

School Readiness for Homeless & At-Risk Children

By Lauren Sigman & Katey Townsend

Lincoln County School District



Objectives

- Gain better understanding of barriers that homeless & at-risk families face to kindergarten readiness
- Learn strategies to address barriers
- Share successful examples of school readiness resources or programs
- Learn creative ways to fund or support programs

Littlest Nomads



Definition of Homelessness

- MV: Lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence
- Four categories of homelessness:
 - Shelter-9%
 - Unsheltered- 11%
 - Motel/Hotel- 5.5%
 - Doubled up- 74.5%
- Oregon's homeless data (K-12): 21,340 or 3.71% of students for 2015-16.
- Publicly funded PreK students 1,929 for 2015-16
 - Oregon Department of Education

Early Childhood Homelessness -50 State Profile

US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families – January 2016

**TOTAL CHILDREN
POPULATION UNDER 6
in 2013:**

269,072¹

**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6
IDENTIFIED as HOMELESS:**

19,490²

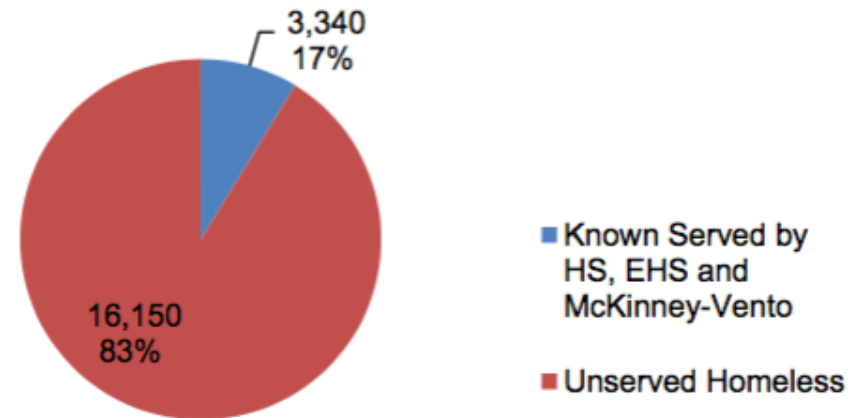
**CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS:**

1 in 14 CHILDREN



Oregon's Profile

**CHILDREN IN EARLY
LEARNING PROGRAMS**





Source: NAEHCY Fact Sheet – Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Source: U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services. The Better Home Fund: America's New Outcasts: Homeless Children

The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll of **negative health outcomes**, which can have lifetime effects on the child.

Infants who are homeless need **special care** four times more than other babies.

Homeless toddlers have significantly higher **developmental delays** than other children, including other low income children.

Homelessness during infancy and toddlerhood has been linked to later **child welfare involvement** and **early school failure**.

Homelessness in early childhood is associated with **poor classroom engagement** and **poor social skills** in early elementary school.

The **achievement gaps** between homeless and low income elementary students tend to **persist**, and may even **worsen, over time**.

Barriers to Education

I wish for a home and
food.



- High mobility
- Enrollment requirements
- Lack of transportation
- Isolation
- Lack of school supplies, clothing, etc.
- Poor health, fatigue, hunger
- Anxiety, trauma
- Invisibility
- Prejudice and misunderstanding
- Negative associations with educational programs
- Lack of knowledge on what programs and resources are available.

ESSA and McKinney-Vento Amendments:

