

Head Start of Yamhill County 2017-18 Community Assessment Update:

The last comprehensive HSYC Community Assessment took place in 2015-2016 through a contract with Early Childhood Analytics. An update to that Community Assessment follows.

Since the 2015-2016 Community Assessment, Yamhill County has indications of some economic stability with the poverty rate for families with children under 5 dropping from 23% in 2014 to 13% in 2016 and the unemployment rate remaining stable at 5%. These statistics would appear to be positive, however, the median income continues to drop. In 2014 the median income was \$61,071, dropping by 9.8% in 2016 to \$54,951, indicating jobs are not providing the same living wage as in previous years. In addition, according to a document published by Oregon Housing and Community Services in October 2017, median rents in Yamhill County rose approximately 25% between 2012 and 2016, contributing to increased homelessness.

According to the Yamhill Community Action Partnership's (YCAP) 2016 and 2017 Homeless Counts, homelessness is up including Precariously Housed persons (such as those couch surfing), rising from 472 in 2016 to 680 in 2017. In a survey conducted by YCAP in 2016, the highest reported causes included: couldn't afford rent; unemployed; kicked out by family/ friends; and drugs/alcohol. HSYC tracks information related to homelessness among our enrolled families and we have noted a dramatic increase over the last 3 years. HSYC homelessness rates were as follows: 2014-2015, 10.4% of children 9% of families; 2015-2016, 17% of children 16% of families; and in 2016-2017, 19% of children 20% of families. HSYC follows the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition of homelessness which states: individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

HSYC has also seen a change in its population over the last several years, likely due to overall trends in the population of Yamhill County. Between 2010 and 2016, the overall population of the county increased by approximately 5,845 with the Hispanic/ Latino population making up 33% of that increase. HSYC also saw increases in our Hispanic/ Latino demographic. In the 2016-2017 school year, 49% of our families served were Hispanic/ Latino, up from 43% in the 2015-2016 school year.

The 2015-2016 Community Assessment indicated a trend toward fewer children under the age of 5 in Yamhill County and identified 1,393 Head Start/ Early Head Start eligible children in 2014. According to the American Community Survey 2011-2015 and the Department of Human Services County Quick Facts January 2016 & 2017 estimates, in 2015 there were 1,444 income eligible children in Yamhill County. Of interesting note are the most recent recorded birth rates for the county. In 2016 birth rates rose to the highest level since 2009, with 1,160 recorded births. While there may indeed be a trend toward fewer children under the age of 5 in Yamhill County, economic conditions are such that the need for Head Start services is still greater than HSYC and community partners can meet as evidenced by our long Early Head Start waiting list.