

Program
Year | 2015-16



Early Learning and Family Services Annual Report



opportunity
council



Our Leadership Team



United Way
of Whatcom County
UnitedWayWhatcom.org

Executive Director

Greg Winter

Associate Director

Sheri Burgler Emerson

Early Learning and Family Services Director

David Webster

Birth to Three and Health Services Manager

Maureen Hodge

Preschool Services Manager

Kim Walbeck

Quality Child Care and Support Services Manager

Wilanne Ollia-Perry

Executive Coordinator

F. Javier Flores

Parent Policy Council Chair

Faith Whaley

In addition to these key funders and collaborators, ELAFS is proud to also benefit from the support of local private and community foundations, as well as individual donors who support our work.

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Our Mission

In support of the Opportunity Council's mission, the Early Learning and Family Services Department (ELAFS) ensures that all children and families have the knowledge, skills, and support for success in school and all future opportunities.

We are...

- Committed to working with families and communities to increase access to quality early learning experiences and family support.
- Strong believers in families as the best resource for children, and
- Confident that healthy, resilient, well-educated children will be successful in the changing world of the 21st Century and beyond.

Our Programs...

- Enhance the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their own children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals.
- Work with parents, families, child care providers and early childhood educators, businesses and community organizations to promote the availability of high quality early child care and education programs in Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties.
- Help parents and families find quality child care environments for their children, and assist child care providers in supporting every child's learning and development.

Division Overviews

Our programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals.

Birth to Three and Health Services

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers

ESIT serves families with children birth to three years old who have special needs and need support to maximize each child's development. ESIT provides early diagnosis and intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities in their natural environment, including family resource coordination, screening and evaluation to determine eligibility, ongoing assessment, and therapy services. The Opportunity Council serves as the Local Lead Agency for Whatcom County.

Early Head Start

This federally funded comprehensive child development program for low-income families with infants, toddlers, and pregnant women enhances children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; assists pregnant women in accessing comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care; supports parents' efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and helps parents move toward self-sufficiency. It also features individualized planning and case management for children and parents. Services are provided in both home-based and center-based models.

Single-Entry Access to Services (SEAS)

Housed at Early Learning and Family Services, this program of Whatcom Taking Action provides a centralized intake system for families and medical professionals looking for services for children and youth in Whatcom County with known or suspected special needs.

Preschool Services

Head Start/ECEAP

Our federally and state-funded comprehensive preschool programs provide free services and support to eligible children and their families. The programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. We engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals. Significant emphasis is placed on the involvement of parents in the administration of the program through the Parent Policy Council and other means.

The goal of both programs is to help ensure all Washington children enter kindergarten ready to succeed. The program, which offers both part-day and full day options, includes:

- Early learning preschool

- Family support and parent involvement
- Child health coordination and nutrition

Quality Child Care and Support Services

Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington

Child Care Aware is the foundation for a variety of family and caregiver-focused programs that include providing current information to access safe, reliable child/respite care; recruiting and professional development training; on-site consultation and technical assistance; material development and dissemination; creating linkages among early care and education providers; linking providers with the broader human service community to better support families; and advocating for effective public policy on national, state and community levels.

Early Achievers

Early Achievers is Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). It's designed to help parents and families find quality care environments for their children, and to assist child care providers in supporting every child's learning and development. Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington serves as Washington State's QRIS coordinator for Whatcom, Snohomish, Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties.

Child Nutrition Programs

Promotes high quality meal service and nutrition training in the family child care setting to safeguard the health and well-being of children and encourage consumption of nutritious foods. Participating providers receive meal reimbursement, on-site monitoring three times per year, and extensive nutrition education.

Summer Food Program

Provides free lunch at designated sites through the summer months.

Emergency and Homeless Child Care Subsidies

Provides child care vouchers to assist families in emergency/crisis, homeless or transitional living situations in choosing and paying for child care.

Collaboration for Children and Child Care Training

Education and consultation for child care providers and families regarding child development and behavior guidance, appropriate environments and required training hours for licensed child care.

Accountability

Monitoring the goals and activities of Early Learning and Family Services' programs is an ongoing process. Through the use of regular self-assessments, federal, state and local reviews, routine monitoring tools/site visits and an annual fiscal audit, ELAFS is able to maintain high quality programs and participate in continuous program improvements.

