Oregon

Oregon established the Head Start Prekindergarten program in 1987 to provide comprehensive child development services to 3- and 4-year-olds. Children are eligible if they have family incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty level or if they have identified disabilities. State funding is distributed to all federal Head Start grantees in Oregon and also may be awarded to private agencies, public schools, and universities that meet the standards for Head Start programs but do not receive federal Head Start funding. All funded programs must follow the Head Start Performance Standards and monitoring requirements, which have been adopted in state law. The state has a formal intergovernmental agreement between the Oregon Department of Education and the Region X Head Start Office, creating a state/federal partnership that supports a collaborative preschool education system.

As a result of fluctuating funding in recent years, the Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten program has faced reductions in enrollment. However, through a 2007-2009 expansion proposal to fully fund Head Start Prekindergarten, the state is considering making the program available to all eligible children whose families choose to enroll.
TANF Spending

Federal Head Start Performance Standards require in-service professional development but do not specify the number of clock or credit hours. Programs are required to allocate 2.5% of their budget for training to attain credentials or enhance skills.

Support services include four annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, mental health services, and community partnerships.

1 Programs must be offered for at least 3.5 hours per day, and up to 6 hours per day. Most programs operate 3 or 4 days per week. All programs must operate a minimum of 32 weeks and 474 hours per year. Days, weeks, and number of home visits vary depending on program model. The Center Based Models are required to operate 128 days per year, Home Based Models are required to have 16 socializations and 32 home visits per year, and Combination Models are required to combine Home Based and Center Based Model requirements.

2 This number represents enrollment in the Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten program. All state-funded Head Start enrollment is through this program.

3 State staff jointly conduct monitoring visits of all jointly funded grantees with federal staff monitors. Monitoring visits for state-only grantees are conducted by state staff monitors using the federal Head Start PRISM review process. Monitoring visits for state-only grantees are conducted by state staff monitors using the federal Head Start PRISM review process.

4 Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

5 K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

6 Data are for the ‘05–’06 school year, unless otherwise noted.

7 This figure represents the state contribution to the Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten program, which is a state-funded Head Start model. All state pre-K spending is therefore directed toward Head Start programs.