

Program | 2017-18
Year

Early Learning and Family Services

Annual Report



opportunity
council



WASHINGTON STATE
Department of
Children, Youth, and Families

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

Data and Special Projects Manager

F. Javier Flores

Parent Policy Council Chair 2017-18

Marcie Germain Camire

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.



Table of Contents

Our Mission	4
Department Overview.....	5
Accountability.....	9
Financials - Revenue and Expenditures	10
Community Reach.....	12
Parent Engagement Activities.....	16
School Readiness Efforts	17

Our Mission

The Opportunity Council (OC) helps people improve their lives through education, support, and direct assistance while advocating for just and equitable communities.

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...

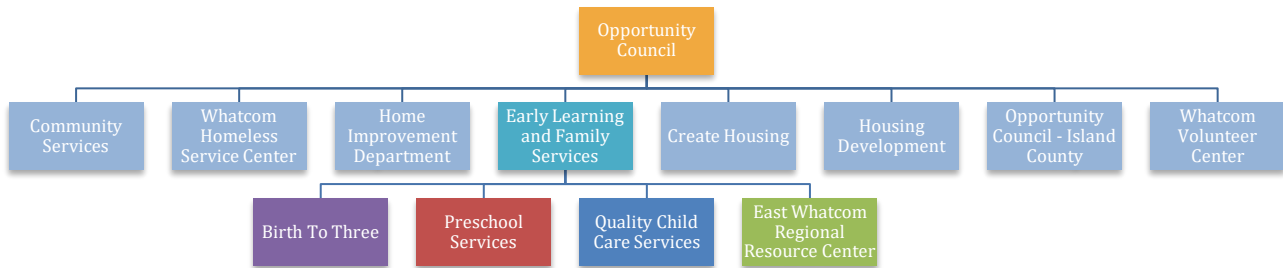
- Committed to working with families and communities to increase access to quality early learning experiences and family support.
- Strong believers in families as the best resource for children, and
- Confident that healthy, resilient, well-educated children will be successful in the changing world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

Department Overview

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

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.

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.

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 also work systemically to assure alignment between prenatal to third grade services in our community (P-3 alignment).

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. Included in parent preparation is the readiness to advocate successfully for their child in the K-12 system.

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

- Early learning preschool
- Family support and parent involvement/leadership development
- Child health coordination and nutrition
- Linkages and referral to both other OC and community partners' services

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/respice care; recruiting and professional development training; on-site consultation and technical coaching; material development and dissemination; creating linkages among early care and education providers; connecting 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 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.

Family Child Care Nutrition Programs

Promotes high quality meal service and nutrition training in the licensed 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/coaching three times per year, and extensive nutrition education.

Emergency 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. In '17-18, these services were provided in Whatcom and Skagit counties thanks to our United Way Partnership.

Infant/Toddler FIND Regional Systems and Services Program

Infant/toddler consultation includes regional, targeted coaching, consultation, one-on-one mentoring and technical assistance to the infant-toddler child care workforce in coordination with Early Achievers participants that receive state subsidized funding. Areas of consultation may include infant and early childhood mental health, the FIND model of intervention, birth to three child development, infant and toddler child care, and pediatric health.

Filming Interactions to Nurture Development (FIND)

FIND is a video-based intervention with microanalysis of caregiver-child interactions. A FIND coach uses the film to engage and support caregivers in learning about developmentally supportive strategies using five core elements of supportive caregiving. Caregivers use film of themselves as their own positive model for learning.

Small Business Development Project – Year 1

Accessing child care is a key element to securing long-term financial stability. When parents cannot find or afford child care, they are unable to work. In Whatcom County, there is not enough child care available for all families in need, and the cost of child care is prohibitively expensive for families with low incomes. Whatcom County is considered a child care desert, as defined by the Center for American Progress. There is only one spot available for every four children who need care, and a full year of licensed infant care costs more than tuition at Western Washington University.

