

# 2 WEEKS READY INTERIM REPORT

August 2020

## Project Overview

The 2 Weeks Ready Campaign is a two-year statewide campaign aimed at preparing Oregon's Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) providers, community organizations, childcare providers, and afterschool and summer learning programs for a natural or man-made disaster. Launched in Fall 2019, the campaign was originally conceived to address growing concerns about Oregon's risk for natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, and volcanic activity. The effort is led by the Office of Child Care, the Willamette Education Service District (ESD), and OregonASK Expanded Learning Partnership.

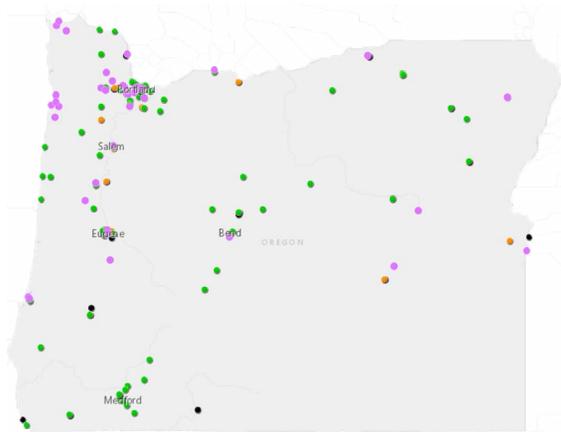
The 2 Weeks Ready Campaign unfolded in two phases. In the first phase, OregonASK project managers created a 2-year work plan, developed a campaign framework, and identified a variety of resources to assist childcare and afterschool providers in creating emergency preparedness plans. The resources are compiled in a toolkit, and include curriculum for young children, needs assessments and checklists for providers, manuals, planning guides, and videos and brochures (from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management). The second (and current) phase consists of structured conversations with CCR&Rs, childcare and afterschool providers, and community organizations with two main goals: 1) To present the 2 Weeks Ready campaign materials and raise awareness about the need for emergency preparedness; and 2) To gather feedback from providers about their current preparedness level, barriers they face, and what supports they need to be better prepared for emergencies.

In Fall 2019, OregonASK project managers attended a Training of Trainers hosted by The Research Institute (TRI), focused on TRI's new emergency preparedness curriculum developed with Child Care Aware. Initial plans to align the campaign's community conversation schedule with TRI's training schedule were complicated by scheduling conflicts, and OregonASK maintained momentum by moving forward with virtual conversations. Campaign materials, however, are still aligned to TRI's emergency preparedness efforts wherever possible.

## Statewide Training and Conversations

**COVID Training for Afterschool and Childcare Providers:** Just as the campaign was ramping up in Spring 2020, project activities pivoted to address an unexpected emergency: the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. In coordination with the Office of Child Care, OregonASK developed and presented a two-part professional development training on best practices for providers to combat COVID-19. Beginning the first week of April, OregonASK presented Part 1 of the training six times, and Part 2 three times, with a total of 206 attendees.

**Virtual Emergency Preparedness Regional Conversations:** At the same time, OregonASK adapted the planned phase two conversations to a virtual setting and hosted 10 virtual conversations between April and July 2020. Each conversation was co-hosted by a regional CCR&R, who also helped promote the event to their local providers and communities. The structured conversations included an overview of the 2 Weeks Ready campaign and the resource toolkit, as well as small group discussion about emergency preparedness efforts (existing provider protocols, barriers/challenges, local agencies and resources, etc.).



Virtual Conversation Participants by Location

● Child Care ● SBHC ● Early Learning Hubs ● CCR&Rs

Original protocols were adapted in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, which lent an urgency to campaign efforts, increased interest and participation, and provided context for the discussion. Participants were able to not only reflect on the challenges and successes of the current situation, but were also well placed to evaluate what their emergency preparedness should look like in the future.

The 10 virtual conversations were attended by 123 participants from 22 counties, representing 85 childcare and afterschool providers, school districts and ESDs, CCR&Rs, government agencies, and community-based organizations.

## Results So Far

Ultimately, the final report will contain summary findings from the structured conversations focused on two main questions:

1. What current emergency preparedness practices are Oregon's childcare and afterschool providers using? What is working well?
2. What support and resources do providers need (from the state, local agencies, community organizations, etc.) to be adequately prepared for any emergency?

Conversation recordings will be coded and analyzed for themes, using Dedoose software. This process is ongoing, but general trends to date include:

### Current practices

- Inclusion of emergency preparedness section in staff handbooks, which is generally made available to staff when they join the program/organization. If the program is a licensed facility, all staff must take Introduction to Child Care Health & Safety training.
- Practicing emergency drills (most commonly fire drills)

### Barriers and challenges

- Inconsistent access to professional development
- Access to supplies during an emergency (COVID-specific, but likely to occur in future emergencies)

“One of the things that has been extremely confusing is the mixed messaging from a variety of different places. You know here's the early learning division procedure if you have a child or staff member who's ill, but the health department is saying something different, and another organization is saying something different, so that mixed message is very confusing.”

- Conversation Participant

## Next Steps

- Distribute Campaign Impact Survey to conversation participants in Fall 2020
- Identify feedback and communication processes, Winter 2020-21
- Data analysis and report writing throughout Winter 2020-21
- Draft report completed March 2021
- Develop one-pagers on current state of emergency preparedness of child care centers in Oregon, Spring 2021
- Final report and other materials with recommendations released and disseminated April 30, 2021