

Head Start of Yamhill County Community Assessment Update 2022

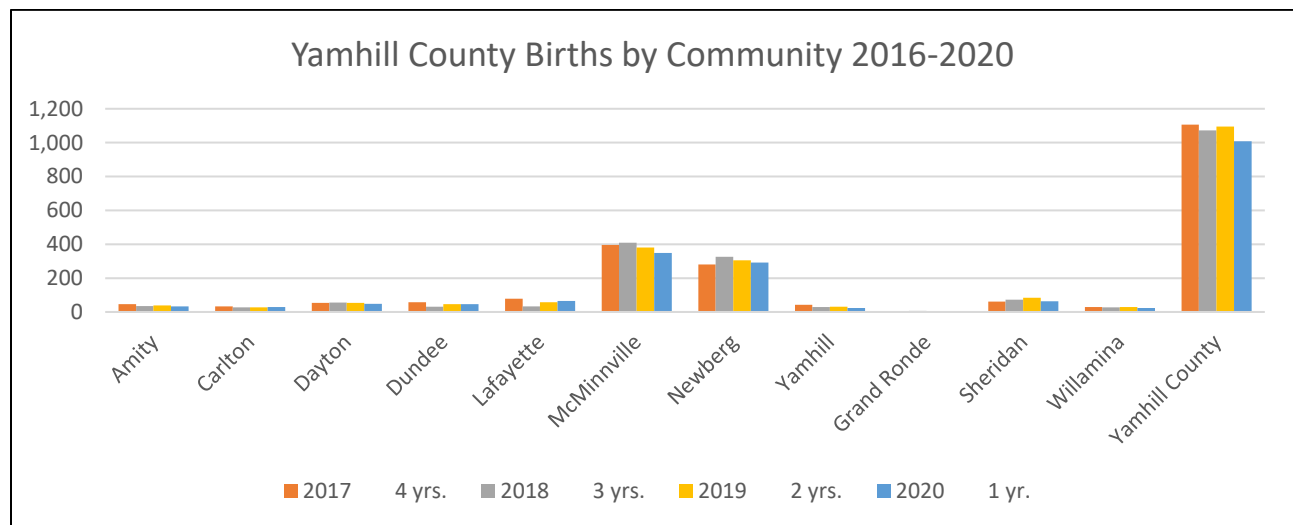
During the 2020- 2021 school year, Head Start of Yamhill County (HSYC) conducted a Community Assessment. Since that time, there have been slight shifts in trends in our community. These shifts are due in part to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. To better determine the needs of our community and families, we have collected additional information to support our future plans including locations and types of services.

Demographics:

Since the 2020-2021 community assessment, the census data population estimates for 2019 have been updated, and the 2020 census data population estimates have become available. General demographics for Yamhill County have not changed dramatically. The census data population estimates for 2019 have been updated with an increase of 481 persons (from 104,832 to 105,313). Based on the new 2019 estimate and the 2020 estimate of 106,087, there has been a slight increase in overall population (774) and a slight decrease in the percentage of children ages 5 and under (from 5.7% to 5.6%).

The updated 2019 estimate for children under 5 is 6,046 (an increase of 95 children) and the 2020 estimate is 5,888 children under 5. One of the most notable updates is the decrease in median income from \$75,924 to \$62,880. This is most likely related to the unemployment rates associated with the pandemic, and the decrease in the poverty rate for all persons (from 12.1% to 11.8%). The poverty rate for children under 5 has decreased from 21.4% (1,266 children) in 2019 to 17% (996 children) in the 2020 census release.