Audit Results

The Opportunity Council is the grantee for all Administration for Children and Families-Office of Head Start funds, the USDA/OSPI Child and Adult Food Program, and State of Washington financial support, for ECEAP, Child Care Aware/Early Achievers, Homeless Child Care Subsidy, Early Support for Infant and Toddlers (Part C IDEA), and more. Annually, according to the grantee's fiscal year of January to December, the Opportunity Council has a financial audit conducted by independent auditors according to OMB Circular A-133, and 2 CFR Part 200. The financial audit for the grantee's Fiscal Year 2015, which covers half of the Early Learning and Family Services Department's 2015-2016 contract year with ACF-OHS and State of Washington Department of Early Learning, was "unmodified" or absent of any findings.

Monitoring Reports

Fiscal Monitoring Review Report

During the 2015-16 program year, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a monitoring review of the Opportunity Council Head Start and Early Head Start programs to determine whether the previously identified findings had been corrected. Based on the information gathered during our review, the ACF closed the previously identified findings. Accordingly, no corrective action is required.

Comprehensive Child Services and School Readiness Review

During the 2015-16 program year, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start, conducted a Comprehensive Child Services and School Readiness Review event for the Early Learning and Family Services Head Start and Early Head Start programs. No area of noncompliance was found during the course of the review.

Leadership Governance and Management Review

During the 2015-16 program year, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start, conducted a Leadership Governance and Management Review event for the Early Learning and Family Services Head Start and Early Head Start programs. No area of noncompliance was found during the course of the review.

Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington Review

During 2016, Child Care Aware of Washington conducted an on-site monitoring review of the Opportunity Councils' Child Care Aware program in accordance with Child Care Aware of America's

National Accreditation practices. This consisted of a fiscal review, staff interviews and written/documentation response to Washington Early Achievers and other contract inquiry of policies, procedures, monitoring and practices. There were no findings; therefore, no corrective action requested.

Washington Reading Corps

In January 2016 the Washington Reading Corps conducted an on-site review of management information that serves as an early warning system to identify potential problem areas. During the monitoring visit no findings or concerns were found.

Financial Information

Revenue and Expenditures

Birth-Three & Health Services	Total	Indirect	Direct
Infant Toddler Early Prevention Programs	\$1,050,270.25	\$108,323.84	\$941,946.41
Early Intervention (ESIT)	\$261,827.55	\$26,182.52	\$235,645.03
Whatcom County Intervention Services	\$43,250.00	\$0.00	\$43,250.00
Early Head Start	\$452,100.00	\$43,543.97	\$408,556.03
Chuckanut Foundation - SEAS	\$44,800.00	\$4,620.63	\$40,179.37
Whatcom County - SEAS	\$29,000.00	\$2,991.00	\$26,009.00
Total	\$1,881,247.80	\$185,661.96	\$1,695,585.84

Preschool Services	Total	Indirect	Direct
ECEAP (Early Childhood Education)	\$1,454,087.00	\$149,973.10	\$1,304,113.90
Head Start	\$2,336,494.00	\$211,537.79	\$2,124,956.21
Bellingham Public NFS	\$180,000.00	\$18,565.02	\$161,434.98
USDA-Lunch Program	\$169,232.04	\$17,454.42	\$151,777.62
Head Start Donations	\$22,902.57	\$2,362.17	\$20,540.40
Total	\$4,162,715.61	\$399,892.50	\$3,762,823.11

Quality Child Care and Support Services	Total	Indirect	Direct
CACFP	\$77,946.38	\$8,039.31	\$69,907.07
Fee for Service	\$7,408.18	\$748.24	\$6,659.94
Child Care Resource and Referral	\$1,374,973.99	\$141,813.46	\$1,233,160.53
ERS Training	\$13,770.00	\$977.88	\$12,792.12
Thrive	\$7,866.69	\$811.36	\$7,055.33
DEL Homeless Vouchers	\$29,965.82	\$2,848.26	\$27,117.56
United Way	\$11,040.00	\$1,139.00	\$9,901.00
Snohomish County Early Learning	\$20,000.00	\$2,062.78	\$17,937.22
Total	\$1,542,971.06	\$158,440.29	\$1,384,530.77

Other	Total
Head Start & Early Head Start Non Federal Share ¹	\$667,148
Events/Private Donations	\$33,890.00

