



Early Learning Hub

of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Community Asset Mapping Report 2025



Prepared parents. Healthy families.
Padres preparados. Familias saludables.

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Brownsville	Calapooia Food Alliance
Halsey	Central Linn Elementary School, Central Linn School District
Harrisburg	Harrisburg Elementary School
Lebanon	Applegate Landing, Colonia Paz
Lincoln City	Conexion Fenix, Lincoln County Public Health, Lincoln County Parks & Recreation
Mill City	Strengthening Rural Families, Santiam Hospital
Monroe	Monroe's Relief Nursery, South Benton Food Pantry
Newport	Newport Park & Recreation, Lincoln County School District
Philomath	Strengthening Rural Families; Clemens Primary School
Scio	Scio Public Library; Scio Community Involvement Organization
Siletz	Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Head Start Siletz; Every Child Matters Powwow
Sweet Home	Sweet Home Police Department, Sweet Home Library
Toledo	Lincoln County School District, Lincoln County Oregon School Gardens
Waldport	Waldport Public Library

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Executive Summary

The Community Asset Mapping Project was conducted across 15 communities in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties to better understand local strengths, service availability, and barriers affecting children, families, and caregivers. Through facilitated community conversations and surveys, parents and community members shared their lived experiences related to child care, health and dental care, mental and behavioral health, food access, transportation, recreation, places of belonging, and access to household essentials. This community-driven approach ensured that the findings reflect real-world conditions and priorities across rural, coastal, and small-town settings.

Across all three counties, participants consistently described their communities as close-knit, supportive, and family-oriented. A strong sense of belonging emerged as the most consistent asset in nearly every community, with residents highlighting neighborly support, shared history, cultural identity, schools, libraries, and community events as foundational strengths. Tribal and cultural connections—particularly in communities such as Siletz—play a central role in fostering resilience, continuity, and intergenerational support. Outdoor recreation, natural environments, and local traditions further contribute to community pride and quality of life.

Despite these strengths, the Asset Mapping process revealed widespread and persistent service gaps. Limited access to licensed child care and preschool was identified as one of the most significant barriers across nearly all communities, particularly in rural areas. Health, dental, and especially mental and behavioral health services are also limited locally, requiring families to travel to larger cities such as Albany, Corvallis, Newport, or Salem for care.

Transportation emerged as a cross-cutting challenge, particularly for families without reliable vehicles or those living in geographically isolated areas. The need to travel for medical appointments, government services, groceries, and household essentials places additional strain on families and can limit access to timely care and support. While most communities reported reliable internet and banking access, digital connectivity does not fully offset the burden of distance for in-person services.

Economic pressures further compound these challenges. Many communities expressed concerns about high housing costs, limited employment opportunities, and the decline of local businesses. Small towns often lack grocery stores, pharmacies, laundromats, and family-friendly restaurants,

creating service deserts that disproportionately affect families with young children.

Overall, the Community Asset Mapping Project highlights a region rich in social capital, cultural strength, and community connection, yet constrained by structural barriers in service access, infrastructure, and local economies. These findings underscore the need for coordinated, place-based investments that strengthen early learning systems, expand child care and health access, improve transportation solutions, and support local service capacity—while building upon the strong relationships and community pride already present across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties

— Shared Community Strengths and Assets —



— Shared Community Barriers & Opportunities —



Introduction

To better support children, families, and communities across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties—and to provide decision-makers with a clearer understanding of local strengths, service gaps, and barriers—the Pollywog program of the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties partnered with the Oregon Health Authority to carry out this Community Asset Mapping Project. This initiative centers the voices and lived experiences of parents, caregivers, and community members to identify existing assets, unmet needs, and systemic barriers affecting family well-being, particularly for families with young children. Through collaborative engagement with local agencies, tribes, and service providers, the project seeks to strengthen service coordination, promote equity, and ensure culturally and linguistically responsive supports across the region. This project was funded through the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Equity Grant Program.

Introduction to Pollywog

Pollywog is a program of the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties designed to help parents, grandparents, foster parents, and other caregivers build strong, healthy families. It connects families with parenting classes, health services, and local resources—and follows up to ensure they get the support that meets their needs. Serving Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties in Oregon, Pollywog brings together health care, parenting education, and early childhood services for families with children from pregnancy through age five.

Community Asset Mapping Project Overview

The Community Asset Mapping Project is a participatory, place-based process designed to center community voice and lived experience. Using oversized aerial maps as a hands-on tool, parents of young children and other community members were invited to share their perspectives on local resources, services, and everyday realities. This approach allowed the project team to learn about community strengths and challenges that are not visible in data alone, particularly in smaller, rural communities where informal networks and local knowledge play a critical role.

The purpose of this project was threefold: to identify existing resources and services across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties; to document gaps, barriers, concerns, and unmet needs experienced by families; and to provide a foundation for strategic planning and implementation. By aligning community-identified needs with existing efforts and resources, the project supports the development of effective, place-based strategies to reduce barriers and better

meet the needs of children, families, and communities throughout the Early Learning Hub region.

The project focused on 15 communities within the Early Learning Hub service area. Communities were selected based on two primary criteria: each community met at least two of the following three conditions—a health center, a library, or a grocery store selling meat and produce—and had a population of fewer than 20,000 residents. Asset Mapping sessions were conducted in the following communities: Linn County (Brownsville, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Mill City, Scio, and Sweet Home); Benton County (Alsea, Monroe, and Philomath); and Lincoln County (Lincoln City, Newport, Siletz, Toledo, and Waldport).

Asset Mapping sessions were held in each community and facilitated by the Asset Mapping workgroup. During these sessions, participants engaged in structured discussions across 16 key topic areas related to family well-being and daily life, including health care, dental care, mental and behavioral health, food and groceries, child care and preschool, places of learning, transportation, recreation, places of belonging and worship, household goods and clothing, sexual health and testing, vaccine providers, annual exam providers, and emergency health care. Participants were encouraged to identify both community assets and areas where services were lacking or difficult to access.

To complement the mapping discussions, participants also completed a short survey designed to capture additional detail about service access and community experience. The survey included seven questions addressing what participants value about their community, what makes it unique, and their primary concerns, as well as questions related to internet access, banking services, use of government services, and access to laundry facilities. These responses provided further insight into the practical barriers and supports families encounter in their daily lives.

















Survey responses were collected from all participating communities, with response totals as follows: Alsea (16), Brownsville (11), Halsey (12), Harrisburg (12), Lebanon (23), Lincoln City (25), Mill City (9), Monroe (13), Newport (16), Philomath (21), Scio (19), Siletz (17), Sweet Home (13), Toledo (10), and Waldport (7). Together, the survey responses and mapping discussions offered valuable qualitative insights into family experiences, access to services, and community conditions.

Findings from the surveys were analyzed alongside information gathered during the mapping sessions and integrated into individual community summaries, cross-community analyses, and regional findings presented in this report.

While the results highlight consistent themes and shared challenges across communities, it is important to note that sample sizes were relatively small and may not fully represent all residents' experiences. As such, the findings should be viewed as illustrative and used in combination with additional data sources, community input, and local context to inform planning, investment, and decision-making.

Stickers for Mapping Assets

The stickers are related to 16 topics and are displayed as follows.

Introduction to Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties

The Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties serves the regions of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties in Oregon. According to the 2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, the EL Hub Region has a total population of 276,785, including 51,903 children under 18 years old and 12,879 children under five years old.

The vision of the Early Learning Hub is to help communities create an accessible and collaborative system of support and care for families. This aims to enable children to grow up safe, nurtured, healthy, and prepared for school and life. To achieve this, the Early Learning Hub brings together partners, communities, and families to increase family stability, improve kindergarten readiness, and ensure equitable, family-centered, and culturally and linguistically competent service coordination.

Early Learning Hubs



Note: This map is sourced from [the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care website](#).

Map of Early Learning Hub Region



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Linn County: located at the eastern edge of the EL Hub region, Linn County extends from the Cascade Range across the valley to the Willamette River. Linn County is the largest of the three counties in our region, both in total area (2,289.5 square miles) and population (129,794).

Benton County: located between Linn and Lincoln counties, Benton County extends into the Coastal Range. Benton County has the smallest total area (675.2 square miles) in our region. The population of Benton County is 96,359.

Lincoln County: to the west, Lincoln County extends along the Pacific Coast. The total area of Lincoln County is 981.0 square miles. The population of Lincoln County (50,632) is the smallest in our region.



Community-Level Findings

Brownsville

Community Summary

Brownsville is a historic, friendly small town known for its strong community spirit and quiet charm. At the same time, families face gaps in local services, including limited child care, few shopping and health options, and the need to travel elsewhere for many essentials.

Strengths & Assets

- Friendly, welcoming small-town atmosphere where residents know and support one another.
- Strong community involvement with frequent town-wide events and traditions.
- Rich historical identity and active arts and cultural organizations.
- Clean, quiet environment with outdoor activities for children and families.
- Generally reliable internet access and strong use of banking services.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Lack of an affordable, full-service grocery store contributing to a food desert.
- Few child care or early learning options exist locally.
- Loss of local services, including pharmacy access, requiring travel to nearby towns.
- Limited dining options and basic retail within the community.
- Most government, health, and specialized services require travel outside Brownsville.
- Concerns about the rising cost of living, taxes, and economic pressures.
- Political division and concerns about diversity, inclusion, and community cohesion.