Preschool Children

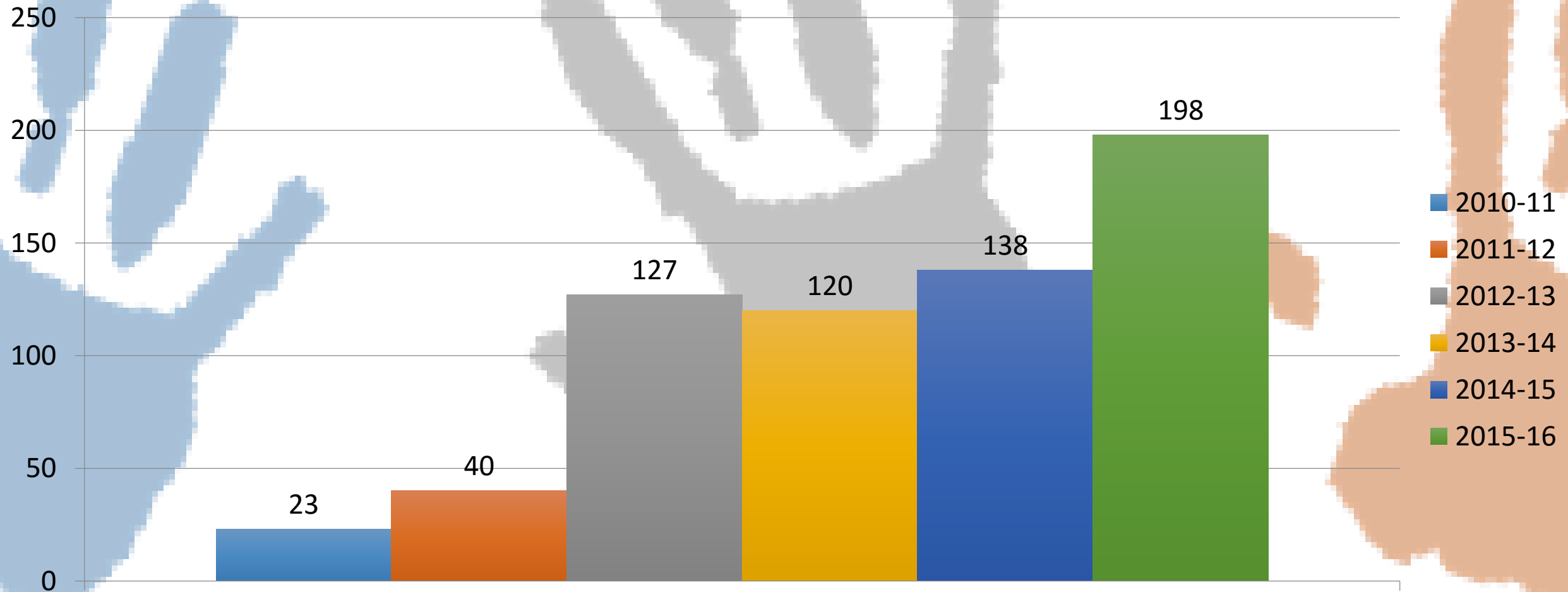
- **States** must ensure homeless children have access to **public preschool** programs, including *Head Start*.
- **Liaisons** must ensure homeless families and children can access **early intervention services**, if eligible.
- The definition of school of origin includes preschools. (provision of transportation may be required for preschool children who become homeless).
- **Access to Child Care for homeless families to be supported by DHS – Homeless Liaisons can help with referrals.**

Lincoln County's Littlest Learners

- Demographics
- Outreach to children ages 0-5
- HELP Center Model



Lincoln County's Littlest Learners



Birth to PreK Mutli-Year Homeless Data

L.I.F.T. Learning is Fun Together!



L.I.F.T. is growing!



L.I.F.T. Video



Program Models

Newport

- 2 hours
- 2 days a week
- Bilingual English/Spanish
- Parents attend with children

Lincoln City

- Preschool students attend a licensed child care for free
- Parents participate in 3 family engagement activities.

Waldport

- 3 hours
- 2 days a week
- Parents have the option to attend with their child or drop them off

New for 16-17

Summer Session

- 6 weeks, 3 days per week, 2.5 hours per day
- 3 sites led by kindergarten teacher and aide (bilingual if needed)
- Bussing provided

Added Newport Site

- Preschool students attend a licensed child care for free
- Parents participate in 3 family engagement activities.

Yachats

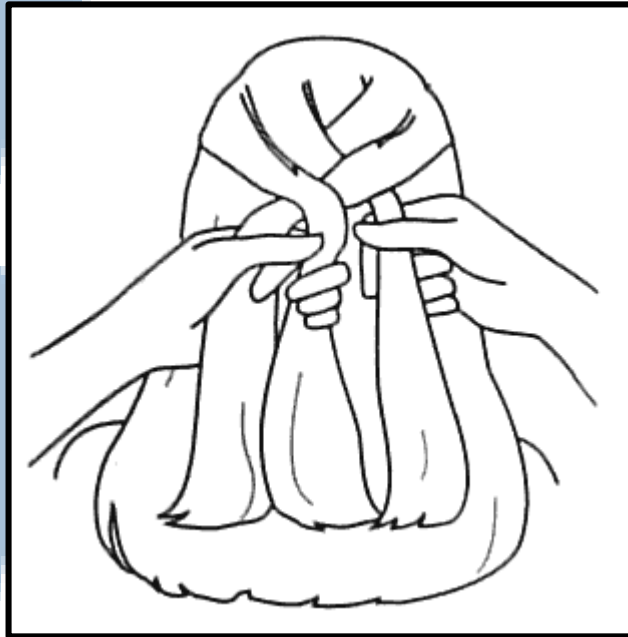
- 2 hours
- 2 days a week
- Ages 0-5 offered as supplement to preschool program.