¹. Amount adjusted after approval of Non-Federal Share Waiver Request

Community Reach

Birth to Three and Health Services

Early Head Start 2015-16

Cumulative Enrollment:	74
Number of Funded Slots:	41
Average Monthly Enrollment:	100%
Number of Center Based Classrooms:	1
Number of Home Based Slots:	31
Percent of Children w/Health Insurance at End of Enrollment:	100%
Percent of Enrolled Children that Received Medical Exams:	85%
Percent of Children Enrolled for at least 6 Months who had Medical Exam	93%
Percent of Enrolled Children who are Income Eligible	92%

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers 2015-16²

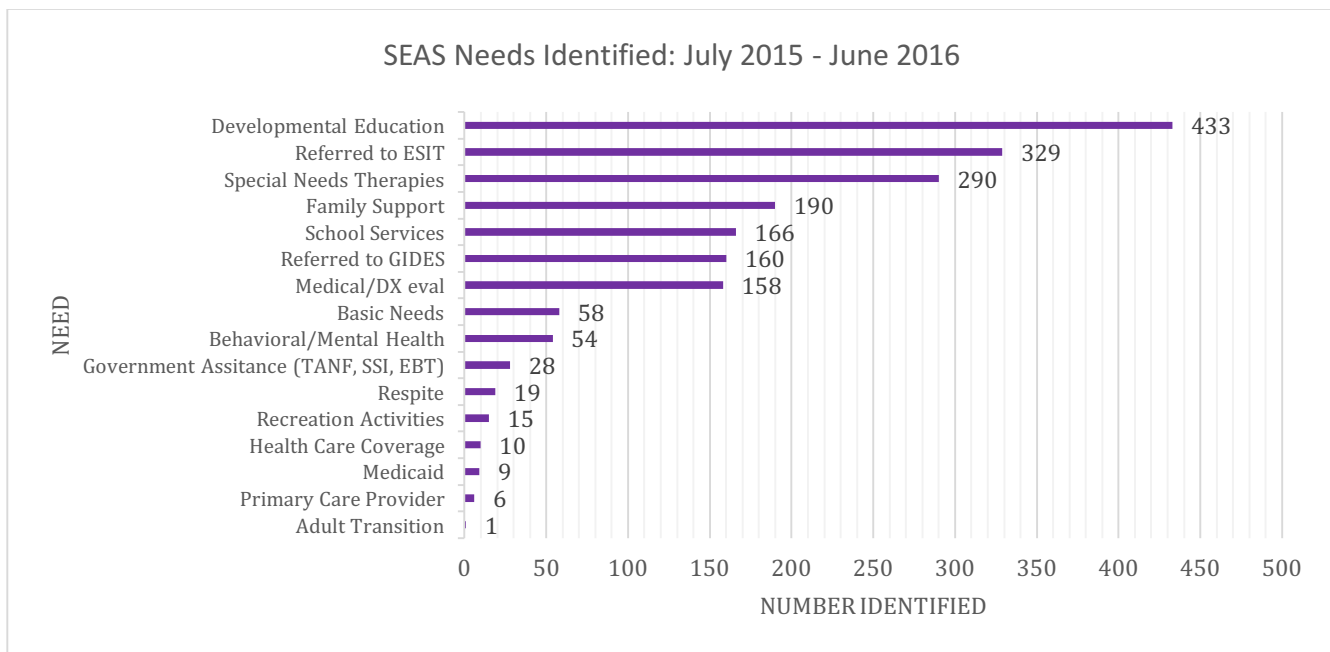
Average Number of Referrals made each month	24
Average Number of Evaluations to Determine Eligibility	15
Average Number Determined Eligible during the month	9
Average IFSPs Completed During the Month	18
Average Number of New/Initial IFSPs completed during month	6
Average Number of Active IFSPs on last day of month	52
Average number of all active IFSPs within the month	52
Average Children Transitioned within month	10

Single Entry Access to Services

Total Number of Referrals 937

Age Range of Children Referred for Service

0-3, 58% 3-5, 23% 5-12, 13% 12-18, 5% 18-21, .5% Unknown, 1%



² Numbers are for OC direct services team, and do not reflect larger volume of service as Local Lead Agency