Halsey

Community Summary

Halsey is a small, rural farming community where residents value peace, safety, and strong neighbor relationships rooted in church and school connections.

While families appreciate the close-knit environment, limited local services and activities require frequent travel to nearby cities.

Strengths & Assets

- Strong sense of community where neighbors know and support one another.
- Peaceful, low-crime, small-town atmosphere valued by families.
- Active church and school community that fosters connection and empathy.
- Friendly residents and local events that bring people together.
- Reliable internet access and use of banks or credit unions.

Barriers & Opportunities

- No local grocery store, restaurants, pharmacy, or basic retail services.
- Limited activities and programs for children and youth.
- Families must travel to Albany, Junction City, Corvallis, or Salem for health care, government services, child care, and essentials.
- No local laundromat; all households rely on in-home laundry.
- Concerns about school facility needs, funding allocation, and infrastructure maintenance.
- Limited development and sustainability challenges within the community.

Harrisburg

Community Summary

Harrisburg is a quiet, rural, family-oriented community where residents value safety, strong schools, and close neighborly relationships. While families appreciate the supportive small-town environment, they face significant gaps in child care, health services, transportation, and access to basic amenities.

Strengths & Assets

- Strong sense of community where neighbors support one another, especially during difficult times.
- Safe, quiet, small-town atmosphere with low crime.
- Highly valued schools with small class sizes, engaged staff, and strong family connections.
- Family-centered values, faith-based connections, and community pride.

- Local parks, gazebo, music programs, and community events such as the Fourth of July celebration.
- Rural setting with farms, open space, and access to the Willamette River.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Lack of licensed child care, preschool, and before- and after-school programs.
- No reliable access to a healthy, affordable grocery store; concerns about food quality.
- Limited local health care, including medical and mental health services.
- Lack of public transportation, creating barriers for families without reliable vehicles.
- Insufficient police presence and concerns about safety, shoplifting, and youth behavior.
- Water quality concerns and need for infrastructure improvements.
- Limited youth activities, higher-level high school classes, and family support services.
- Need for safer roads, crosswalks, improved parks, and community spaces.

Lebanon

Community Summary

Lebanon is a growing regional hub offering health care, parks, recreation, and a range of local services. Still, families experience challenges related to child care shortages, rising housing costs, homelessness, poverty, and economic stability.

Strengths & Assets

- Friendly, welcoming community with a strong sense of neighbor support.
- Access to parks, recreation spaces, library programs, and family-friendly events.
- Availability of services and amenities compared to surrounding rural communities.
- Strong Latino community connections and social support networks, particularly in Colonia Paz.
- Generally reliable internet access and use of banks or credit unions.
- Local access to some government services, including SNAP and Social Security.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Ongoing shortages of licensed child care and on-site child care options.
- Concerns about homelessness, poverty, and lack of sufficient support services.
- Limited job opportunities and economic barriers for some families.
- Traffic, pedestrian safety, and limited public seating or gathering spaces.
- Safety concerns related to theft and speeding in some neighborhoods.
- Desire for additional youth, family, and drop-in community spaces.
- Need for expanded domestic violence survivor supports and school infrastructure updates.

Mill City

Community Summary

Mill City is a small, close-knit community where residents value safety, strong relationships, and a welcoming small-town atmosphere. While families appreciate the schools, preschool, and growing sense of connection, limited local services and activities—especially for children—remain ongoing challenges.

Strengths & Assets

- Strong sense of community where neighbors support and look out for one another.
- Safe, small-town environment with friendly, welcoming residents.
- Valued local preschool, schools, and community events.
- Access to outdoor spaces, parks, and natural surroundings.
- Growing interest among families in connecting and building shared resources.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Limited activities, programs, and indoor spaces for children and youth.
- Few local shopping and grocery options; small grocery store with limited selection.
- Families must travel to Stayton, Sublimity, Albany, or Salem for many services.
- Limited employment opportunities and concerns about poverty.

- Rising concerns about homelessness, growth, and resource availability.
- Internet access is available but unreliable for some households.

Scio

Scio is a tight-knit rural town known for its heritage, festivals, agricultural identity, and supportive neighbor networks. At the same time, the community faces significant gaps in child care, declining local businesses, a lack of medical and dental services, and limited youth activities.

Strengths & Assets

- Small, friendly, close-knit rural community where neighbors help one another.
- Strong sense of history and identity, including the Lamb & Wool Fair, Czech heritage, and covered bridges.
- Supportive schools, family-focused events, and a safe, quiet environment.
- Multi-generational roots and a strong community spirit that bring people together in times of need.

Barriers & Opportunities

- No licensed or registered child care; families rely on informal, unreliable options.
- Decline of local businesses and lack of restaurants, services, and amenities.
- Limited access to medical, dental, and mental health care—families must travel to nearby towns.
- Few youth activities, no after-school program, and only part-time preschool options.

Sweet Home

Sweet Home is a pride-filled, friendly, nature-rich community surrounded by lakes and forests. However, it also struggles with homelessness, limited local businesses—especially downtown—and a shortage of indoor or year-round activities for families with young children.

Strengths & Assets

- Sweet Home is a friendly, close-knit community with strong local pride.
- Families value the library, parks, and abundant outdoor recreation.
- The natural beauty and rural lifestyle attract and retain families.

- Residents report strong community support and caring neighbors.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Serious concerns about homelessness, safety, and substance use.
- Limited child care and youth programs.
- Families must travel for specialized health and behavioral services.
- Lack of businesses downtown and limited indoor activities.
- Some families report needing more early learning and affordable housing supports.

Alea

Community Summary

Alea is a small, rural, and close-knit community where residents strongly value mutual support, long-standing family connections, and a peaceful natural setting. While families appreciate the strong sense of belonging, the loss of the local health clinic and the need to travel for basic services create significant challenges.

Strengths & Assets

- Very strong sense of community where neighbors know and support one another.
- Small, welcoming rural environment with multi-generational families.
- Strong informal support systems that feel like an extended family.
- Beautiful natural surroundings, including mountains, water, and scenic landscapes.
- Reliable internet access for most households, with landlines supplementing limited cell service.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Loss of the local health center, resulting in no nearby health care access.
- Families must travel to Corvallis or Eugene for medical care and government services.
- Limited local resources, services, and entertainment options.
- Transportation and fuel costs create barriers due to geographic isolation.
- Limited cell coverage and occasional internet reliability issues.

- No local laundromat; families rely on in-home laundry or expensive out-of-town options.

Monroe

Community Summary

Monroe is a small, peaceful, and family-oriented community where residents value strong connections, kindness, and local gathering places such as the church, library, and food bank. While the town offers a supportive environment, families face notable gaps in health services, infrastructure, and access to basic amenities.

Strengths & Assets

- Close-knit, family-oriented community where residents support one another.
- Peaceful and safe rural setting with strong community communication.
- Valued community assets including the church, library, food bank, and local events.
- Parks, schools, and clinics contribute to community connection.
- Most households have internet access, with landlines supplementing limited cell service.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Lack of local health care, dental care, emergency services, and a gas station.
- The health clinic is small and does not meet community needs.
- Limited and unreliable internet and cell service for some households.
- Many residents do not use banks or credit unions, indicating financial access gaps.
- Few parks, youth spaces, sidewalks, and adult activity options.
- No local laundromat, gym, or full-service grocery store with fresh produce.
- Families must travel to nearby cities for government services and essential needs.

Philomath

Community Summary

Philomath is a small, welcoming, and close-knit community where families value strong relationships, walkability, schools, parks, and local events. While residents appreciate the town's strong schools, safety, location, and community spirit, they also report significant gaps in child care, grocery access, and indoor family spaces

Strengths & Assets

- Strong sense of belonging in a friendly, close-knit small town.
- Family-centered culture with active schools, library, parades, and local events.
- Walkable community with parks, pool, outdoor recreation, and nearby natural areas.
- Strong early learning and family supports such as Strengthening Rural Families (SRF) and LBCC.
- Good access to the internet and banking services.
- Convenient location near Corvallis, OSU, and the coast.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Shortage of licensed child care and preschool; long waitlists and few ERDC-accepting providers.
- No full-service grocery store; limited access to affordable, healthy food and basic retail.
- Few indoor, kid-friendly spaces and limited evening or weekend activities for working families.
- Families must travel to Corvallis for medical, dental, behavioral health, and government services.
- Concerns about poverty, homelessness, crime, and safety near school crossings and the railroad.
- Limited fitness, clothing, and shopping options; closures of local mills affecting economic stability.

Lincoln City

Community Summary

Lincoln City is a friendly, inclusive coastal community where residents value tranquility, natural beauty, and strong social connections, particularly within the Latino community. While families appreciate the sense of unity, outdoor recreation, and community support during difficult times, they also face growing challenges related to affordability, shortage of child care, health care access, youth opportunities, and coastal and social vulnerabilities.

Strengths & Assets

- Strong sense of community connection, inclusiveness, and neighbor support.
- United and well-supported Latino community with trusted local networks.
- Coastal setting with beaches, open spaces, parks, and access to outdoor recreation.
- Small-town feel where people know each other and come together in emergencies.
- Community services, schools, special education supports, and family-focused activities.
- Cultural diversity and pride in local neighborhoods such as Taft and Nelscott.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Limited access to interpreters and culturally responsive services, especially in health care.
- Concerns about hospital capacity, emergency response times, and potential loss of labor and delivery services.
- High cost of living, including housing, food prices driven by tourism, and economic pressures.
- Child care shortages and limited activities, festivals, and programs for children and youth.
- Transportation challenges, including car dependence and unsafe biking along Highway 101.
- Homelessness, substance use, impacting community safety and well-being.
- Environmental and disaster-related concerns, including tsunamis, beach contamination, and emergency preparedness gaps.