To address this urgent and growing need, the Quality Child Care Program launched a new initiative in 2017 to address the severe lack of child care in Whatcom County. Led by an AmeriCorps VISTA Member, the Small Business Development Project achieved multiple successes in its first year:

- Analyzed supply and demand of childcare in Whatcom County
- Mapped areas of greatest need
- Began facilitating discussions among stakeholders—including child care providers, social service providers, and employers—about how to address this huge community need

- Partnered with the Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce to survey the impact of child care barriers on Whatcom County employers. The survey results were clear: 88% of Whatcom County business owners reported child care barriers affecting their employees' work performance.
- Developed resources for aspiring entrepreneurs, and hosted four Q & A sessions on how to get started in opening a child care business.

The success of the first year generated greater awareness about the lack of child care in our region, resulted in strong partnerships going forward into 2018, and set the stage for community investment in the months and years ahead.

East Whatcom Regional Resource Center

The East Whatcom Regional Resource Center (EWRRRC) is located in Maple Falls, Washington. A Whatcom County Parks facility, it is managed by the Opportunity Council. The facility opened in September 2011, and provides space for a preschool program, youth and teen programming, community meetings, neighborhood events, private events, as well as a variety of information and resources and events throughout the year for residents in Eastern Whatcom County.

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, Board of Directors and Policy Council oversight, 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, 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 2017, which covers half of the Early Learning and Family Services Department's 2017-2018 contract year with ACF-OHS and State of Washington Department of Early Learning, was "unmodified" or absent of any findings.

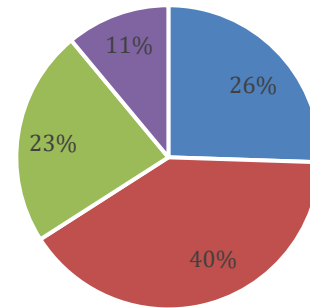
Monitoring Reports

ECEAP and Infant Toddler Consultation Project

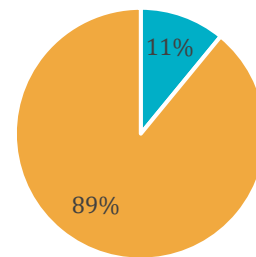
During 2018, the Washington State Department of Early Learning conducted an on-site monitoring review of the Opportunity Councils' ECEAP and Infant-Toddler Consultation Project programs. This consisted of a fiscal review, staff interviews and written/documentation and other contract inquiry of policies, procedures, monitoring and practices. Findings occurred in the areas of payroll and accounts payable approvals, corrective action plans were submitted, approved and executed.

Financials - Revenue and Expenditures

2017 Revenue	Amount
Birth to Three	\$2,766,600.90
Preschool Services	\$4,382,336.72
Quality Child Care	\$2,497,550.41
Other	\$1,195,607.58
Total	\$10,842,095.61



2017 Expenses	Indirect	Direct
Birth to Three	\$207,288.78	\$1,727,406.48
Preschool Services	\$399,103.94	\$3,983,232.78
Quality Child Care	\$263,029.85	\$2,234,520.56
Total	\$869,422.57	\$7,945,159.82



■ Indirect ■ Direct

Birth-Three Services	Total	Indirect	Direct
Infant Toddler Early Prevention Programs	\$1,934,695.26	\$207,288.78	\$1,727,406.48
Early Intervention (ESIT)	\$242,094.00	\$24,364.98	\$217,729.02
Whatcom County Intervention Services	\$64,875.00	\$0.00	\$64,875.00
Early Head Start	\$464,529.00	\$44,742.49	\$419,786.51
Chuckanut Foundation - SEAS	\$60,407.64	\$6,472.25	\$53,935.39
Whatcom County - SEAS	\$2,766,600.90	\$282,868.49	\$2,483,732.41
Total	\$1,934,695.26	\$207,288.78	\$1,727,406.48