School Readiness Support

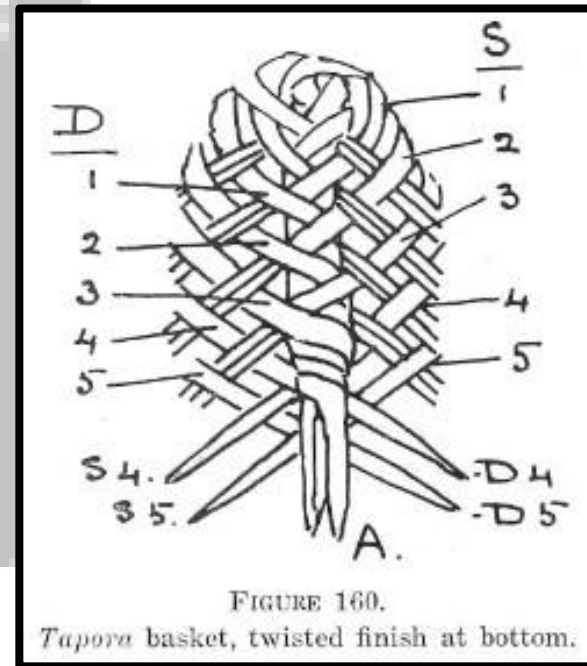
- Outreach to 3-5 year olds not currently attending a preschool program
- All programs have kindergarten teachers visit in spring to talk about transitioning to school
- All programs visit kindergarten classrooms in the spring
- Parent involvement- parent/family nights (Lincoln City, Waldport)
- Parent pull-out time (Newport)
- Help and support for registering for school
- Refer parents to other resources to meet their needs and have resources on site.
- Help with transportation

Funding sources- blending & braiding

Idea...



Reality



- Summer Session-staffing & Supplies
- Aide position in Newport and LC
- Yachats- portion of staffing and supplies

Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation

- Newport and Waldport Staffing
- Bussing for Summer Program
- Program training expenses

