



Oregon
Alliance



OREGON CHILD AND FAMILY

Center for
Excellence

2025
2026

**Annual
Report**

A Message From The CEO...

In the days since our Annual Summit at Salishan, I’ve been reflecting on what it means to be rooted in belonging; not just as a theme, but as a shared responsibility we carry together.

Throughout the Summit, we explored how relationships grow into lasting connections and stability. We heard powerful examples of prevention, youth-centered voices and lived experiences, and challenged ourselves to think differently about how we engage families and build systems of care.

Just as meaningful were the connections formed between sessions, during shared meals, around the fire, and at the evening reception. Colleagues from across the state and beyond came together exchanging ideas, building relationships, and finding common ground. These moments of connection and shared learning are what strengthen our collective impact.

What stood out most was how we showed up with openness, curiosity, and a commitment to doing this work together.

Belonging is something we build through relationships, practice, and the ways we design systems with families, not for them. And in a time when so much feels uncertain, the importance of staying connected to one another cannot be overstated.

The Summit was a reminder that we are not alone in this work. We are part of a collective grounded in shared values and a deep commitment to children, youth, and families across Oregon.

Thank you for the work you do every day and for being part of this community.



Vera Stoulil
Chief Executive Officer
Oregon Alliance / Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence



Who We Are

The Oregon Alliance is the statewide voice for children, youth, and families. United by a shared commitment to Oregon’s young people, we partner with a diverse network of government leaders, allied professionals, and those with lived experience to shape smart policies, champion proven practices, and secure the resources that drive real impact.

Our Mission

To help every child and youth thrive—and to build stronger, healthier families and communities across Oregon.

Our Core Values

We create, promote, and advocate for systems change, along with creating principles of respect, acceptance, and access to equitable services for the children, youth, families, and the communities at large that we serve.

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By The Numbers:



28
Member Organizations



4,000
Member Full-Time Employees



\$165 Million
Collective Impact



200,000+
Youth & Families Served
by Member Organizations

FY 2025 - FY 2026
Numbers:



38

Trainings Held



840

Training Participants



476

Non-Member Organization
Participants



364

Member Organization
Participants



105

Non-Member Organizations
Reached



OREGON CHILD AND FAMILY
Center for Excellence

Who We Are

The Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence supports children and families in Oregon by strengthening the programs, service delivery, and systems that contribute to their well-being and meet the needs of these most vulnerable members of our communities.

Our Mission

To advance workforce development, innovation, and best practices while engaging communities to strengthen systems of care and sustain prevention-focused solutions for the future.

Our Vision

Helping create and support thriving and responsive professionals serving children, youth and families across Oregon.



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Building Capacity Through Community
Partnership

The Center for Excellence delivered several professional development trainings to build capacity for frontline providers of social services to children, youth, and families in Douglas County.

Thanks to generous support from grants given by The Ford Family Foundation, Roundhouse Foundation, and Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, the Center worked closely with community partners to deliver essential no-cost trainings that responded to self-identified needs of Douglas County community partners.

Working with partners, the Center conducted outreach to potential participant providers throughout Douglas County, with a particular focus on smaller agencies in more remote areas with limited access to professional development funds or opportunities, capacity building, and training resources.

Many programs were able to meet compliance requirements and other mandated activities through this partnership, and local professionals were able to deepen their knowledge and skills to better serve clients. In addition to organization-level impacts, community partners also engaged with each other during professional development opportunities as a shared learning and relationship building activity, increasing awareness of programs, connection and communication among partners, and community-level education.

Strengthening Oregon’s Human Services Workforce

A significant accomplishment this year for the Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence was the successful development and launch of two innovative workforce training programs designed to strengthen Oregon’s human services system.

Through funding from the Oregon Health Authority, the Center for Excellence created and piloted two comprehensive training models: Direct Youth Services Staff Training and Lived Experience Workforce (LEW) Training. These programs were developed in response to statewide workforce needs identified by providers and the Oregon Health Authority, with a focus on increasing workforce capacity, strengthening professional skills, and supporting organizations in delivering high-quality care.

Statewide Reach Through Strong Partnerships

The Center for Excellence partnered with organizations across Oregon to ensure the trainings reflected real-world practice and met the needs of youth-serving professionals. In-person trainings were hosted in the Portland and Medford regions, complemented by virtual learning opportunities that expanded access across the state.

“I felt the whole training was informative, well organized, and very comfortable.”

- Direct Youth Services Staff Training Participant



From Learning to Lasting Impact

Participants reported increased confidence in understanding trauma and brain development, managing challenging situations, engaging youth more effectively, and strengthening communication within their teams. “Attachment theory changed how I understand youth behavior,” said one participant, while another said, “I’ll use active listening and feedback skills everyday.”