Preschool Services	Total	Indirect	Direct
ECEAP	\$1,681,202.81	\$143,912.73	\$1,537,290.08
Head Start	\$2,401,577.00	\$222,500.02	\$2,179,076.98
Bellingham Public NFS	\$120,000.00	\$13,452.95	\$106,547.05
USDA-Lunch Program	\$173,663.36	\$18,606.79	\$155,056.57
Head Start Donations	\$5,893.55	\$631.45	\$5,262.10
Total	\$4,382,336.72	\$399,103.94	\$3,983,232.78

Quality Child Care and Support Services	Total	Indirect	Direct
CACFP	\$71,257.08	\$7,648.06	\$63,609.02
Fee for Service	\$11,912.80	\$1,276.37	\$10,636.43
Child Care Resource and Referral	\$2,244,461.57	\$236,368.30	\$2,008,093.27
Teaching Strategies Gold	\$18,270.04	\$1,957.50	\$16,312.54
Infant Toddler Regional Systems	\$108,260.67	\$11,165.90	\$97,094.77
NWESD	\$5,790.40	\$620.40	\$5,170.00
United Way - WELA	\$17,231.00	\$1,846.18	\$15,384.82
United Way - Vouchers	\$20,199.94	\$2,129.25	\$18,070.69
United Way - Skagit	\$166.90	\$17.88	\$149.02
Total	\$2,497,550.41	\$263,029.85	\$2,234,520.56

Other	Total
Head Start Non-Federal Share	\$823,234.84
Early Head Start Non-Federal Share	\$113,069.74
Events/Private Donations	\$30,764.00
East Whatcom Regional Resource Center	\$192,039.00
Project X-it - Whatcom Community Foundation	\$9,500.00
Project X-it - Whatcom Educational Credit Union	\$25,000.00
Project X-it - Tulalip Tribes	\$2,000.00

Community Reach

Birth to Three and Health Services

Early Head Start 2017-18

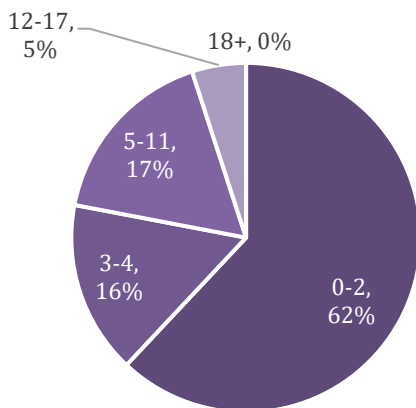
Cumulative Enrollment:	70
Number of Funded Slots:	41
Average Monthly Enrollment:	100%
Number of Center Based Classrooms:	1
Number of Home Based Slots:	31
Percent of Children w/Health Insurance at End of Enrollment:	100%
Percent of Enrolled Children that Received Medical Exams:	95%
Percent of Children Enrolled for at least 6 Months who had Medical Exam	95%
Percent of Enrolled Children who are Income Eligible	95%

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers 2017-18¹

Average Number of Referrals made each month	35
Average Number of Evaluations to Determine Eligibility	15
Average Number Determined Eligible during the month	10
Average IFSPs Completed During the Month	17
Average Number of New/Initial IFSPs completed during month	10
Average Number of Active IFSPs on last day of month	92
Average Number of all active IFSPs within the month	92
Average Children Transitioned within month	9