Newport

Community Summary

Newport is a vibrant coastal city known for its strong arts culture, natural beauty, and diverse, supportive community, including a well-connected Latino population. While residents value access to events, parks, and services, families face challenges related to housing affordability, behavioral health access, and coastal and infrastructure concerns.

Strengths & Assets

- Strong arts and cultural community with music, theater, and local events.
- Access to nature, beaches, parks, and outdoor recreation.
- Diverse, welcoming population with strong community and Latino organizational support.
- Availability of health services, food options, and local government offices.
- Generally reliable internet access and in-town access to DMV and DHS services.
- Community members report strong mutual support and connection.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Limited access to mental and behavioral health services.
- Affordable housing shortages and concerns about unhoused populations.
- Coastal hazard concerns, including tsunamis and climate resilience.
- Infrastructure issues such as roads, parking, and transportation.
- Youth substance use concerns and limited parent education opportunities.
- Some families rely on expensive laundromats and lack consistent banking access.

Siletz

Community Summary

Siletz is a close-knit tribal community where residents strongly value cultural traditions, family connections, and mutual support across generations. While the community's cultural strength and sense of belonging are central assets, families face challenges related to substance use, limited local resources, few child and youth activities, transportation, and service access.

Strengths & Assets

- Strong tribal identity, Native American culture, and spiritual traditions.
- Deep family and intergenerational connections, with many residents growing up locally.
- Community members look out for and support one another in times of need.
- Valued local assets including the Siletz Tribal Health Clinic, school, teachers, and community garden/farm.
- Peaceful setting near the coast with a strong sense of belonging.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Significant concerns about substance use, addiction, crime, and youth exposure.
- Limited activities and programs for toddlers and young children.
- Transportation challenges and reliance on Newport or Albany for many services.
- Some households experience unreliable or limited internet access.
- Limited access to local government services; many families must travel.
- High cost of using the local laundromat and broader resource limitations.
- Community concerns about school infrastructure and the need for greater investment in housing and facilities.

Toledo

Community Summary

Toledo is a friendly, close-knit small town with strong family ties and a community that works hard to make local life meaningful. However, residents report concerns about drug use, limited activities for children, and environmental health issues tied to pollution.

Strengths & Assets

- Very close-knit and friendly community where people know and support one another.
- Small-town atmosphere with strong community pride and local activities.
- Pet-friendly and welcoming environment with an arts and music presence.
- Reliable internet access for most households.

- Strong sense of togetherness and neighbor support.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Limited local resources and services, requiring travel to Newport for many needs.
- Few activities and programs for children and youth.
- Concerns about substance use, including meth and related health impacts.
- Environmental and health concerns related to pollution and lung health.
- Limited local access to government services and health care
- Child care availability is limited.

Waldport

Community Summary

Waldport is a caring coastal community known for strong belonging, supportive neighbors, and a peaceful small-town feel. Despite these strengths, families face limited child care options, high living costs, few local job opportunities, and a reliance on nearby towns for many essential services.

Strengths & Assets

- Strong sense of community connection and belonging.
- Helpful, caring residents who look out for one another.
- Small-town atmosphere with valued community events.
- Local assets such as the library, community garden, and small school.
- Access to the coast and natural environment.
- Reliable internet and banking access for most households.

Barriers & Opportunities

- Limited child care options and few programs or spaces for teens.
- High cost of living, especially housing and everyday shopping.
- Limited local employment and job opportunities for youth.
- Most health care, emergency services, and government services require travel outside the community.
- Transportation challenges for accessing services in nearby cities.

Cross-Community Summary

Across the 15 communities in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties, parents and caregivers consistently described their towns as small, close-knit, and supportive places where neighbors look out for one another, local identity is strong, and families feel a sense of belonging. Nearly every community emphasized the value of friendly people, shared history, cultural connection, and community spirit as core strengths.

At the same time, communities across the region face similar challenges. Residents frequently identified limited child care and preschool options, scarce local healthcare (especially mental and behavioral health), and a need to travel to nearby cities for essential services, government offices, or specialized care. Concerns about declining or insufficient local businesses, particularly grocery stores, laundromats, restaurants, and pharmacies, appeared in many rural towns. In several communities—especially along the coast—families expressed worry about high living costs and a lack of stable employment opportunities.

Transportation barriers were another cross-cutting issue, particularly for families in rural or remote areas where services are centralized outside the community. Many parents reported challenges accessing after-school programs, safe recreation spaces, and activities for young children, highlighting unmet needs in child- and family-serving infrastructure.

While most communities reported access to reliable internet and banking services, they also noted a reliance on larger towns such as Albany, Lebanon, Newport, or Corvallis for medical appointments, government services, and shopping. This dynamic illustrates a broader pattern: families appreciate the tight-knit feel of small towns, but continue to face service gaps and resource limitations that affect their daily lives.

Overall, the Asset Mapping project revealed a region rich in community connection and cultural identity, yet marked by consistent gaps in child care, healthcare, early learning supports, transportation, and local economic infrastructure. These common themes provide a clear direction for strategic planning across the three-county region.

Cross-Community Patterns at a Glance

Strongest Shared Strengths

- Close-knit, supportive communities
- Strong cultural, tribal, or historical identity
- Pride in small-town life and local schools
- High levels of neighbor-to-neighbor care

Most Common Barriers

- Child care shortages
- Limited local health and mental health services
- Lack of transportation and need to travel for services
- Declining small businesses and essential services
- Limited activities for young children and teens
- Concerns about substance use and homelessness (in several communities)



Cross-Community Topic Summary

1. Child Care & Preschool

Strengths

- Families value local schools and teachers; school communities are major hubs of support.
- Some communities benefit from tribal early learning programs, Head Start, or preschool co-ops.

Gaps & Barriers

- Widespread shortage of licensed child care—especially infant/toddler care.
- Few full-day preschool or affordable child care options.
- After-school care is limited or unavailable in most towns.
- Families rely heavily on unlicensed/informal care due to a lack of alternatives.
- Rural families face added barriers due to distance and transportation limitations.

Summary

Child care is one of the most significant unmet needs across the region, affecting family employment, child development, and school readiness.

2. Health & Dental Care

Strengths

- Some communities have local clinics or tribal health centers.
- Families report appreciation for compassionate local providers when available.

Gaps & Barriers

- Families in nearly every rural community must travel to larger towns (Albany, Lebanon, Corvallis, Newport) for:
 - Pediatric care
 - Dental care
 - Prenatal care
 - Urgent and emergency services

- Dental access is especially limited.
- Long waitlists and limited hours reduce timely care.
- Rural and coastal geography increases travel time and costs.

Summary

Access to primary, dental, and urgent care remains uneven and insufficient, forcing many families to travel long distances for basic services.

3. Mental & Behavioral Health

Strengths

- Some families access counseling through schools or tribal programs.

Gaps & Barriers

- Severe provider shortages across all three counties.
- Concerns about drug use and community safety are common in several towns (Sweet Home, Toledo, Siletz, Lincoln City, Newport, Harrisburg, Lebanon).

Summary

Mental and behavioral health needs are high and growing, with inadequate local services that affect family well-being.

4. Food & Groceries

Strengths

- Communities value farmers' markets, local farm stands, and food pantries.
- Larger towns (Lebanon, Newport, Lincoln City) provide primary grocery hubs.

Gaps & Barriers

- Several small towns lack a full-service grocery store (Halsey, Alsea, Scio, Waldport).
- Families travel long distances for fresh produce and affordable options.

Summary

Food access is inconsistent, with many smaller communities lacking stores that carry fresh, healthy, and affordable options.

5. Transportation

Strengths

- Some county-level transportation systems exist, especially near larger towns.
- Most families have internet for planning or accessing tele-services.

Gaps & Barriers

- Very limited or no public transportation in many rural or coastal communities.
- Travel required for:
 - Groceries
 - Health appointments
 - Government services
 - Child care and school activities
- Transportation gaps disproportionately affect:
 - Low-income families
 - Families without reliable vehicles
 - Rural and tribal communities

Summary

Transportation is a major structural barrier that limits equitable access to essential services.

6. Places of Belonging

Strengths

- Strong sense of belonging across nearly all communities.
- Schools, libraries, churches, community events, and tribal activities are major gathering spaces.
- Tight-knit social fabric provides informal support systems.

Gaps & Barriers

- Newcomers in some communities report difficulty integrating.
- Limited culturally specific gathering spaces outside of tribal communities.
- Few formal family resource centers or hubs.

Summary

Communities excel at informal belonging, but many lack formal, accessible spaces where families regularly connect with supportive services.

7. Recreation & Activities

Strengths

- Abundant natural outdoor recreation (coast, forests, rivers, parks).
- Strong community events in many towns (fairs, festivals, cultural activities).

Gaps & Barriers

- Families in nearly every community report few or no indoor recreation options, particularly:
 - Gymnasiums
 - Play spaces for under age 5
 - Teen centers
- Some communities have no safe, accessible parks or only seasonal options.

Summary

Recreation opportunities for young children and teens are limited, affecting social development, physical activity, and family well-being.