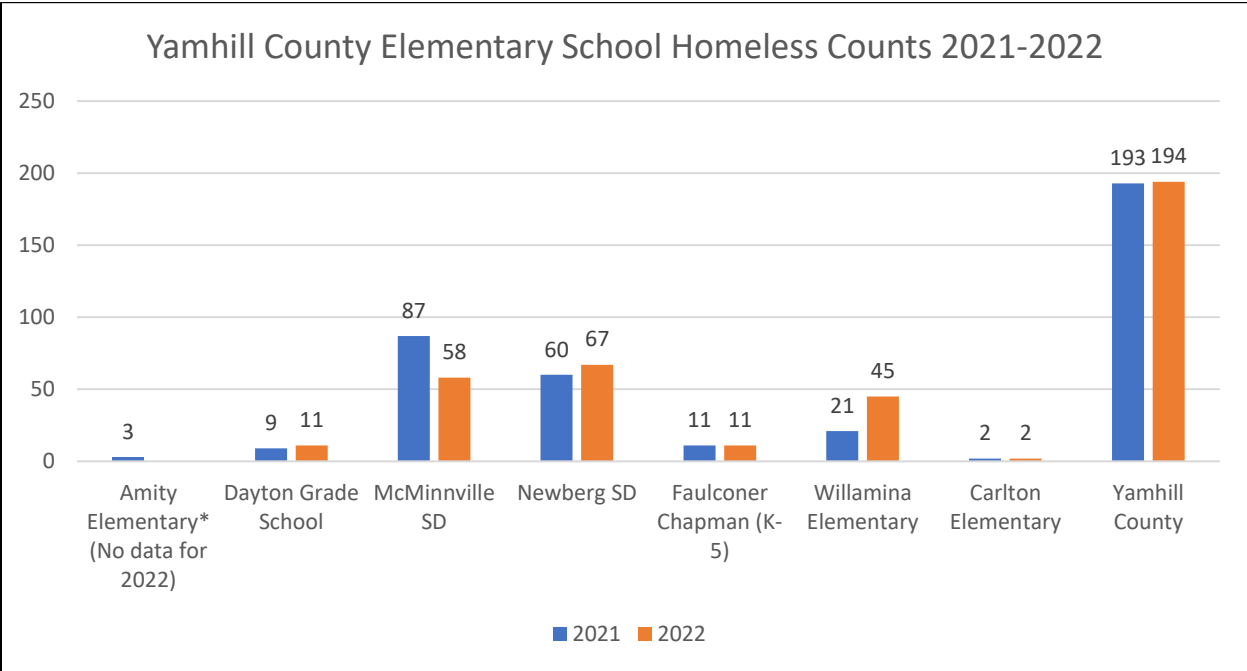
Birth rates in Yamhill County have been on a steady decline since 2016. In the years from 2016 through 2020 birth rates have dropped by 22%. The decline was noted in all cities in Yamhill County with the exception of Dundee (a 67% increase) and Lafayette (a 58% increase) in the years between 2018 and 2020.



City	2016 5 yrs.	2017 4 yrs.	2018 3 yrs.	2019 2 yrs.	2020 1 yr.
Amity.....	43	47	34	38	33
Carlton.....	37	33	28	27	29
Dayton.....	65	53	56	53	48
Dundee.....	37	57	31	46	47
Lafayette.....	63	79	33	57	66
McMinnville	447	396	409	380	348
Newberg.....	315	281	325	305	291
Yamhill.....	25	42	30	32	23
Grand Ronde	4	2	7	5	5
Sheridan.....	70	62	72	84	63
Willamina.....	24	30	27	30	24
Yamhill County	1,160	1,107	1,073	1,094	1,008

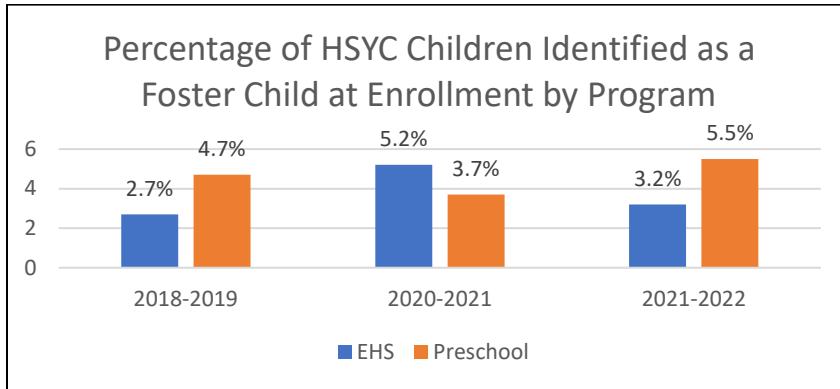
Homelessness:

Yamhill Community Action Partnership did not conduct their Point in Time Homeless Count in 2021 or 2022. HSYC observed a decrease in the rate of homelessness among our children from 19% in 2018-2019 to 14% in 2020-2021. Yamhill County McKinney-Vento Local Education Liaisons reported minimal change overall in the number of homeless elementary age children upon which our estimates were based for the 2020-2021 Community Assessment, however, there has been a shift in where these children are located. The McMinnville School District reported a 33% decrease in the number of elementary school children identified as homeless, while the Newberg School District reported an increase of 11% and the Willamina School District had a 53% increase.