Preschool Services

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program 2015-16

Cumulative Enrollment:	157
Number of Funded Slots:	143
Average Monthly Enrollment:	100%
Number of Center Based Classrooms:	9
Meal Count:	27,084
Percentage of Children w/Health Insurance at End of Enrollment:	98%
Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Medical Exams:	79%
Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Dental Exams:	92%
Percentage of Enrolled Children who are Income Eligible	98%

Head Start 2015-16

Cumulative Enrollment:	289
Number of Funded Slots:	256
Average Monthly Enrollment:	100%
Number of Center Based Classrooms:	15
Meal Count:	46,228
Percentage of Children w/Health Insurance at End of Enrollment:	99%
Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Medical Exams:	82%
Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Dental Exams:	94%
Percentage of Enrolled Children who are Income Eligible:	91%

Quality Child Care and Support Services

Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington 2015-16

Total number of referral calls for Northwest Region	1,664
Total number of online referrals for Northwest Region	1,623
Total Referrals:	3,287

Emergency & Homeless Child Care Subsidy Vouchers 2015-16

Unduplicated Families who received assistance	34
Unduplicated Children who received assistance	52
Hours of Childcare	6741
Dollars Spent	\$38,666.58

Year 3 - Child Care Aware – Early Achievers Quality Rating and Improvement System

Providers Enrolled in Early Achievers	418
Providers Completed Level 2, Not Yet Ready to Rate	91
Number of Providers working on Level 2 Trainings	228
Number of Providers in rating Queue	14
Rated Providers	85

Professional Development Training, Coaching, & Technical Assistance Provided/ Evaluated

Total number of Enhanced Training hours	276
Total Number of Enhanced training participants	745
Total number of enhanced trainings	62
Total number of level 2 trainings	74
Total number of level 2 attendees	550
Total number of level 2 training hours	286

Child Care Nutrition Program:

Number of Reimbursed Meals:	20,313
Average Number of Children Served Per Month:	963

Parent Engagement Activities

Parent engagement and involvement begins at the time a parent chooses to enroll their child in Early Learning and Family Services programs. ELAFS staff recognizes that parents are the first and primary teachers of their children.

Our divisions provide a variety of opportunities for parent engagement, so that they might become involved at the level to which they are able.

Opportunities for parents include:

- Welcoming parent participation in classrooms, whether as volunteers who help with daily activities or as observers.
- Working with parents to schedule home visits and socializations at a time when they are best able to fully participate.
- Participating in and/or taking leadership roles in Center Parent Committee Meetings at sites.
- Representing others at the Interagency Coordinating Council or their Parent Center Committee as well as at the HS/ECEAP/EHS Policy Council where parents participate in policymaking and other decisions about the program.
- Attending and participating in the Health Service Advisory Committee where parents meet with community health professionals to address child and adult health issues/needs in our communities.
- Providing input in curriculum planning and activities.
- Parents are encouraged to make recommendations for menu options in collaboration with our food service staff.
- Sitting on interview panels during ELAFS staff hiring processes.
- Working part-time in our administrative office as Parent Helpers providing clerical support.
- Parent events focusing on enhancing parent-child relationships include father-child activities, movement and physical activity at home, various events sponsored by Parent-to-Parent, and learning new strategies for guidance and discipline and healthy nutrition.
- Families Moving Forward training providing information regarding Executive Functions was provided to Kellogg ECEAP Parents
- Participating in various surveys on issues of interest to parents.

Together, parents and staff decide what roles parents and other community agencies will play in planning activities that are consistent with families' needs and interests.

School Readiness Efforts

ELAFS school readiness goals are based on collaborative efforts with local school districts toward Preschool-3rd grade (P3) alignment efforts. The agreed upon goals include all five domains required by the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework (language and literacy development; cognition and general knowledge; approaches toward learning; physical well-being and motor development; and social and emotional development).

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are required to measure and report children’s progress based on the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. The framework was developed to guide programs in curriculum planning and ongoing assessment of children’s progress and development while enrolled in the program. It includes seven general domains, and numerous domain elements relating to children’s skills, abilities, knowledge, and behaviors. Similarly, the Washington D.E.L. has early learning guidelines that direct our work.

Our program uses Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG), a valid and reliable research-based assessment, as our measuring tool. The charts below indicate the percent of children in Head Start and ECEAP programs that were found to be at or above the widely-held expectations at the end of the 2015-16 Program Year.