8. Household Goods & Essentials

Strengths

- Most families have stable access to banks, credit unions, and reliable internet.
- Some communities have thrift stores, food pantries, and mutual aid networks.

Gaps & Barriers

- Many rural towns lack basic retail services, including:
 - Pharmacies
 - Clothing stores
 - Laundry facilities
 - Affordable household goods

- Loss of local businesses forces families to depend on larger towns.
- Coastal communities report high prices and limited availability.

Summary

Families often travel outside their community for basic household necessities, creating cost and transportation burdens—especially in small and coastal communities.

Full Regional Insight

Across all eight topic areas, the most consistent barriers are:

- Child care shortages
- Travel required for health, dental, and behavioral health services
- Limited transportation options
- Declining or sparse local businesses
- Few activities for children and teens

These structural gaps impact family stability, children's development, and community well-being.



Community Comparison Across Topic Areas

Community	Child Care	Health & Dental Care	Mental/ Behavioral Health	Food & Groceries	Transportation	Places of Belonging	Recreation	Household Goods & Essentials
Brownsville	Limited	Travel required	Limited	Limited	Barrier	Strong	Limited	Travel required
Halsey	Limited	Travel required	Limited	Limited	Barrier	Strong	Limited	Travel required
Harrisburg	Limited	Travel required	Limited	Moderate	Moderate	Strong	Limited	Travel required
Lebanon	Moderate	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Strong	Strong
Mill City	Limited	Travel required	Limited	Limited	Significant barrier	Strong	Outdoor	Travel required
Scio	Limited	Travel required	Limited	Limited	Moderate	Strong	Limited	Travel required
Sweet Home	Limited	Moderate	Limited	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Outdoor strong	Moderate
Alsea	Limited	Travel required	Limited	Travel required	Significant barrier	Strong	Outdoor only	Travel required
Monroe	Limited	Travel required	Limited	Limited	Barrier	Strong	Limited	Travel required
Philomath	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Limited	Moderate	Strong	Strong	Limited
Lincoln City	Limited	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Strong	Strong
Newport	Moderate	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Strong	Strong
Siletz	Limited	Travel required	Limited	Limited	Significant barrier	Strong cultural identity	Cultural/ community-based	Travel required
Toledo	Limited	Travel required	Limited	Moderate	Moderate	Strong	Limited	Travel required
Waldport	Limited	Travel required	Limited	Limited	Significant barrier	Strong	Outdoor	Travel required

Color Key:

- = Strong access;
- = Moderate access;
- = Limited access;
- = Access requires travel/Significant barrier

County-Level Findings

Single-County Summary

Linn County Summary (Brownsville, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Mill City, Scio, Sweet Home)

Linn County communities consistently describe themselves as small, friendly, and deeply connected, with strong pride in their rural identity, local schools, and long-standing community bonds. Many residents highlighted the value of neighbor-to-neighbor support, small-town events, and the natural surroundings that anchor community life.

Across the county, however, residents face significant gaps in child care and preschool availability, with several towns lacking any licensed child care options. Many families also reported needing to travel outside their communities for health care, dental care, and mental or behavioral health services, often to Albany, Lebanon, or Corvallis.

Linn County communities expressed growing concern about the decline of local businesses, the loss of essential services, and limited activities for young children and teens. Transportation barriers persist in rural areas, and several communities mentioned increasing concerns about homelessness, drug use, or the affordability of basic needs. Despite these challenges, Linn County communities remain resilient and strongly rooted in mutual support.

Benton County Summary (Alea, Monroe, Philomath)

Benton County's smaller communities share a strong sense of belonging, with many families drawn to the quiet rural lifestyle, natural beauty, and supportive neighbor networks. Parents frequently emphasized the strengths of local schools and community involvement as key pillars of stability.

The most consistent concerns across the county involve limited access to early childhood care, lack of local health or dental services, and the need to travel to Corvallis, Albany, or Eugene for essential supports. Residents in more rural communities—especially Alea—reported transportation challenges, both for accessing services and connecting to employment.

While internet access is improving, some households still face connectivity limitations. Additionally, rising housing costs in communities near Corvallis (e.g., Philomath) put pressure on families with young children. Benton County communities show strong engagement and cultural cohesion, but face ongoing

challenges with service availability, child care scarcity, and geographic isolation.

Lincoln County Summary (Lincoln City, Newport, Siletz, Toledo, Waldport)

Lincoln County communities are consistently described as caring, welcoming, and close-knit coastal towns, each with unique cultural strengths—from tribal heritage in Siletz to artistic and historic traditions in Newport and Toledo, and access to diverse outdoor resources along the coast.

Residents highlighted the value of local identity, cultural practices, small-town connections, and natural beauty, but also shared common challenges across the region. Many families are impacted by high housing costs, seasonal employment, and reliance on tourism, which creates financial instability. Several communities expressed concerns about homelessness, substance use, and the limited availability of child care, especially full-day options.

Because many small towns lack local government offices, laundromats, grocery stores, or medical clinics, families frequently travel to Newport or larger neighboring cities for essential services. Transportation barriers—particularly for low-income families—compound these gaps. While internet access is generally reliable, a few rural households still face connectivity issues.

Overall, Lincoln County communities demonstrate strong cultural and community bonds, yet face persistent structural challenges that affect daily life, especially for families with young children.

Cross-County Summary

Across the 15 communities in the Early Learning Hub region, families consistently emphasized the value of small-town life, strong community bonds, and the supportive relationships that make their communities feel safe and connected. While each county has distinct characteristics, the region shares several common strengths and challenges that affect children, families, and overall community well-being.

Shared Regional Strengths

Close-knit communities: Residents across all counties describe strong neighbor-to-neighbor support, trust, and shared identity.

Connectedness through schools and local institutions: Libraries, schools, churches, tribal organizations, and community events serve as central hubs for belonging.

Natural environment and recreation: Mountains, forests, rivers, and coastal areas provide important places for play, learning, and cultural activities.

Cultural identity: Tribal heritage in Siletz, agricultural traditions in Linn and Benton, and coastal culture in Lincoln all contribute to strong local pride.

Shared Regional Gaps & Barriers

Child care shortages (universal issue): Nearly every community lacks licensed child care, full-day preschool, and after-school options.

Limited access to healthcare and behavioral health: Families frequently travel outside their community for routine and urgent care, dental services, and mental health supports.

Transportation challenges: Rural and coastal geography limit access to essential services, especially for families without reliable vehicles.

Limited local economic and business infrastructure: Many towns report the closure of grocery stores, restaurants, laundromats, and clinics, forcing residents to travel and increasing financial strain.

Concerns about substance use and safety: Drug use, homelessness, and crime were raised in several communities, most noticeably in coastal areas and some Linn County towns.

Few activities for children and teens: Parents across all counties reported the need for safe, accessible recreation and programs for young children and adolescents.

County-Level Differences

Linn County

- Strengths: Strong rural identity, supportive communities, school-centered connection, long-standing heritage.
- Challenges: Declining local businesses, increasing social concerns in some cities, significant child care gaps, and a need to travel for health services.

Benton County

- Strengths: High community involvement, strong schools, and a mix of rural and semi-urban communities.
- Challenges: Geographic isolation in Alsea and Monroe, limited child care, and reliance on Corvallis for most services; rising housing costs in growing areas like Philomath.

Lincoln County

- Strengths: Cultural richness (tribal and coastal), strong sense of belonging, community-oriented residents.
- Challenges: High cost of living, limited child care, employment instability tied to tourism, transportation gaps, and concerns about homelessness and substance use.

Regional Takeaway

While each county has unique cultural and geographic identities, the region as a whole is characterized by deep community connectedness paired with persistent structural gaps—especially in child care, healthcare access, transportation, and essential services. Addressing these barriers will require coordinated investment, cross-county collaboration, and strategies that strengthen the local systems families rely on most.



Investment Recommendations

Community-Level Investment Recommendations

Brownsville

- Invest in mobile or cooperative grocery solutions and food access partnerships.
- Support development of licensed child care and ERDC-accepting providers.
- Support youth programming and indoor family spaces through partnerships with schools or community groups.
- Fund transportation supports for access to health care and government services.
- Strengthen local service coordination and small-business revitalization efforts.

Halsey

- Support development of basic services (grocery, pharmacy, household essentials) through incentives or shared-use models.
- Invest in child care expansion and family-friendly recreation options.
- Improve transportation solutions, such as regional transit connections or community ride programs.
- Encourage small business development to reduce reliance on neighboring towns.

Harrisburg

- Expand child care and early learning capacity, including afterschool programs.
- Increase access to youth recreation and indoor activity spaces.
- Improve transportation supports for families traveling for services.
- Strengthen local health and mental health service access through satellite or mobile care.
- Support infrastructure improvements for roads, water quality, and safe crossings.
- Strengthen local access to essential goods and services through economic development strategies.

Lebanon

- Increase capacity for child care and early learning, including on-site and culturally responsive options.
- Increase early childhood mental and behavioral health supports.
- Improve transportation access for lower-income families.
- Expand youth, drop-in, and community spaces for families.
- Support affordable housing and economic stabilization efforts for families.

Mill City

- Fund youth activities, indoor recreation, and family-centered programming.
- Improve access to groceries and essential retail through partnerships or transportation supports.
- Support mobile or regional delivery of health, mental health, and child care services.
- Invest in youth activities and safe indoor recreation spaces.
- Support broadband reliability and local employment initiatives.

