



PRESCHOOL PROVIDER FAQ



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Nobody knows better than you how difficult it is to provide high-quality care and early learning using today's patchwork of funding sources.

MULTCOINIT-08 responds to the current shortage of available preschool slots and undervaluation of the workforce with a new public-funding mechanism for a universal preschool program. It will fully pay existing preschool providers (you!) so that every child in Multnomah County can attend preschool tuition-free. It raises the wages of the workforce and provides additional support for existing providers who want to expand, via a new high-earner income tax on the top 5%.

The measure was written by a coalition of community groups with feedback from providers, parents, preschool workers and Early Learning specialists over the past three years. You may have seen us out in the community with our yellow UP NOW t-shirts! As a provider, you probably have specific questions around qualifying, advertising, enrollment, curriculum and attendance requirements, and so much more. We are asking the County to work with providers to design practical and fair processes during the planning year - 2021/2022 - rather than deciding that for you in the legislation itself. **What MULTCOINIT-08 does is to mandate the funding structure for a universal preschool program.**

The basic framework for the program is described in the following pages, and we hope you will contribute your ideas for a successful roll-out in the months and years to come!

HOW WILL THE UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM WORK?

All providers who meet certain criteria will be eligible to participate.

THESE CRITERIA INCLUDE:

- Providing a high quality, child led, developmentally appropriate and trauma-informed experience for 3, 4 and 5 year-olds
- Being available for 6 hours a day, for at least 5 days a week.
- Providing opportunities for parent involvement
- Participating in free, continuing education and professional development opportunities
- Meeting program-funded standards for staff pay and benefits
- Remaining neutral should employees be interested in joining a union

Providers may choose to offer a culturally inclusive program, welcoming to families from all cultures, or to provide a culturally specific program, geared to one language or the culture of a particular ethnic group. If providers choose to offer before and after care, they may charge tuition for those hours. Preference will be given to family child care providers, public schools, non-profits, community centers, cooperatives and small, local businesses – particularly those owned by women and people of color.

The County will administer the program, and will work with partners including the local Preschool Promise hub, Early Learning Multnomah and Child Care Resource & Referral.

TOGETHER THEY WILL:

- approve providers wishing to participate in the program
- build streamlined systems that are easy to use for participating providers
- coordinate state and federal funding sources (Head Start and Preschool Promise) with the new County tax revenue and pay local providers
- handle outreach to publicize openings in the system so that parents can apply for those they prefer
- handle ongoing professional development for all providers and workers
- develop shared services like payroll, a substitute teacher pool, and an insurance pool.
- administer a budget for physical build-outs, improvements and other start up expenses, for which providers may apply
- remain neutral should providers be interested in joining a union that represents providers who receive public funding for the children in their care

HOW WILL I BE COMPENSATED?

All providers, whether family child care providers, public schools or others, will receive the same level of compensation per full-time slot. The exact amount will be decided by the County planning team, and will evolve over time. In today's terms, compensation to providers would be in the range of \$1,300 to \$1,400 per month per full-time slot of 30 hours a week.

Additional incentives are planned for weekend availability and staff with fluency in languages other than English. A shared program salary structure will be developed to recognize and reward experience, skill, fluency in languages other than English, education and licensure. The County will continue to receive Head Start, Oregon PreK and Preschool Promise funds from the state and federal governments. Those classrooms will continue to operate.

To raise new funding, MULTCOINIT-08 enacts a county marginal income tax on the top 5% of households in Multnomah County. Those are single person households with incomes of approximately \$200,000 a year and higher, and couples with incomes of approximately \$225,000 a year and up.

WHEN WILL THE PROGRAM START?

The tax will take effect as of January 1, 2021, to start the funding stream and build reserves. The first year and a half will be dedicated to planning, building a reserve fund and initial startup projects, particularly developing the administrative infrastructure and some physical capacity building.

Kids will first be able to participate at the start of the 2022-23 school year. It first becomes available in those neighborhoods with the greatest needs, in East County and North Portland. Over the next five years, the geographic areas served will expand, until all children in the County whose families want to participate are able to enroll.

**UNIVERSAL
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