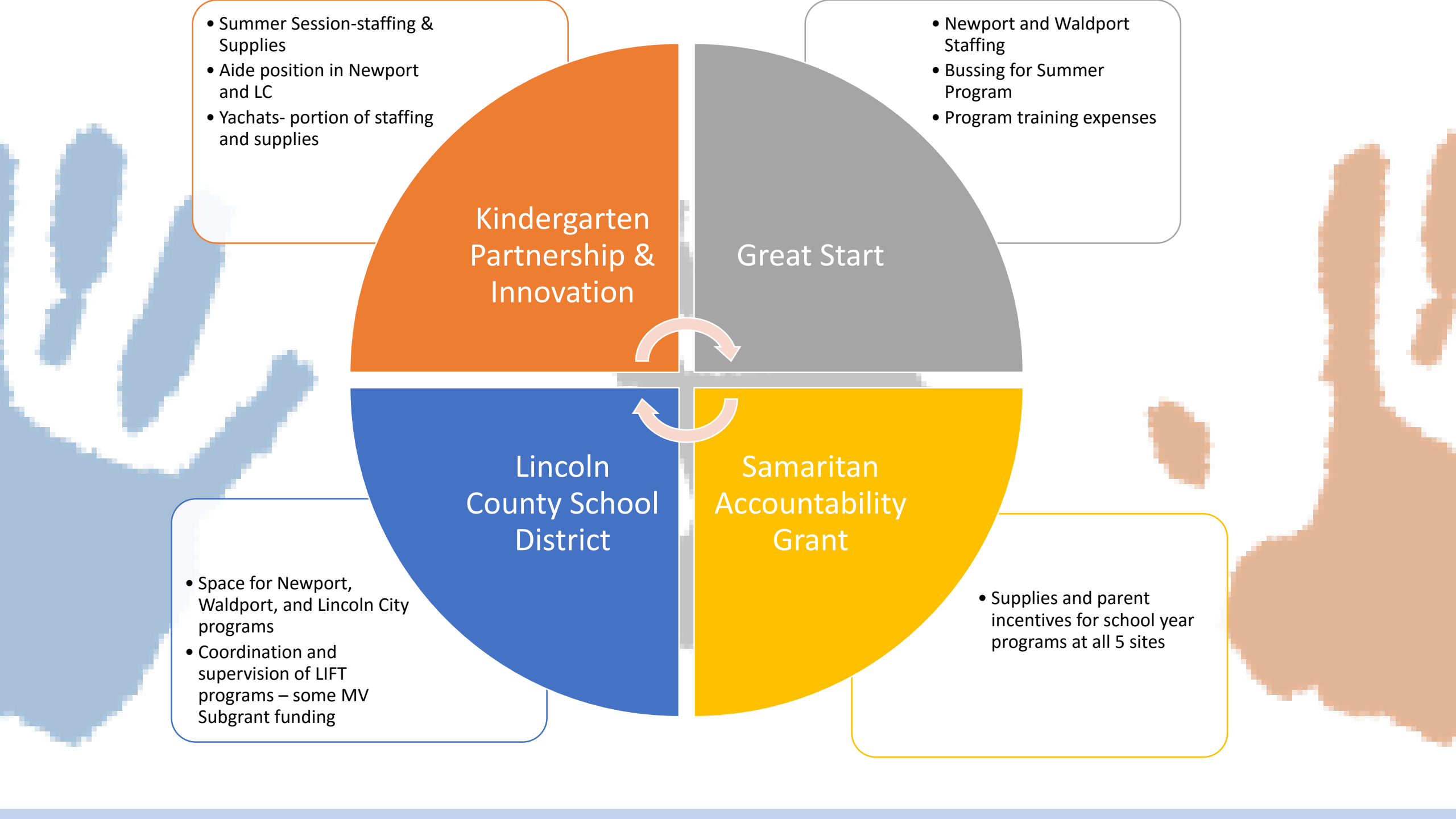
Great Start

- Space for Newport, Waldport, and Lincoln City programs
- Coordination and supervision of LIFT programs – some MV Subgrant funding

Lincoln County School District

- Supplies and parent incentives for school year programs at all 5 sites

Samaritan Accountability Grant



Assessment and Growth Tracking

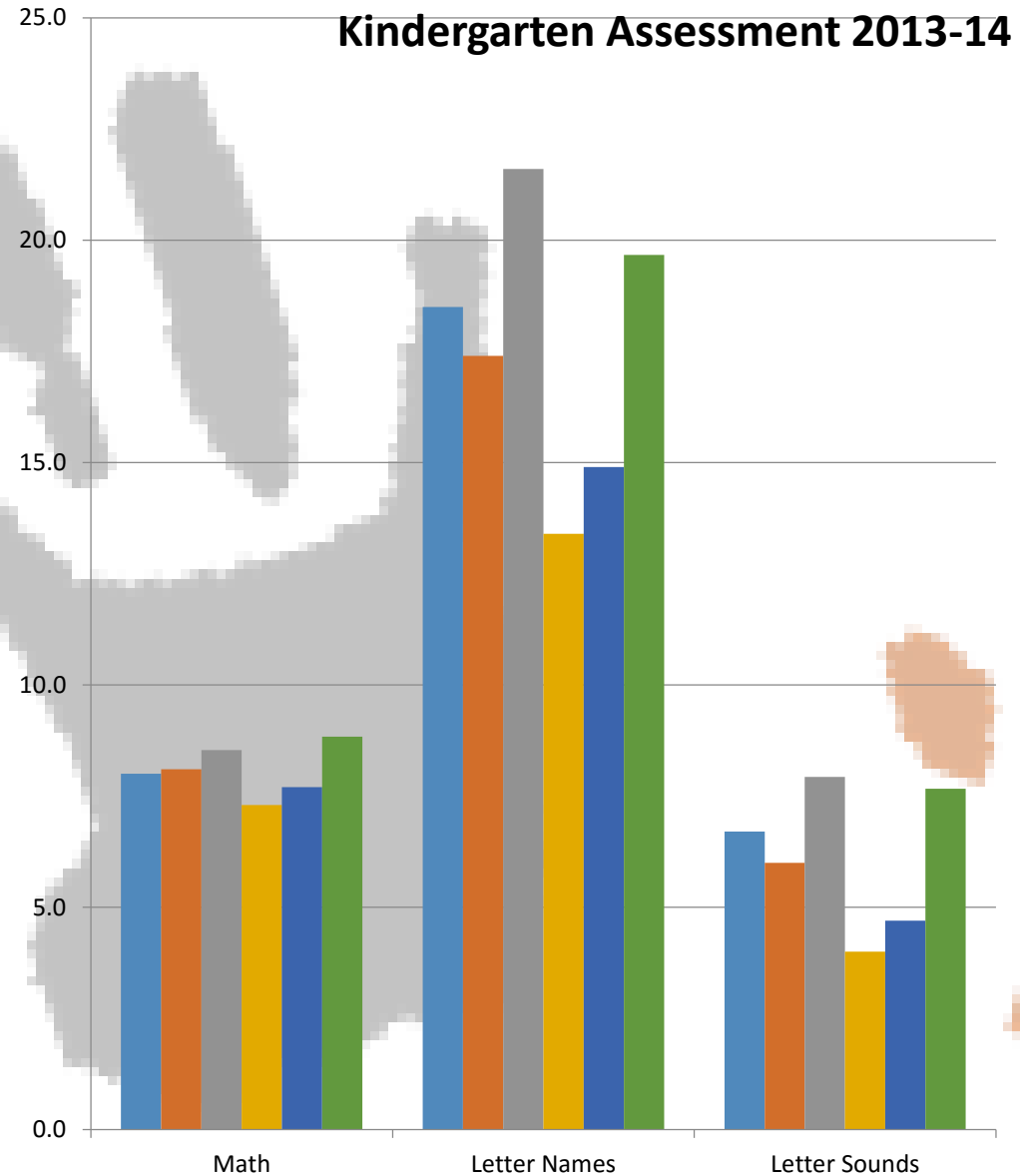
The background of the slide features three large, stylized handprints. On the left is a blue handprint, in the center is a grey handprint, and on the right is an orange handprint. The handprints are positioned behind the text, with the blue one partially overlapping the title and the first bullet point, the grey one overlapping the first and second bullet points, and the orange one overlapping the second and third bullet points.