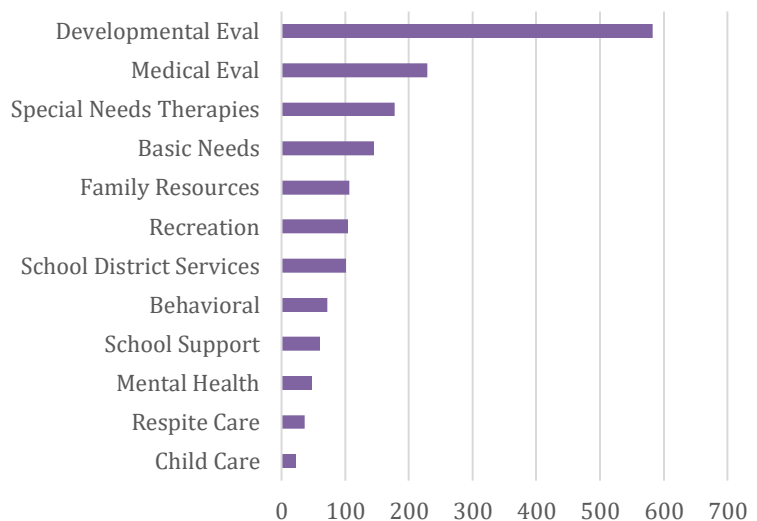
Single Entry Access to Services 2017-18

Age Range of Children Referred for Service 2017-18



Total Referrals = 1,022

SEAS Needs Identified 2017-18



¹ Numbers are for OC direct services team, and do not reflect larger volume of service as Local Lead Agency

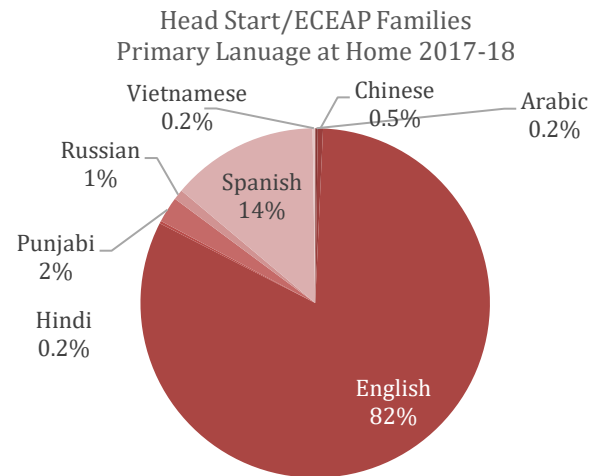
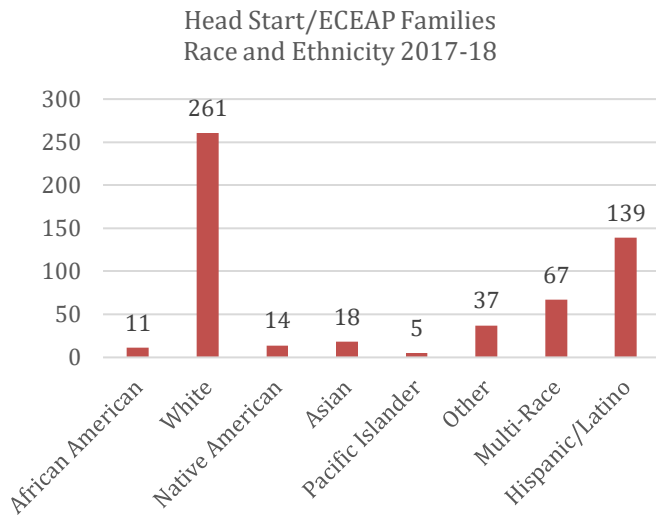
Preschool Services

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program 2017-18

Cumulative Enrollment:	182
Number of Funded Slots:	143
Average Monthly Enrollment:	100%
Number of Center Based Classrooms:	9
Meal Count:	29,954
Percentage of Enrolled Children who are Income Eligible	99%

Head Start 2017-18

Cumulative Enrollment:	297
Number of Funded Slots:	256
Average Monthly Enrollment:	100%
Number of Center Based Classrooms:	15
Meal Count:	40,930
Percentage of Enrolled Children who are Income Eligible:	100%