Scio

- Support the development of licensed, reliable child care and expanded preschool options.
- Invest in downtown revitalization and the use of vacant buildings for community services.
- Expand youth programming, including afterschool and full-day early learning.
- Improve access to local or mobile health and dental services.

Sweet Home

- Invest in child care, youth programs, and early learning supports.
- Expand behavioral health, substance use, and homelessness-related services.
- Support downtown revitalization and indoor family activity spaces.
- Increase affordable housing and family stabilization initiatives.

Alea

- Invest in restoring or replacing local health care access (clinic or mobile services).
- Expand transportation assistance for families accessing services in Corvallis or Eugene.
- Expand child care, preschool, and early learning supports.
- Improve internet and cell connectivity in remote areas.
- Develop indoor recreation and family-friendly community spaces.

Monroe

- Expand licensed child care and early learning options.
- Improve access to health, dental, and behavioral health services through partnerships with nearby providers.
- Increase youth programs and family-centered activities.
- Develop youth spaces, sidewalks, parks, and community activity areas.
- Explore options for local laundromat, grocery access, and fitness facilities
- Address transportation barriers for families without reliable vehicles.

Philomath

- Invest in expanding child care, preschool, and ERDC-accepting providers.
- Improve safety, parks, and family-friendly public spaces.
- Expand indoor family spaces and programming for working families
- Support business retention and revitalization to prevent further service loss.
- Support community safety, poverty reduction, and economic stability initiatives.

Lincoln City

- Invest in culturally responsive services, including interpreters and bilingual staff.
- Expand child care, youth programming, and family activities.
- Support housing affordability and homelessness prevention.
- Strengthen emergency preparedness and transportation safety.

Newport

- Invest in affordable housing and homelessness prevention.

- Expand mental and behavioral health services for children and families.
- Improve emergency preparedness and climate resilience.
- Increase access to affordable laundry and basic household services.
- Enhance youth substance use prevention and community safety efforts.

Siletz

- Invest in substance use prevention, behavioral health, and youth safety initiatives.
- Expand toddler and early childhood programs and activities.
- Improve transportation options within and outside the community.
- Support school infrastructure, housing, and affordable community facilities.

Toledo

- Expand child care and early learning programs.
- Invest in substance use prevention and environmental health supports
- Develop indoor youth and family spaces.
- Support economic development and local employment opportunities.
- Improve access to health care and essential services locally.

Waldport

- Expand child care, youth programs, and teen spaces.
- Improve access to health, dental, and government services.
- Address housing affordability and cost-of-living pressures.
- Expand transportation supports for accessing services in Newport or Florence.
- Improve access to affordable groceries and essential services.

County-Level Investment Recommendations

Linn County

- Expand licensed child care and early learning capacity across rural and small communities.
- Improve transportation connectivity between small towns and service hubs.
- Support economic revitalization and retention of local businesses.

- Increase access to behavioral health and youth programming.
- Address service gaps through mobile and shared-service models.

Benton County

- Invest in rural service access, including health, child care, and broadband.
- Expand early learning and family support services in smaller communities.
- Improve transportation and connectivity to nearby service centers.
- Strengthen community spaces and youth-focused programming.

Lincoln County

- Expand child care and early learning options countywide.
- Address housing affordability and homelessness impacts on families.
- Increase access to mental and behavioral health services.
- Improve transportation and service access in coastal and rural areas.
- Invest in climate resilience and economic stability for families.



Regional Findings Aligned with Raise Up Oregon (2024-2028)

The Community Asset Mapping Project reveals strong alignment between what families experience in their communities and the priorities outlined in Raise Up Oregon. Families consistently report strengths that support RUO’s system goals—particularly around belonging, cultural connection, and supportive relationships—while also identifying barriers that prevent equitable access to high-quality early childhood, health, and family services.

Raise Up Oregon At-A-Glance

SYSTEM GOAL 1: The early childhood system is equitable: integrated, accessible, inclusive, anti-racist, and family-centered.

OBJECTIVE 1: Honor and recognize the sovereignty of the nine federally recognized tribal nations within Oregon and ensure strong government-to-government relationships to benefit tribal communities.

OBJECTIVE 2: Multi-agency partnerships are developed at the state and local levels to systematically support improved outcomes and streamlined access for all young children and their families.

OBJECTIVE 3: Early Learning Hubs are leveraged and resourced to advance regional early childhood systems that are equitable, integrated, accessible, inclusive, and family-centered.

OBJECTIVE 4: The business, philanthropic, and non-profit communities champion and support the development of the early childhood system.

SYSTEM GOAL 2: All families with young children are supported to ensure their well-being.

OBJECTIVE 5: Families with young children are supported in knowing about and accessing a full range of services that meet their needs and are culturally and linguistically responsive.

OBJECTIVE 6: Families with young children have increased access to economic supports.

OBJECTIVE 7: All families have access to support for their physical, social, emotional, behavioral, and oral health.

OBJECTIVE 8: Families have expanded access to culturally and linguistically responsive and specific family preservation strategies, resources, and programs focused on the prenatal-to-five population.

OBJECTIVE 9: Affordable housing is available statewide for all families with young children.

OBJECTIVE 10: All parents and families are supported and engaged in enabling their children to thrive.

SYSTEM GOAL 3: All children are thriving in early childhood and beyond.

OBJECTIVE 11: Families have access to high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive birth-to-five pediatric health care services.

OBJECTIVE 12: Families have access to high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive birth-to-five social and emotional supports.

OBJECTIVE 13: Young children with developmental delays and disabilities are identified early and provided with inclusive services to reach their full potential.

OBJECTIVE 14: Families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) and affordable early learning and care that meets their needs.

OBJECTIVE 15: The early childhood workforce is diverse, culturally responsive, high-quality, and well-compensated.

Data Source: Raise Up Oregon: A Statewide Early Childhood System Plan (2024-2028), Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care.

System Goal 1

“The early childhood system is equitable, integrated, accessible, inclusive, anti-racist, and family-centered.”

Strengths Identified

- **Strong community cohesion**—families describe tightly connected neighborhoods where people support one another, reflecting a foundation for inclusive, family-centered systems (Objective 2 & 4).
- **Robust cultural identity**—especially in Siletz and tribal communities—supports culturally anchored early childhood systems (Objective 1).
- **Trusted community institutions** such as libraries, schools, and churches serve as natural access points for services (Objective 3).

Barriers Identified

- **Limited local services and resources**, particularly in smaller rural communities, reduce equity and accessibility (Objective 2 & 3).
- **Families must travel to larger hubs** for medical, dental, and behavioral health care, creating inequities by geography.
- **Gaps in inclusive early childhood services**, including limited developmental screenings and specialized supports (Objective 3).

System Goal 2

“All families with young children are supported to ensure their well-being.”

Strengths Identified

- **Strong parent–school relationships** and frequent community events create natural support networks (Objective 10).
- Families value **local knowledge-sharing**, neighbor support, and informal networks that help them navigate services (Objective 5).

Barriers Identified

- **Severe child care shortages** prevent families from accessing stable care that meets family needs (Objective 7 & 8).
- **Behavioral health and substance use concerns** arise across many communities, with limited local access to ongoing support (Objective 7).
- **Economic strain**, including high housing costs in coastal communities and limited local employment opportunities, affects family well-being (Objective 6 & 9).

- Many communities lack **grocery stores, pharmacies, laundromats, and basic goods**, forcing families to travel for necessities and reducing economic stability (Objective 6).

System Goal 3

“All children are thriving in early childhood and beyond.”

Strengths Identified

- **Supportive school environments** across multiple communities foster positive early learning transitions (Objective 16).
- Communities offer **rich natural environments**—forests, beaches, rivers—that support physical activity and family connection (Objective 15).

Barriers Identified

- **Limited access to high-quality child care and preschool**, especially for infants and toddlers, affects readiness for kindergarten (Objective 14).
- **Lack of early developmental screening opportunities** in some communities affects early identification of delays (Objective 13).
- **Few indoor play spaces, after-school programs, and youth activities** restrict opportunities for social and emotional development (Objective 12).
- **Transportation barriers** limit access to pediatric care, early learning, and special education services (Objective 11 & 16).

Overall Alignment

Across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties, communities exhibit strong relational and cultural assets that directly support the vision of Raise Up Oregon. Families feel connected, supported, and proud of their communities—conditions that create a strong foundation for child well-being.

At the same time, the barriers identified mirror RUO's highest priorities:

- inadequate child care and early learning access,
- inconsistent health and behavioral health services,
- unmet basic needs in rural areas,
- transportation shortages, and
- limited economic and family stability supports.

These findings emphasize where the regional early learning system is strong, where systemic gaps persist, and where targeted investment and cross-sector collaboration can directly improve outcomes for young children and their families.

Early Learning Hub Investment Recommendations

Aligned with Raise Up Oregon (2024-2028)

System Goal 1: An equitable, integrated, accessible, inclusive, anti-racist, and family-centered early childhood system

1. Strengthen Hub-Led System Coordination and Partnerships

- Strengthen the Early Learning Hub's backbone role to convene partners, align services, and streamline access across early learning, health, and family support systems.
- Prioritize coordination with school districts, tribes, libraries, health providers, and community-based organizations.

Aligns with Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4.

2. Strengthen Tribal and Culturally Responsive Partnerships

- Support government-to-government collaboration with tribes and investment in culturally specific early learning and family support programs.
- Expand culturally and linguistically responsive navigation through Pollywog.