Beyond knowledge gains, participants described putting new skills into practice immediately by improving communication, reducing conflict, strengthening team collaboration, and delivering more trauma-informed services to children, youth, and families.

Youth Well Being Rural Connections Program

In partnership with Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency and with support from the Willamette Health Council, the Center for Excellence expanded access to youth mental health education across rural Marion and Polk Counties.

By working alongside schools, community organizations, and local leaders, the Youth Well Being Rural Connections Program equipped youth, educators, parents, and community members with the knowledge and skills to recognize the signs of mental health challenges, respond with confidence and compassion, and connect young people to appropriate support. Communities including Monmouth, Independence, Falls City, Salem, Silverton, and Keizer were among those who benefited. By bringing together schools, families, and community partners, this program is helping create communities where young people are better supported, adults are better prepared to respond, and mental health is recognized as an essential part of overall well-being.

Project Impacts

- Strengthened the region’s long-term capacity through certified YMHFA network.
- Expanded access to evidence-based mental health education.
- Helped create communities where young people are better supported.



THE PARTNERSHIP PATHWAY

The Child and Family Center for Excellence broke new ground with its recently concluded participation in The Partnership Pathway, a demonstration project conducted by the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI), the technical assistance arm of the international Association of Children’s Residential and Community services (ACRC).



The two-year project evaluated how integrating System of Care principles into residential interventions can improve organizational culture, family and youth engagement, and service quality. It was a public-private partnership between the Center for Excellence, ACRC, ODHS, and five residential programs (St. Mary’s Home for Boys, Madrona Recovery, A Village for One, Parrott Creek Child & Family Services, and Nexus Family Healing: Walden Crossing). The Center served as the lead entity under its contract with ODHS and provided invaluable local system expertise and support for project implementation and dissemination.



The Partnership Pathway centers family and youth voice in implementing quality improvement projects based on System of Care values, such as family-driven and youth-guided care, equitability, and data-driven and outcome-focused practice.

Consulting teams, consisting of national BBI program, family peer support, and youth peer support experts, guided the five programs through completing the BBI Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) with staff, youth, families, and partners and using co-design principles to generate improvements. Webinars and collaborative learning sessions provided opportunities for provider staff and leaders to learn from each other’s successes and challenges, including a training on Photovoice that programs used to bolster youth treatment engagement.

The project used a mixed-methods participatory action research design that showed statistically significant improvements across all five programs in family engagement based on pre- and post-project SAT data, as well as enhancements in organizational capacity, collaboration with families and youth, organizational culture, and accountability through Ripple Effects Mapping, a qualitative group participatory evaluation method. The programs received coaching on how to sustain implementation of Photovoice and Ripple Effects Mapping as part of their ongoing quality improvement efforts.

“Participation in the Partnership Pathway project gave us invaluable expert guidance, tools and support to improve our programs from doing what we think is right, to doing what produces results for kids and families. The nationally validated framework and the international recognition of our efforts put us and our partners in the vanguard of child and adolescent residential service transformation,”

said Simon Fulford, Executive Director of Parrott Creek.

Baseline data about the Partnership Pathway demonstration project has been published in a special issue of Child Welfare on youth and family voice in quality improvement and has been featured at major national and international conferences. A summary of results is being prepared for publication in Residential Treatment for Children and Youth.

“This project is an example of residential programs aspiring to the highest level of quality, using known best practices,” said Vera Stoulil, Chief Executive Officer of the Oregon Alliance and Center for Excellence. “At a time of significant concern about the safety and effectiveness of residential interventions, [the state of] Oregon and the Alliance are leading the pathway in demonstrating innovative collaborative approaches to excellence in this arena.”

Our Annual Summit 2026

“ROOTED IN BELONGING: REIMAGINING FAMILIES, CONNECTIONS, AND CARE”

The 2026 Annual Summit was a tremendous success for the Oregon Alliance and the Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence, bringing together a record number of professionals committed to strengthening outcomes for children, youth, and families across Oregon. Inspiring keynote presentations - including an impactful address from Linda S. Spears of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) - along with sessions led by Alliance member organizations, state partners, and subject matter experts, offered practical strategies, innovative approaches, and opportunities for meaningful collaboration. The enthusiasm, engagement, and collaborative spirit throughout the event reaffirmed the Summit’s role as a catalyst for learning, connection, and innovation, making the 2026 Annual Summit one of our most impactful gatherings to date.

“Excellent Summit! They keep getting better. Great information and LOVE Salishan as a venue.”

- A 2026 Summit Attendee



BY THE
NUMBERS:

152

Attendees

25

Sponsors

58

Total agencies
reached

Improving Mental Health Access for Youth with Developmental Disabilities

In 2024, the Oregon Dual Diagnosis Research project published a report outlining the many barriers that young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) face when trying to access mental health care.