Children in Foster Care:

Children Count for Oregon reported an increase in the rate of children under 18 in foster care in Yamhill County between 2018 and 2019. There is not updated data available for 2020 or 2021 at this time. HSYC data shows increases in the percentage of foster children enrolled in our program. In 2018-2019, 3.7% of enrolled children were in foster care compared to 4.4% mid-way through the 2021-2022 school year.



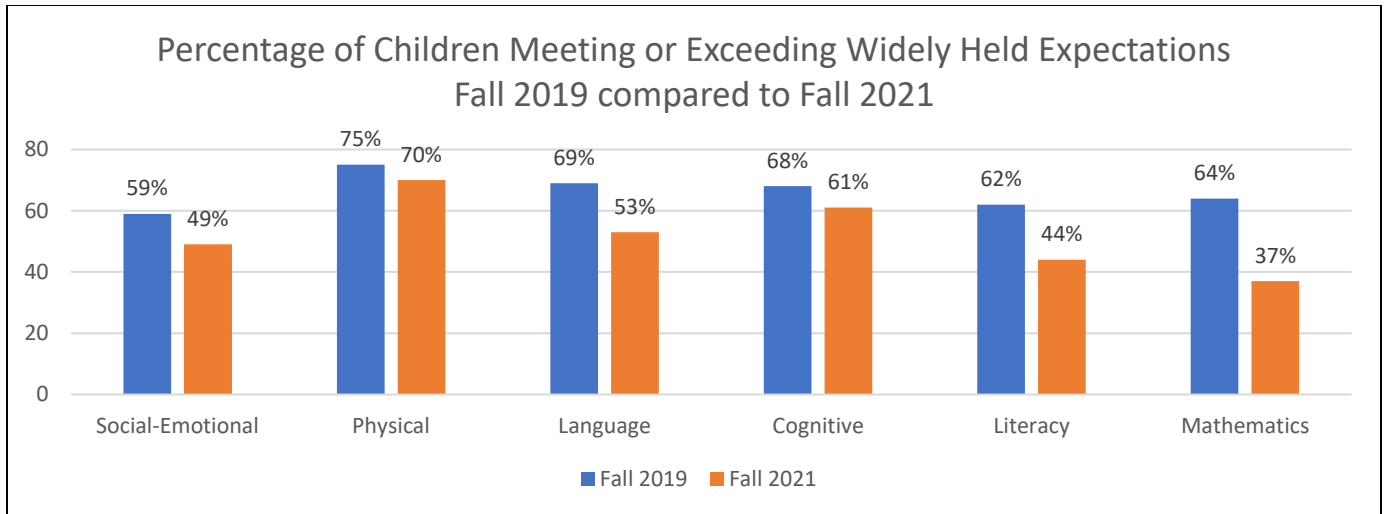
Children with Disabilities:

The percentage of HSYC children with documented disabilities has increased from 11% in 2018-2019 to 13.8% in 2020-2021. This upward trend seems to be continuing. In January 2022 HSYC experienced a program-wide rate of 16.5% of participants with a documented disability, not including children who were referred to Willamette Education Services District (WESD) but not yet evaluated. The largest increase in disability diagnosis is in the area of Communication, increasing from 31% in 2018-2019 to 45% in 2020-2021.

WESD data indicates a 25% decrease in the number of children being served through Early Intervention in Yamhill County between 2019 and 2021 and a 28% decrease in the number of children being served through Early Childhood Special Education during this same time period.