Aligns with Objectives 1 and 8.

3. Use Data and Community Asset Mapping to Guide Investments

- Use the Regional Data Book, asset mapping, community profiles, and shared data to target resources where gaps are greatest.

Aligns with Objectives 3 and 4.

System Goal 2: All families with young children are supported to ensure their well-being

4. Expand Family Navigation and Parent Support (Pollywog)

- Invest in Pollywog as a trusted, community-based navigation system connecting families to child care, health, housing, and economic supports.
- Increase multilingual outreach and community-based access points.

Aligns with Objectives 5, 6, and 10.

5. Improve Access to Health, Mental, and Behavioral Health Supports

- Support coordinated screening, referral, and follow-up for young children and caregivers.
- Strengthen partnerships with pediatric, dental, and behavioral health providers.

Aligns with Objectives 7 and 11.

6. Center Parent Voice and Community Leadership

- Fund parent engagement, leadership development, and stipends to ensure families inform system design and decision-making.

Aligns with Objectives 5 and 10.

System Goal 3: All children are thriving in early childhood and beyond

7. Increase Child Care and Early Learning Availability

- Support expanding licensed child care, ERDC-accepting providers, and infant/toddler care, particularly in rural communities.
- Support flexible and community-based care models.

Aligns with Objective 14.

8. Strengthen the Early Childhood Workforce

- Support recruitment, retention, and professional development of a culturally responsive early learning workforce.
- Align workforce supports across counties and sectors.

Aligns with Objective 15.

9. Support Early Identification and Inclusive Services

- Support partnerships that strengthen early screening, EI/ECSE access, and smooth transitions to kindergarten.

Aligns with Objectives 13 and 16.

Regional Summary: Strengths, Barriers, and Key Recommendations

The Community Asset Mapping Project engaged families across 15 communities in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties to understand local strengths and challenges related to child and family well-being. While each community reflects unique characteristics shaped by geography and culture, clear regional patterns emerged across all eight topic areas.

Regional Strengths

Strong Sense of Community and Belonging

Families across all three counties consistently described their towns as friendly, supportive, and close-knit. Neighbors help one another, schools and libraries serve as trusted community anchors, and many communities maintain deep cultural or historical identity—such as tribal traditions in Siletz or small-town heritage in rural Linn and Benton counties.

Valued Community Institutions

Schools, libraries, churches, and community centers provide essential points of connection and support. Families emphasized positive relationships with educators and the importance of local spaces where children and families gather.

Natural Environments and Outdoor Recreation

Forests, rivers, trails, and the coast offer abundant outdoor opportunities. These natural assets contribute to family resilience, recreation, cultural practices, and overall well-being.

Regional Barriers

Child Care Shortages

Nearly every community reported limited availability of infant/toddler care, preschool options, and after-school programs. This is one of the most consistent and significant challenges across the region.

Limited Access to Health and Behavioral Health Services

Outside larger towns such as Lebanon, Newport, and Lincoln City, families must travel for medical, dental, and behavioral health care. Mental health and substance use concerns are widespread, with limited local support.

Transportation Challenges

Rural and coastal communities face significant transportation barriers, including long distances, limited public transit, and lack of convenient travel options for appointments, early learning, and essential shopping.

Food and Retail Gaps

Many small towns lack full-service grocery stores, pharmacies, laundromats, and affordable retail options. Families frequently travel to nearby hubs for basic goods, increasing financial and time burdens.

Limited Youth and Indoor Recreation Opportunities

Families highlighted shortages of indoor play spaces, youth centers, and structured programs, particularly in rural and coastal communities.

Economic and Housing Pressures

Coastal communities in particular experience high living costs, limited year-round employment, and concerns about housing stability.

Regional Investment Recommendations

1. Expand Child Care Capacity

Increase infant/toddler slots, preschool availability, home-based provider support, and after-school programs across all counties.

2. Improve Local Access to Health and Behavioral Health Services

Invest in mobile clinics, co-located services, telehealth supports, and partnerships with regional health providers.

3. Strengthen Transportation Solutions

Develop community-based transportation programs, shared shuttles, or coordinated routes to connect rural areas with service hubs.

4. Enhance Food Access and Local Retail Infrastructure

Support mobile markets, community-based resource hubs, and incentives for small-town grocery and retail businesses.

5. Expand Family- and Youth-Serving Spaces

Create and maintain indoor recreation areas, community gathering spaces, youth programs, and multigenerational activity centers.

6. Support Economic Stability in Rural and Coastal Areas

Partner on housing stabilization, workforce development, and local business revitalization to reduce travel burdens and strengthen family stability.

Conclusion

Across the region, families benefit from strong community ties, trusted institutions, and rich natural environments. At the same time, they face persistent gaps in essential services—particularly child care, access to health and behavioral health care, transportation, and food and retail availability. Addressing these shared barriers through coordinated regional strategies will strengthen family well-being and improve opportunities for young children across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.



2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile

The 2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profiles present a clear, standardized snapshot of key demographic, economic, housing, and education indicators, along with findings from the Community Asset Mapping project, for each participating community. Each profile brings essential information together in one place to help readers quickly understand community characteristics, household and economic conditions, housing affordability, and the local education context. Using a consistent format across communities supports comparison, trend identification, and data-informed decision-making at both local and regional levels.

Each community profile includes a Community Snapshot that highlights rural or urban classification, total population, age distribution, racial and ethnic composition, language access, internet connectivity, commute times, educational attainment, family structure, income and poverty measures, housing costs and affordability, and key school district indicators such as English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency. Together, these indicators provide a high-level view of community assets and challenges that influence family stability, early learning access, and overall well-being.

Data for the profiles comes from multiple trusted sources to ensure accuracy and comparability. Primary data sources include: (1) the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates for population, household, income, poverty, housing, and connectivity indicators; (2) At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024–25 from the Oregon Department of Education for school district and student performance measures; and (3) the Zillow Home Values Index as of November 2025 to reflect current housing market conditions.

Rural and urban classifications in the profiles follow U.S. Census Bureau definitions used in the American Community Survey. To qualify as an urban area, a place must encompass at least 2,000 housing units or have a population of at least 5,000. Communities that do not meet this threshold are classified as rural. This distinction is critical for interpreting service access, infrastructure capacity, and travel burdens, as rural communities often face greater distance-related barriers despite strong social connections and community assets.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Brownsville

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Rural	<p>Child Care: Very limited.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Must travel.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Few local supports.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: No full grocery store.</p> <p>Transportation: A barrier for many families.</p> <p>Belonging: Strong historic identity and community pride.</p> <p>Recreation: Limited; outdoor options available.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Must travel for most goods.</p>
Population ¹	1,949	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 6.7% Aged 0–17: 22.0%	
Median Age ¹	42.1	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	86.7%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 49.5% Female: 50.5%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	2.6%	
% Households without Internet ¹	7.1%	<p>Strengths & Assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendly, close-knit small-town community. Strong civic engagement and town-wide events. Active arts, history, and cultural organizations. Clean, quiet setting with outdoor family activities. Reliable internet and access to banking services.
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	29.7 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 95.1% Bachelor or higher: 31.9%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	8.2%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$82,750	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	5.9%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	0.7%	
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	15.8%	<p>Barriers & Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No affordable, full-service grocery store. Very limited child care and early learning options. Loss of key local services, including pharmacy access. Few dining and basic retail options. Travel required for most health and government services. Rising living costs and economic pressures. Political division and inclusion concerns.
Average House Price ²	\$434,873	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,677	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	24.7%	
School District ³	Central Linn SD 552	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 35.7% Grade 3: 48.5%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Halsey

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Rural	<p>Child Care: Very limited.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Must travel.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Limited services.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: No grocery store.</p> <p>Transportation: Barrier due to distance.</p> <p>Belonging: Strong, supportive small town.</p> <p>Recreation: Limited local options.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Must travel.</p>
Population ¹	1,637	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 6.3% Aged 0–17: 29.5%	
Median Age ¹	34.8	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	77.9%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 50.8% Female: 49.2%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	2.3%	
% Households without Internet ¹	8.6%	<h3>Strengths & Assets</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close-knit community with strong neighbor support. • Quiet, low-crime small-town environment. • Active church and school connections. • Friendly residents and community events. • Reliable internet and banking access.
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	28.6 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 97.2% Bachelor or higher: 10.3%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	11.3%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$106,250	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	6.8%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	10.5%	
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	29.4%	<h3>Barriers & Opportunities</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No local grocery, pharmacy, dining, or retail services. • Few programs and activities for children and youth. • Travel required for health care, child care, and government services. • No local laundromat; reliance on in-home laundry. • School facility, funding, and infrastructure concerns. • Limited development and long-term sustainability challenges.
Average House Price ²	\$390,306	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,465	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	19.8%	
School District ³	Central Linn SD 552	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 35.7% Grade 3: 48.5%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Harrisburg

