance, accreditation, credentialing, translation and verification of out-of-country early childhood degrees, and other professional development.		
	<i>Revision of Training Program</i>	<i>Needs to be developed</i>	????	??????
	Training and Education Database (TED)	Create a central repository for ALL training and education for individuals working in the childhood care and education profession.	CCD	September 30, 2010 (field test Spring 2010)
Equipping Facilities: ▪ Equip programs	Quality Programs	Develop a system for family and center-based childhood care and education facilities to achieve designation for meeting specific quality structural standards. The process will include a review process for verification of this designation along with financial supports to assist facilities to meet the standards.	WOU-TRI Administrator yet to be determined	January 1, 2010 (field test fall 2009)
	Quality Indicator	Data on research-based indicators of quality are collected from CCD Licensing Specialists, accrediting agencies, and other sources. Data is analyzed and reported to facilities who are asked to release findings so that parents and communities have access to comparative quality information on child care facilities.	Partnership of Child Care Division and Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network	January 2009 for centers January 2010 for family child care homes

Benefits for Facilities – Partnership Supports

Benefits for Facilities	Concept
Program Marketing	Programs who achieve this designation would have materials and supports to market their program as meeting standards above licensing requirements.
Quality Indicators Report	Quality Indicators Report would indicate if programs met the designation.
Facility Assistance Fund	Facilities working towards this designation would have access to mini-grants for program improvement towards identified standards.
State Investment in Slots	Potential to contract with individual facilities who achieve this designation for infant/toddler, school age, and hard to find care slots to provide access for families and help stabilize child care businesses.
Head Start Placements	Potential for Head Start to contract with individual facilities who achieve this designation to provide community placement for children receiving Head Start services.
EI/ECSE Placements	Potential for special education to contract with individual facilities who achieve this designation to provide community placement for children receiving special education services.