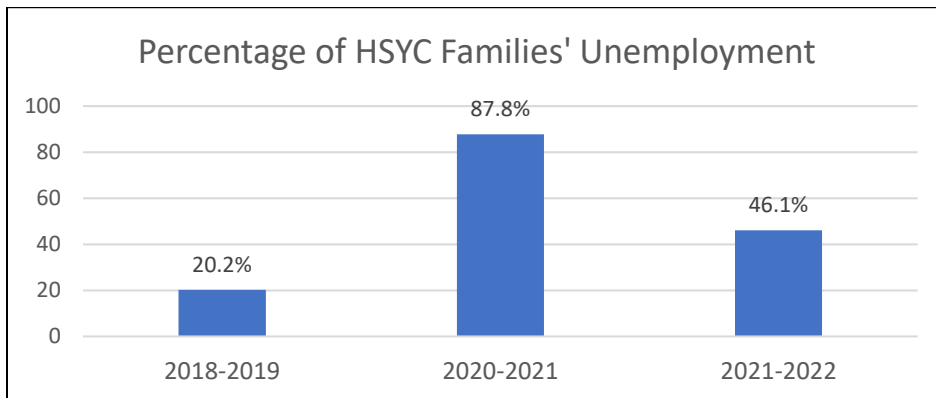
Education/ Health/ Nutrition/ Social Services:

The pandemic continued to impact access to education, health care, nutrition, and social services since the last Community Assessment. Unemployment began to return to pre-pandemic rates in 2021. The unemployment rate in Yamhill County was 3.7% in 2019, 9.9% in 2020, and 4.4% in 2021. The educational impact of virtual learning will not be evident for some time. The last reported assessments from the Oregon Department of Education were from the 2018-2019 school year, therefore no comparisons are available at this time. HSYC staff observed that the social-emotional-behavioral developmental stages of toddlers and pre-k children entering the program in the 2021-2022 school year were lower than usual. The 2021 HSYC Fall Outcomes data for newly enrolled Head Start children showed lower base-line assessment scores across all domains compared to pre-pandemic new child assessment data with the largest lags in Language, Literacy, and Math.



Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children:

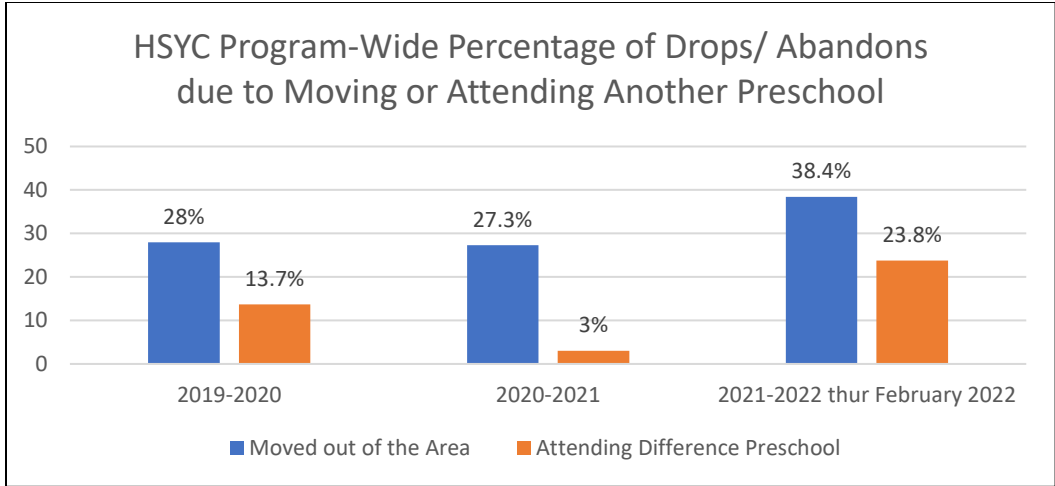
Data collection and reporting in this area changed between the 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 school years. In 2018-2019, 45% of parents were unemployed and 95% were not enrolled in job training or school. In 2020-2021, 83% of families were neither employed, in job training, or in school at time of enrollment. Due to the pandemic, we have discovered that unemployment numbers are in recovery, but are still higher than pre-pandemic levels.