- Family surveys & evaluations: families provide feedback on the program to let us know how we are doing, how it has helped them and what we can improve.
- Pre and post literacy assessment
- Oregon Kindergarten Assessment

Assessment Results

During the 2013-2014 school year children who were economically disadvantaged and attended LIFT:

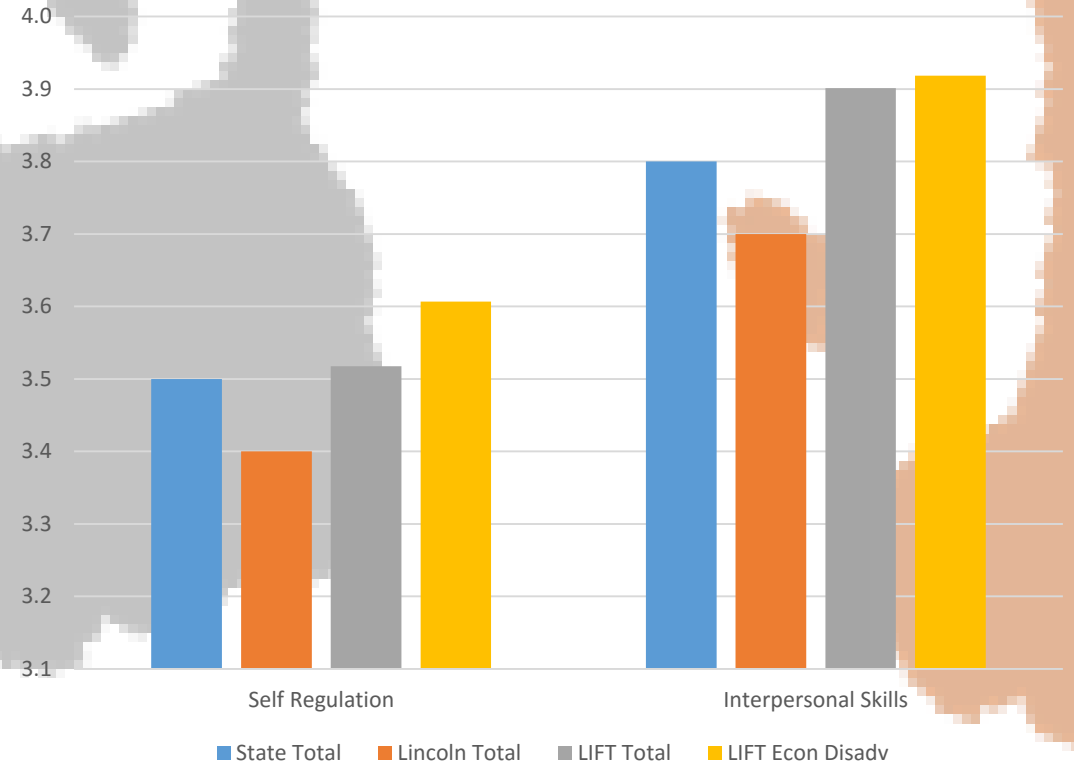
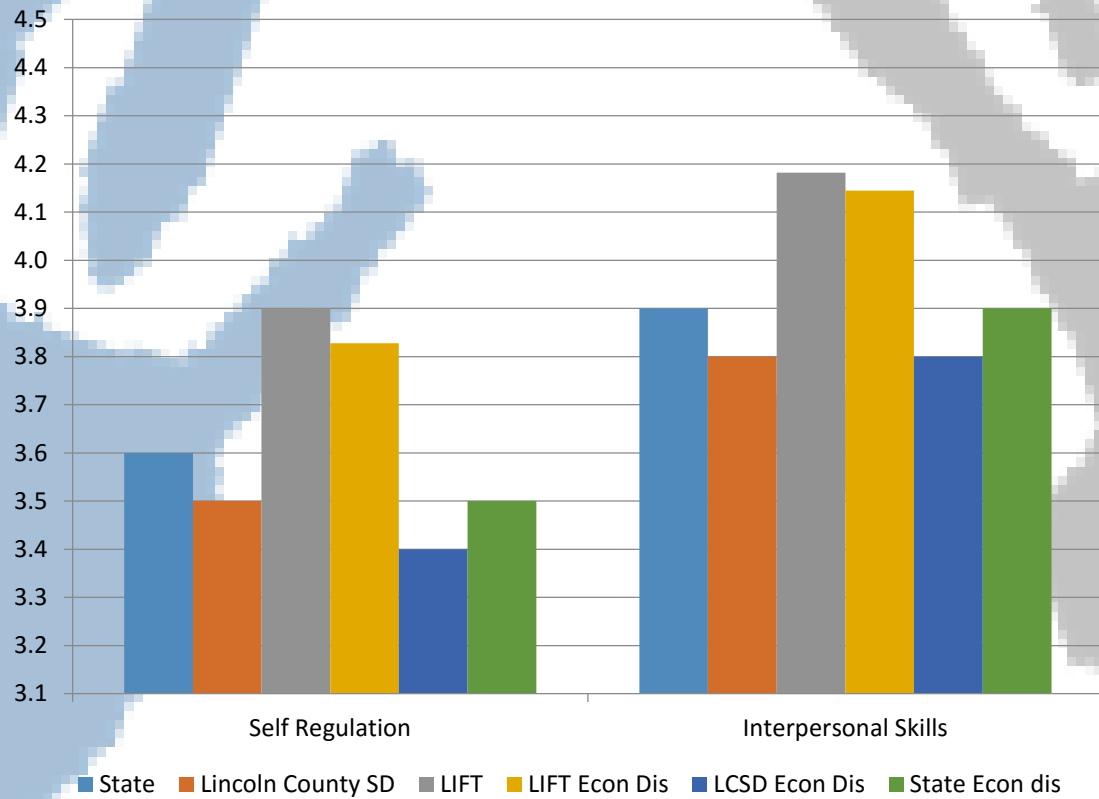
- Recognized 6 more letter names 4 more letter sounds than other economically disadvantaged students.
- Recognized 1.5 more letter names 2 more letter sounds than all other students in Lincoln County.



Child Behavior Rating Scale

2014-2015

2015-2016



Key takeaways

- Flexibility



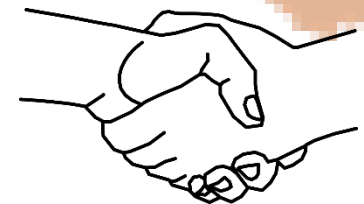
- Making the program work for your community needs



- Closing the gap- need to know what the gap is in your community, and best ways to address it.



- Coordinated outreach is critical- where are the families? Who is already connected to them? These are your partners.



The background features three stylized handprints. A large blue handprint is on the left, a large grey handprint is in the center, and a large orange handprint is on the right. The text is overlaid on these handprints.

Questions?

Share Out –

What are resources or ideas for
your families in your community?

Other ideas

- Read & Feeds
- Books and bookmarks in Backpack Food Program
- Literacy Packets
- “I can” statements



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