Earlier in 2024, the Oregon Legislature had passed a bill that added state-level protections on top federal protections—clarifying that mental health providers cannot deny services to young people due to an IDD diagnosis. In the summer of 2025, the Center for Excellence partnered with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to take this work a step further. The Center interviewed providers, family members, regulators, and youth advocates to investigate the question of why mental health professionals so often report feeling unqualified to treat youth with IDD. Ultimately, two intersecting themes emerged: experience and confidence. One of the project’s recommendations was to expand specialized training and better-equip mental health professionals to meet the needs of young people with IDD.

After interviewing a variety of stakeholders, there was general consensus that relatively few mental health professionals were experienced in assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for youth with IDD—and that those who do get specialized training typically get it through field placements and practicums with organizations that focus on youth with IDD.

The Center considered many different practical approaches to addressing these problems. Some of the interviewees suggested continuing education requirements as a pathway to improve expertise (and by extension, access to services), while others recommended partnering with universities to ensure that IDD content is included in degree program requirements. Still others suggested the development of a novel training curriculum that is designed to leverage providers’ existing knowledge and skills to better-serve youth with IDD.

SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	 Complete Integration Fully merge IDD and mental health service systems	 Integration Pilots Pilot co-located IDD and mental health care regionally
	 Specialized Provider Training Train providers in IDD-inclusive mental health care	 Referring Entity Training Train schools, doctors, and caseworkers to refer youth
EDUCATION	 Graduate Curriculum Reform Add IDD/MH training to graduate school programs	 Continuing Education Mandate Require IDD/MH training for license renewal
OTHER PROGRAMS	 Tele-mentoring Network Connect rural providers to specialists via video	 Centralized Resource Archive Build a searchable online directory of services

Inspiring the Next Generation of Behavioral Health Professionals

The Center for Excellence secured funding from Cambia Foundation to launch a behavioral health classroom at Sunset High School in Beaverton in the Fall of 2024.

The initial program was launched with 15 Sunset students in Fall 2024 and has since expanded into a magnet program that will serve over 60 students from all six Beaverton comprehensive high schools in Fall 2026. Participation goals are to continue growth to 100 first-year students in 2026 and help the 35 second-year students who graduate get ready to enter the workforce with industry credentials and clear pathways to internship and further education opportunities.

Students have taken part in work-based learning and services to the school and broader community, including a work-based learning project in which they learned about trauma-informed architecture and design from professionals at Holst Architecture,

which then designed two trauma-informed classrooms for the Behavioral Health program and a Wellness Room that serves the entire Sunset student body. They have also created “Anchor Boxes” to pass out among their peers and community members, which contain mental health resources and activities for those in need.

Next goals include further expansion and inclusion of diverse students from across the Beaverton School District, design and implementation of student internship opportunities in local behavioral health workplaces, and the development of advanced coursework in three capstone courses. Sunset High School hopes to apply for a grant in the next funding cycle to support the expansion and collaboration with nascent high school programs across the Northwest, with higher education partners, and professional behavioral health organizations.



Project Impacts

- Helping students and graduates become ready to enter the human services workforce.
- Creating opportunities for students to connect with the community in meaningful ways.
- Designing trauma-informed classrooms with the intent to expand them in 2027.

Homeless Youth Solutions Initiative

The Homeless Youth Solutions Initiative is a collaborative effort between social service providers working together to end youth homelessness in Douglas County.

In 2022, the HYSI team put together a Roadmap to guide their work, and in 2025 the team contracted with the Center for Excellence to update that Roadmap. In the year since, the Center has interviewed stakeholders, researched best practices, and developed a set of performance indicators to help track progress. The final report also included strategic guidance for Douglas County housing service providers to help them navigate an increasingly uncertain funding landscape.

The performance indicators in particular represented an exciting new way to examine housing affordability and insecurity—leveraging program effectiveness data to explore the long-term costs and benefits associated with housing services. The Center is hoping to push this work forward at the state level in the future, with the goal of informing lawmakers and the public about the need for (and potential impacts of) a well-resourced housing safety net for vulnerable families and youth.



Thank You to Our Sponsors

The Oregon Alliance extends a warm thank you to our annual sponsor organizations.



Thank You To Our Members:

4D Recovery	Maslow Project
A Village for One	Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Boys & Girls Aid	New Narrative
Bridge Meadows	Nexus Family Healing
Clarvida	Oregon Community Programs
Connections365	Parrott Creek Child & Family Services
Family SkillBuilders	Professional Therapeutic Community Network
Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc.	Project Lemonade
Homestead Youth & Family	St. Mary's Home for Boys
Jackson Street Youth Services	The Next Door, Inc.
Janus Youth Programs, Inc.	Yamhill Community Action Partnership
Jasper Mountain	Youth Progress Association
J Bar J Youth Services	Youth Unlimited, Inc.
Kairos Northwest	Youth Villages

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