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Rural	<p>Child Care: Limited.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Must travel for most care.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Limited supports.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Moderate access.</p> <p>Transportation: Moderate barrier.</p> <p>Belonging: Friendly, supportive community.</p> <p>Recreation: Limited.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Travel required.</p>
Population ¹	3,675	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 9.8% Aged 0–17: 31.3%	
Median Age ¹	33.6	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	85.7%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 50.0% Female: 50.0%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	0.8%	Strengths & Assets
% Households without Internet ¹	4.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong neighbor support, especially in times of need. • Safe, quiet small-town environment with low crime. • Highly valued schools with small classes and engaged staff. • Family-centered values, faith connections, and community pride. • Parks, gazebo, music programs, and annual community events. • Rural setting with farms, open space, and river access.
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	21.3 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 92.4% Bachelor or higher: 10.7%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	43.3%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$74,006	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	7.3%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	9.8%	Barriers & Opportunities
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	24.4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No licensed child care, preschool, or before/after-school programs. • Limited access to affordable, healthy groceries. • Few local medical and mental health services. • Lack of public transportation for non-driving families. • Limited police presence and safety concerns. • Water quality and infrastructure needs. • Few youth activities and advanced high school options. • Road safety issues and the need for improved parks and public spaces.
Average House Price ²	\$405,991	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,257	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	21.1%	
School District ³	Harrisburg SD 7J	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 30.6% Grade 3: 44.1%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Lebanon

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Urban	<p>Child Care: Some access but still insufficient.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Strong local access.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Moderate access.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Strong access.</p> <p>Transportation: Moderate.</p> <p>Belonging: Strong community identity.</p> <p>Recreation: Strong.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Strong retail availability.</p>
Population ¹	18,978	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 3.7% Aged 0–17: 20.4%	
Median Age ¹	37.3	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	84.0%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 49.4% Female: 50.6%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	8.7%	<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths & Assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendly, welcoming community with strong neighbor support. Parks, recreation, library programs, and family-friendly events. More services and amenities than nearby rural communities. Strong Latino community networks, especially in Colonia Paz. Reliable internet access and strong banking use. Local access to some government services, including SNAP and Social Security.
% Households without Internet ¹	8.1%	
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	26.4 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 91.1% Bachelor or higher: 21.2%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	26.2%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$56,740	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	16.0%	<p style="text-align: center;">Barriers & Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing shortages of licensed and on-site child care. Concerns about homelessness, poverty, and limited supports. Economic barriers and limited job opportunities for some families. Traffic, pedestrian safety issues, and lack of public gathering spaces. Safety concerns related to theft and speeding. Need for more youth, family, and drop-in spaces. Gaps in domestic violence supports and school facility needs.
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	16.0%	
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	38.9%	
Average House Price ²	\$386,681	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,283	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	44.8%	
School District ³	Lebanon Community SD 9	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 40.5% Grade 3: 44.5%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Mill City

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Rural	<p>Child Care: Limited.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Travel required.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Limited services.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Limited local options.</p> <p>Transportation: Significant barrier.</p> <p>Belonging: Strong rural identity, supportive.</p> <p>Recreation: Outdoor-focused.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Travel required.</p>
Population ¹	1,876	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 7.5% Aged 0–17: 30.1%	
Median Age ¹	37.1	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	79.4%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 49.0% Female: 51.0%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	5.4%	Strengths & Assets
% Households without Internet ¹	6.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close-knit community where neighbors support one another. • Safe, friendly small-town environment. • Strong preschool, schools, and local events. • Access to parks, outdoor spaces, and nature. • Growing family interest in connection and shared resources.
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	29.4 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 88.8% Bachelor or higher: 9.3%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	43.3%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$70,000	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	17.3%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	21.3%	Barriers & Opportunities
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	42.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited youth activities and indoor spaces. • Few local shopping and grocery options. • Travel required for many medical, government, and support services. • Limited jobs and ongoing poverty concerns. • Growing worries about homelessness and resource strain. • Internet access is present but unreliable for some households.
Average House Price ²	\$351,761	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,280	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	28.8%	
School District ³	Santiam Canyon SD 129J	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 42.0% Grade 3: 44.8%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Scio

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Rural	<p>Child Care: Very limited</p> <p>Health & Dental: Very limited locally; residents travel to Albany, Stayton, Lebanon, or Salem.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: No local services; travel required for all support.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Limited options</p> <p>Transportation: Moderate barrier; must travel for services, shopping, and medical care.</p> <p>Belonging: Very strong; close-knit, supportive, multi-generational community.</p> <p>Recreation: Limited; events exist, but need more family-friendly and youth activities.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Very limited; no laundromat, few businesses, travel required for most needs.</p>
Population ¹	5,135	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 9.2% Aged 0–17: 25.4%	
Median Age ¹	41.8	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	86.4%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 47.6% Female: 52.4%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	4.4%	
% Households without Internet ¹	7.2%	
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	34.0 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 87.9% Bachelor or higher: 23.0%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	18.3%	<h3>Strengths & Assets</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendly, close-knit rural community where neighbors support one another. Strong local history and identity, including the Lamb & Wool Fair and Czech heritage. Supportive schools, family events, and a safe, quiet setting. Multi-generational ties and strong community spirit in times of need.
Median Household Income ¹	\$98,438	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	13.8%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	29.9%	
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	27.5%	
Average House Price ²	\$562,930	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,421	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	28.8%	
School District ³	Scio SD 95	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 42.5% Grade 3: 39.8%	
		<h3>Barriers & Opportunities</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No licensed child care; families rely on informal care. Declining local businesses and limited services and dining options. Limited medical, dental, and mental health care requiring travel. Few youth activities, no after-school programs, and limited preschool options.

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

4. ZCTA5 97374 covers areas including the city of Scio and unincorporated places such as Crabtree and West Scio.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Sweet Home

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Urban	<p>Child Care: Limited.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Some access; travel needed for specialists.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Limited.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Strong access.</p> <p>Transportation: Moderate.</p> <p>Belonging: Strong community pride.</p> <p>Recreation: Strong outdoor recreation.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Some access; some travel needed.</p>
Population ¹	9,977	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 5.6% Aged 0–17: 20.3%	
Median Age ¹	41.6	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	84.4%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 51.2% Female: 48.8%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	6.2%	Strengths & Assets
% Households without Internet ¹	14.6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendly, close-knit community with strong local pride. Valued library, parks, and outdoor recreation opportunities. Natural beauty and rural lifestyle that appeal to families. Strong neighbor support and community care.
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	32.6 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 82.5% Bachelor or higher: 9.6%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	30.3%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$59,479	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	17.4%	Barriers & Opportunities
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	10.0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about homelessness, safety, and substance use. Limited child care and youth programming. Travel required for specialized health and behavioral services. Few downtown businesses and limited indoor activities. Need for expanded early learning and affordable housing supports.
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	5.8%	
Average House Price ²	\$346,089	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,163	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	35.5%	
School District ³	Sweet Home SD 55	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 36.5% Grade 3: 43.5%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Alsea

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Rural	<p>Child Care: Limited.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Must travel for nearly all care.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Limited local services; travel required.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: No full grocery; residents must travel.</p> <p>Transportation: Major barrier; no public transit.</p> <p>Belonging: Strong community pride and connection.</p> <p>Recreation: Mainly outdoor options.</p> <p>Household Essentials: No local retail; travel required.</p>
Population ¹	1,129	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 1.4% Aged 0–17: 14.5%	
Median Age ¹	59.3	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	88.5%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male 51.7% Female 48.3%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	1.30%	
% Households without Internet ¹	7.2%	
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	34.0 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 94.0% Bachelor or higher: 14.7%	<h3>Strengths & Assets</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close-knit community where neighbors actively support one another. • Small, welcoming rural town with multi-generational families. • Strong informal support networks that feel like extended family. • Scenic natural setting with mountains, rivers, and open space. • Mostly reliable internet access, with landlines used where cell service is limited.
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	30.3%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$65,781	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	13.4%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	29.3%	
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	33.3%	
Average House Price ²	\$458,920	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$982	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	16.7%	
School District ³	Alsea SD 7J	<h3>Barriers & Opportunities</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of the local health center, leaving no nearby medical services. • Travel required to Corvallis or Eugene for health care and government services. • Few local services, programs, and entertainment options. • Transportation and fuel costs pose barriers due to isolation. • Limited cell coverage and occasional internet reliability issues. • No local laundromat; families rely on home laundry or costly travel.
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 26.2% Grade 3: 29.0%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Monroe

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Rural	<p>Child Care: Limited.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Must travel for nearly all care.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Limited access locally.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Limited options; travel needed.</p> <p>Transportation: Barrier due to lack of transit.</p> <p>Belonging: Strong, welcoming, supportive.</p> <p>Recreation: Limited indoor options; outdoor options available.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Minimal retail; travel required.</p>
Population ¹	3,278	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 4.7% Aged 0–17: 21.5%	
Median Age ¹	43.5	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	67.6%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male 44.7% Female 55.3%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	11.2%	
% Households without Internet ¹	15.8%	
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	35.6 minutes	<p>Strengths & Assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close-knit, family-focused community with strong mutual support. • Peaceful, safe rural setting with good communication among residents. • Trusted community hubs including the church, library, food bank, and local events. • Parks, schools, and clinics help foster community connection. • Most households have internet access, with landlines supporting limited cell service.
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 84.0% Bachelor or higher: 24.6%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	35.9%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$66,250	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	21.4%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	31.3%	<p>Barriers & Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No local health, dental, emergency services, or gas station. • Small health clinic that does not fully meet community needs. • Inconsistent internet and cell service for some households. • Limited use of banks or credit unions, indicating financial access gaps. • Few parks, youth spaces, sidewalks, or adult activities. • No local laundromat, gym, or full-service grocery with fresh food. • Families must travel for government services and basic needs.
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	55.6%	
Average House Price ²	\$569,337	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,196	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	32.1%	
School District ³	Monroe SD 1J	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 32.0% Grade 3: 31.8%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Philomath

