

# **Grant to Provide Child Care for Low-Income PSU Students Who Are Parents**

## **Child Care and Family Support at an Urban University: A Plan for Student Access and Success (CCAMPIS)**

U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

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Portland State is Oregon's largest and most diverse university, with more than 25 percent of its student population from ethnic minority groups. With an average student age of 29, 39 percent of whom are enrolled at part-time status, Portland State University serves a predominately nontraditional college student population. Fifty-three percent of PSU's students are women; many of whom are parents of young children.

The importance of childcare to PSU students mirrors the centrality of this issue to families throughout our society. For many low-income students, affordable childcare makes the difference in being able to complete a college degree. PSU currently has two on-campus childcare programs, both offering subsidized care for eligible PSU student families. Because of the high-quality programming, subsidized care rates and convenient campus location, the programs are in high demand by the Portland State University community and currently have waitlists numbering over 800. Although these programs are crucial, significant and pressing need remains for increased access to child care for low-income student parents.

Our proposed project design immediately supports additional campus child care for 30 low-income student families and a low-income family scholarship program to aid in childcare tuition payments. This project will be administered through Student Parent Services and housed in the two existing child care facilities on campus in underutilized spaces. This opportunity comes at a time when our campus is undergoing significant growth and change and is developing long-range goals for expansion of child care and family support services.

**Impact on community:** As Oregon's largest university and situated in the state's metropolitan region, PSU is an important bridge to careers and leadership for many lower-income Oregonians. This grant project will provide high quality child care for PSU's lower income student parents to achieve their educational goals.