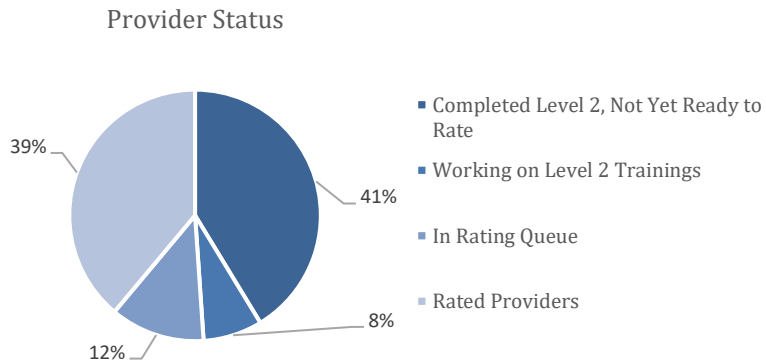
Quality Child Care and Support Services

Emergency Child Care Vouchers 2017-18

Unduplicated families who received assistance	24
Unduplicated children who received assistance	35
Direct Assistance	\$13,436.18

* 2017-2018: Child Care Aware – Early Achievers Quality Rating and Improvement System

Providers Enrolled in Early Achievers Total	460
---	-----



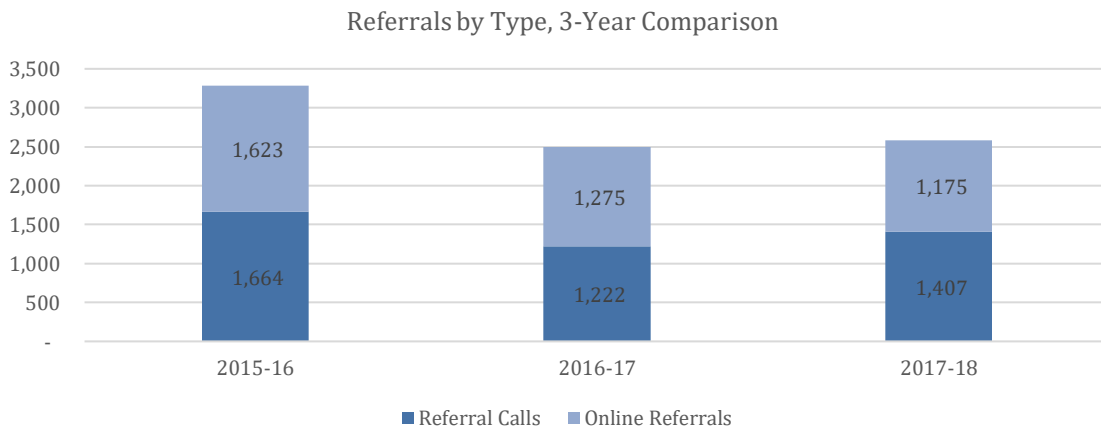
Professional Development Training

Total number of Enhanced Training hours	314.50
Total number of Enhanced Training participants (duplicated)	1,477
Total number of Enhanced Trainings	100
Total number of Level 2 trainings	20
Total number of Level 2 attendees	182
Total number of Level 2 training hours	82.00

Child Care Nutrition Program

Total number of Reimbursed Meals:	209,349
Average number of Reimbursed Meals Per Month	17,446
Average number of Children Served Per Month	603

Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington

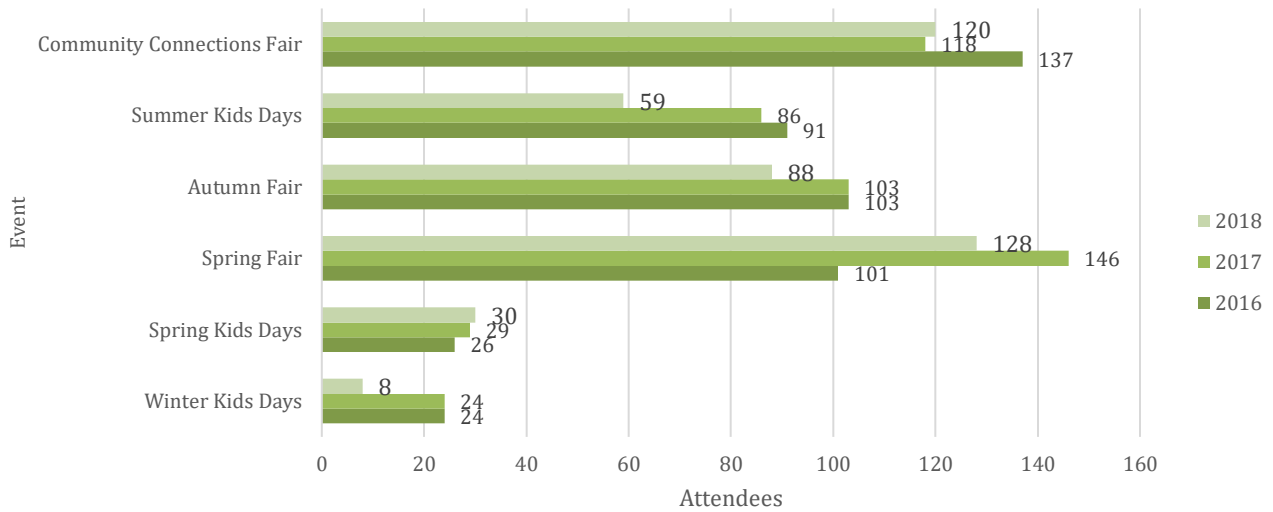


East Whatcom Regional Resource Center

Information and Referral Services 2018

Walk-in Clients:	6,124
Phone Clients	1120
New Users:	630
Volunteer Hours	1,214

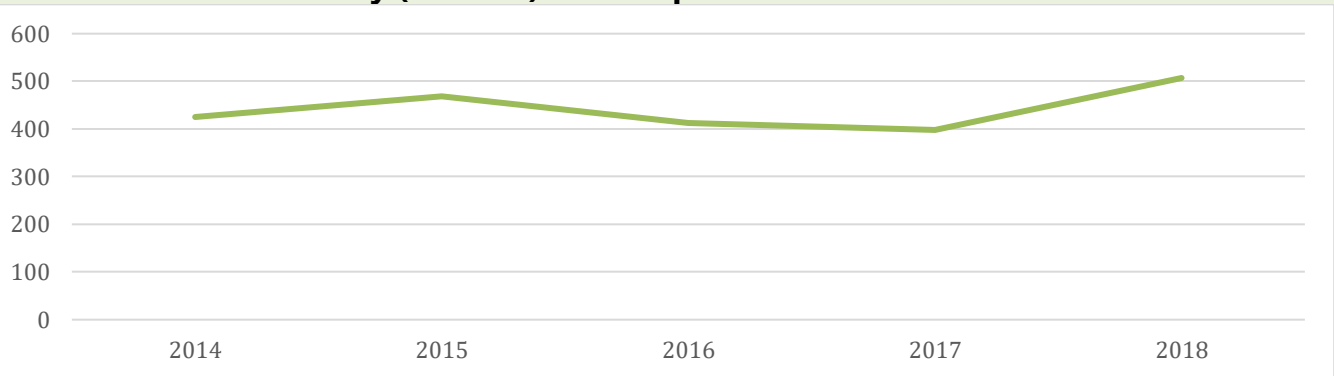
Event Attendance 2016 - 2018



Summer Kids Days 2018

Number of Kids that Attended	59
Average Number of Kids Attending Per Day	18
Highest Attendance	24
Meals Served	630
Volunteer Hours	90

EWRRC Total Community (Non-OC) Rental Episodes² Per Year



² A renter episode may be of any length

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.
- Participating in various surveys on issues of interest to parents.
- During school breaks parents of attending East Whatcom Regional Resource Center (EWRRC) Kids Dayz are welcome to stay with their child and participate alongside their child.
- Parents attend the EWRRC 0-5 playtime during community coffee and tea with their children.

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 2017-18 Program Year.

