

For Immediate Release

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\$1M Grant will Seed Community-led Campaign to build a new Child Care System in Oregon

(Portland, OR) -- PCUN and five other nonprofit organizations have been awarded \$1 million in grant funding by [The Health & Education Fund Partners](#) to fund a campaign focused on building an equitable, inclusive child care system in Oregon. This coalition, which includes APANO, Family Forward, Oregon Futures Lab, PAALF Action Fund, and Unite Oregon, was selected following a competitive statewide search process.

Currently, there is no childcare system that exists in Oregon. There are a few programs and isolated initiatives but no overall system that is cohesive and equitable. Childcare is an inherently political issue in this country. For decades, lawmakers have flirted with the idea of creating more universal programs but because of deeply entrenched gender and racial bias (and the related orientation to childcare as a personal responsibility vs. the collective good), have steered away from that idea. The only solution is for the communities that are the most impacted to lead the way, and to develop the political power required to sustain real change.

Impacted communities are disproportionately Black and Brown mothers—whose health, education, and economic security are all compromised, especially if they are farmworkers and/or seasonal workers. Farmworkers and domestic workers have long been excluded from labor protections, and we've yet to repair the damage. Putting food on our tables and caring for our loved ones are among the most important work anyone can do. It's time we recognize that fact by creating a system that works: one that gives mothers and caregivers real options, supports their health and education, and lays the groundwork for our communities to thrive.

This coalition has a long history of working together successfully on a myriad of economic and racial justice issues facing Oregonians. We are rooted in community organizing as a way to build power for communities of color, skilled at developing sophisticated campaigns, and committed to leading with racial and gender justice values. We will do our best to leverage our combined lived experiences and political organizing skills to create a childcare campaign led by Black and Brown working mothers. The campaign is expected to launch by the end of 2019 so stay tuned, and check out the campaign [website](#) for more information.

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