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Urban	<p>Child Care: Moderate, limited licensed care.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Must travel to larger towns for most care.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Limited local supports; travel needed.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Limited local options; rely on nearby towns.</p> <p>Transportation: Some public transit.</p> <p>Belonging: Strong history, close-knit, friendly.</p> <p>Recreation: Outdoor recreation available; limited indoor options.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Few businesses; travel needed.</p>
Population ¹	5,537	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 2.1% Aged 0–17: 14.4%	
Median Age ¹	35.5	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	87.1%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 48.3% Female: 51.7%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	4.8%	
% Households without Internet ¹	8.4%	<h3>Strengths & Assets</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendly, close-knit small-town community. Strong schools, library, and family events. Walkable town with parks, pool, and outdoor access. Valued early learning supports such as SRF and LBCC. Reliable internet and banking access. Close to Corvallis, OSU, and the coast.
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	26.7 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 96.4% Bachelor or higher: 47.3%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	21.5%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$83,373	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	7.9%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	2.4%	
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	13.4%	<h3>Barriers & Opportunities</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited child care and preschool shortages; few ERDC options. No full-service grocery store or affordable food options. Limited indoor child spaces and evening/weekend activities. Travel required for health care and government services. Concerns about poverty, homelessness, and safety. Limited shopping, fitness options, and local job stability.
Average House Price ²	\$518,233	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,534	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	34.1%	
School District ³	Philomath SD 17J	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 46.8% Grade 3: 44.2%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Lincoln City

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Urban	Child Care: Limited. Health & Dental: Strong access. Mental/Behavioral Health: Moderate access. Food & Groceries: Strong. Transportation: Moderate. Belonging: Strong coastal identity. Recreation: Strong indoor/outdoor options. Household Essentials: Strong.
Population ¹	9,890	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 4.9% Aged 0–17: 15.8%	
Median Age ¹	49.9	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	76.0%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 49.5% Female: 50.5%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	14.4%	Strengths & Assets
% Households without Internet ¹	8.0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong community connection and inclusiveness. Well-supported Latino community and trusted networks. Coastal setting with beaches, parks, and outdoor recreation. Small-town feel with strong emergency response and mutual aid. Community services, schools, and family supports. Cultural diversity and neighborhood pride.
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	16.3 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 90.2% Bachelor or higher: 28.1%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	29.8%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$56,322	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	14.3%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	18.3%	Barriers & Opportunities
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	24.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited interpreters and culturally responsive health services. Concerns about hospital capacity and emergency care access. High housing costs and tourist-driven food prices. Child care shortages and limited youth activities. Transportation barriers and unsafe biking along Hwy 101. Homelessness and substance use concerns. Disaster risks and emergency preparedness gaps.
Average House Price ²	\$486,820	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,272	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	39.6%	
School District ³	Lincoln County SD	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 32.0% Grade 3: 29.7%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Newport

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Urban	<p>Child Care: insufficient.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Basic care available; gaps in specialized services.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Moderate access.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Good local options.</p> <p>Transportation: Mild barrier; some issues with roads/parking.</p> <p>Belonging: Very strong and supportive.</p> <p>Recreation: Strong—beach, parks, arts, events.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Mixed; good local options, laundromats are costly, some lack banking access.</p>
Population ¹	10,393	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 4.6% Aged 0–17: 15.2%	
Median Age ¹	50.3	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	75.3%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 46.3% Female: 53.7%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	17.7%	Strengths & Assets
% Households without Internet ¹	6.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant arts, culture, and community events. • Strong access to beaches, parks, and nature. • Diverse, welcoming community with Latino leadership and support. • Local access to health services, food, and government offices. • Reliable internet and in-town DMV and DHS access. • Strong community connection and mutual support.
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	16.7 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 91.1% Bachelor or higher: 31.1%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	51.3%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$57,213	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	17.2%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	19.7%	Barriers & Opportunities
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	33.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited mental and behavioral health services. • Affordable housing shortages and homelessness concerns. • Coastal hazards and climate resilience risks. • Road, parking, and transportation challenges. • Youth substance use and limited parent education. • High laundry costs and gaps in banking access.
Average House Price ²	\$460,246	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,178	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	37.9%	
School District ³	Lincoln County SD	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 32.0% Grade 3: 29.7%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Siletz

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Rural	<p>Child Care: Limited; need more toddler and youth activities.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Tribal clinic available; some services still require travel.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Major concern—substance use and limited supports.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Residents rely on nearby communities.</p> <p>Transportation: Significant barrier; limited local options.</p> <p>Belonging: Extremely strong—tribal, cultural, and multi-generational ties.</p> <p>Recreation: Limited; requests for more child-friendly activities.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Travel needed for some essentials.</p>
Population ¹	2,116	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 7.9% Aged 0–17: 21.5%	
Median Age ¹	38.3	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	65.6%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 45.1% Female: 54.9%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	1.4%	
% Households without Internet ¹	14.2%	<h3>Strengths & Assets</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong tribal identity, culture, and spiritual traditions. Deep intergenerational and family connections. Strong mutual support and community care. Trusted local assets including the Tribal Health Clinic, school, and community garden. Peaceful coastal setting with strong belonging.
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	23.1 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 90.6% Bachelor or higher: 15.7%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	27.6%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$58,333	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	19.7%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	30.9%	
		<h3>Barriers & Opportunities</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High concern about substance use, crime, and youth exposure. Limited programs for toddlers and young children. Transportation barriers and reliance on Newport or Lincoln City. Inconsistent or limited internet for some households. Limited local government services; travel often required. High cost of laundromats and limited local resources. School infrastructure, housing, and facility investment needs.
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	84.4%	
Average House Price ²	\$435,529	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$644	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	16.1%	
School District ³	Lincoln County SD	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 32.0% Grade 3: 29.7%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Toledo

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Rural	<p>Child Care: Limited.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Travel required.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Limited; concerns about drug use.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Moderate.</p> <p>Transportation: Moderate barrier.</p> <p>Belonging: Strong, supportive community.</p> <p>Recreation: Limited.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Travel required.</p>
Population ¹	3,547	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 7.2% Aged 0–17: 25.1%	
Median Age ¹	39.7	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	76.5%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 50.9% Female: 49.1%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	5.3%	
% Households without Internet ¹	7.3%	
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	23.7 minutes	
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 83.5% Bachelor or higher: 23.4%	<h3>Strengths & Assets</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close-knit, supportive community where neighbors know each other. • Strong small-town pride and local involvement. • Welcoming, pet-friendly town with arts and music. • Reliable internet access for most households. • Strong sense of togetherness and mutual support.
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	46.3%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$51,131	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	26.8%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	30.9%	
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	73.1%	
Average House Price ²	\$365,666	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,071	
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	26.5%	
School District ³	Lincoln County SD	<h3>Barriers & Opportunities</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited local services; frequent travel to Newport is needed. • Few programs or activities for children and youth. • Concerns about substance use, including meth. • Environmental and lung health concerns tied to pollution. • Limited local health care and government services. • Limited child care availability.
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 32.0% Grade 3: 29.7%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.

2025 At-A-Glance Community Asset Mapping Profile: Waldport

Community Snapshot		Community Summary
Rural/Urban Classification ¹	Rural	<p>Child Care: Limited.</p> <p>Health & Dental: Travel required.</p> <p>Mental/Behavioral Health: Limited.</p> <p>Food & Groceries: Limited.</p> <p>Transportation: Significant barrier.</p> <p>Belonging: Strong community feel.</p> <p>Recreation: Outdoor-focused.</p> <p>Household Essentials: Travel required.</p>
Population ¹	2,025	
% Children ¹	Aged 0–4: 0.7% Aged 0–17: 8.4%	
Median Age ¹	61.3	
% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino ¹	83.3%	
Sex Distribution in Population ¹	Male: 48.7% Female: 51.3%	
No English Language spoken at Home ¹	7.0%	
% Households without Internet ¹	15.6%	
Mean Travel Time to Work ¹	24.5 minutes	<h3>Strengths & Assets</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong sense of belonging and community connection. • Caring residents who support one another. • Small-town feel with valued local events. • Key assets such as the library, community garden, and school. • Coastal location with access to nature. • Mostly reliable internet and banking access.
Education Attainment ¹	High school or higher: 93.0% Bachelor or higher: 25.0%	
% Children in Single-Parent Families ¹	34.9%	
Median Household Income ¹	\$50,000	
% Population Below Poverty Line ¹	12.9%	
% Children Below Poverty Line ¹	7.6%	
% Single-Mother Families Below Poverty Line ¹	0.0%	
Average House Price ²	\$468,666	
Monthly Housing Cost ¹	\$1,097	<h3>Barriers & Opportunities</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited child care and few teen programs or spaces. • High cost of living, especially housing and groceries. • Limited local jobs, particularly for youth. • Most health, emergency, and government services require travel. • Transportation challenges accessing nearby cities and services.
% Cost-burden Housing ¹	41.1%	
School District ³	Lincoln County SD	
ELA Proficiency Rate ³	All Grades: 32.0% Grade 3: 29.7%	

Data Source:

1. 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.

2. Zillow Home Values Index as of 11/2025.

3. At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, 2024-25, Oregon Department of Education.



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