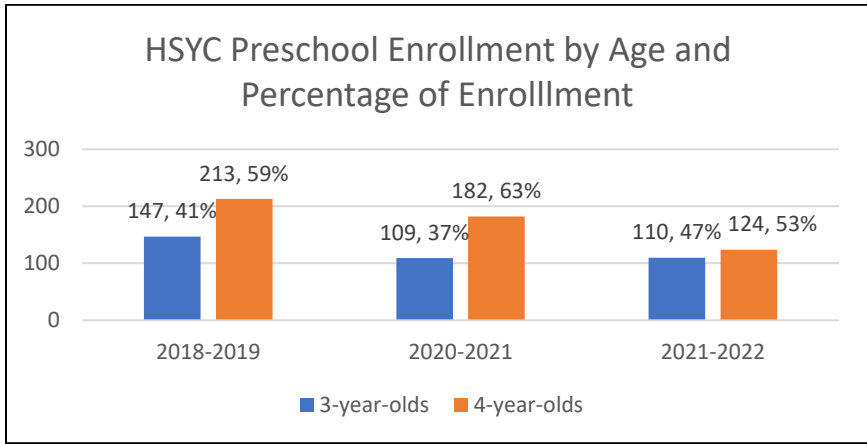
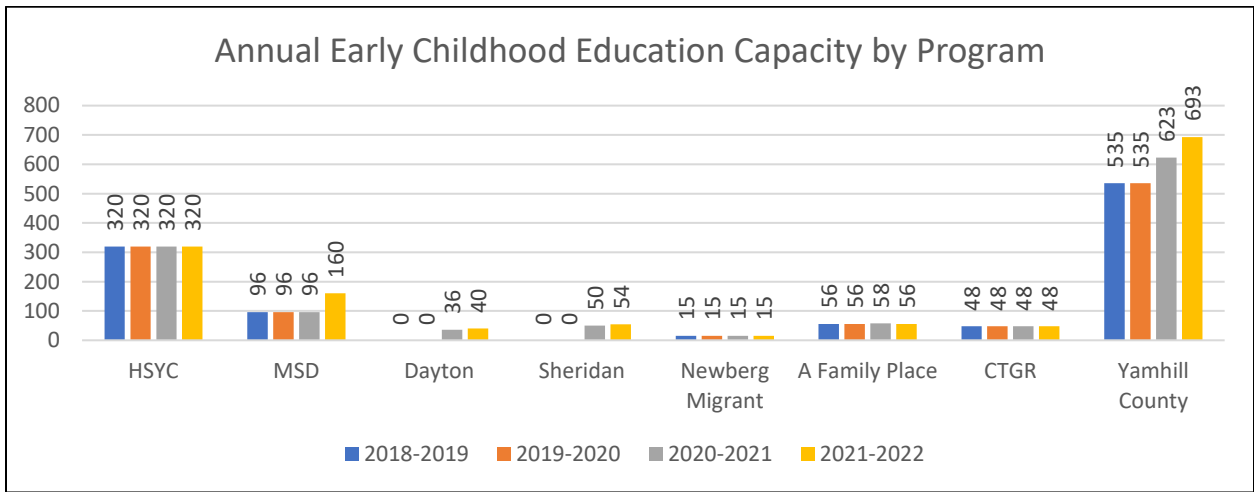
Other child development, childcare centers, and family childcare programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served. Resources in the community:

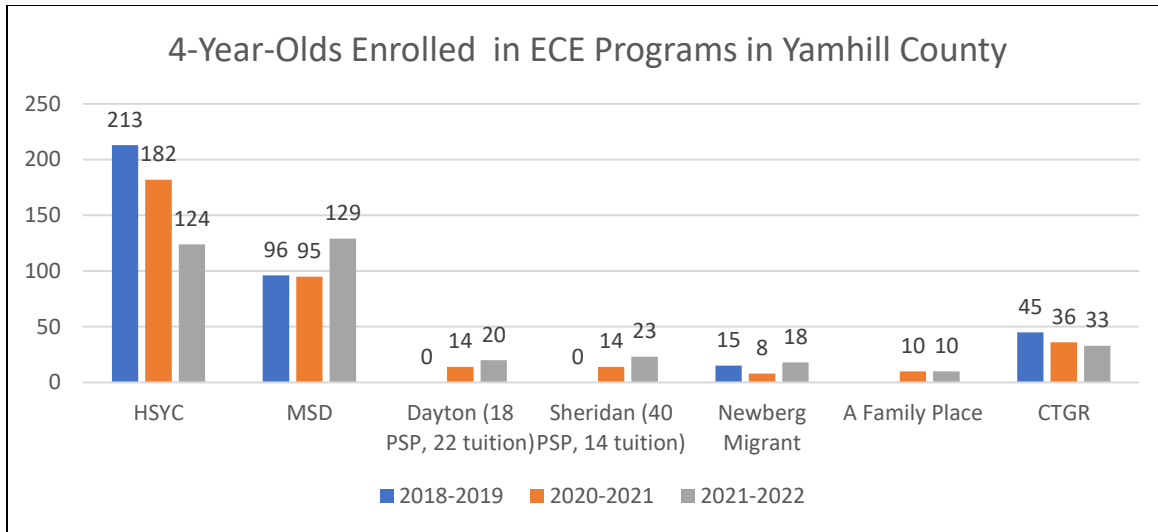
The overall number of early childhood education slots in Yamhill County has increased by 84 this school year since the 2020-2021 Community Assessment.

When analyzing drops from HSYC programs from 2019-2020 thru February of 2022, there was a significant increase this school year in the percentage of children dropping due to family relocation out of Yamhill County. We believe this is related to the on-going increasing cost of rent throughout Yamhill County. Another contributing factor to participant drops has been the increasing number of children attending another preschool in the area. Increases in available (free and low-cost) preschool slots in Yamhill County will most likely continue to challenge HSYC's enrollment for the preschool program.

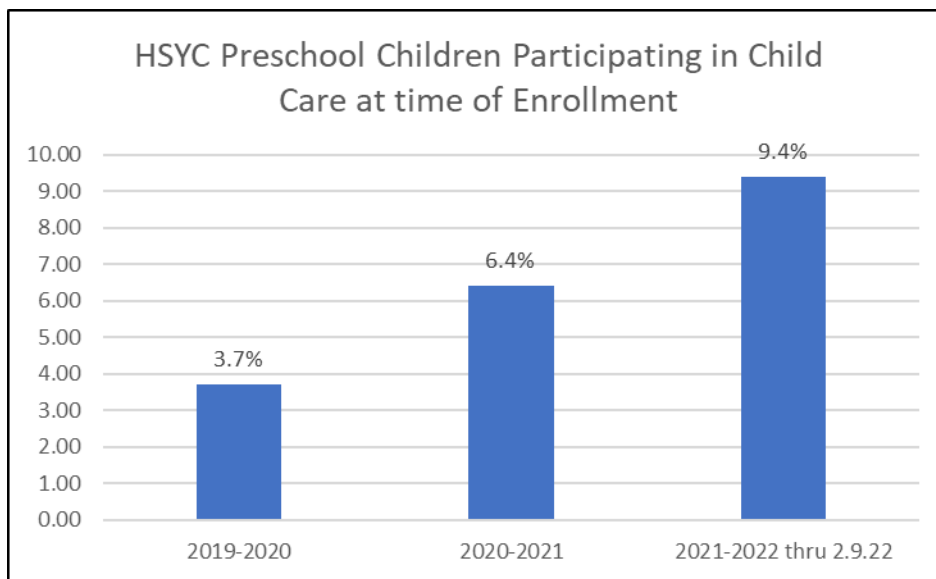


In the 2021-2022 school year, there has been a shift in the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled at HSYC. This may be related to the increase in preschool slots now offered by local school districts beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. An additional 70 preschool slots became available between the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Other preschool programs in Yamhill County experienced an increase of 56 children in their enrollment of 4-year-olds this year.





Over the last 3-years, children enrolling for HSYC preschool services already enrolled in childcare increased by at least 3% annually.



Strengths of the Community:

The community, through local non-profits, committees, and government, has identified the availability of safe, and affordable housing as an area for improvement as it is deemed a social determinant of health and education particularly in BIPOC and low-income residents. In addition to on-going strategies that include population-specific shelters and projects (ex: transitional treatment complexes, youth shelters, emergency housing) and repurposing foreclosed homes for needed housing, grants funds have been solicited to address the need. The Yamhill Community Care Organization is committed to investing a portion of their profits to housing through the Oregon Health Authority’s Share Initiative mandate. In 2021 the purchase of a McMinnville motel, renovated into apartments for emergency shelter, was funded by the State and administered through the Oregon Community Foundation. A private-public project to expand subsidized housing in the West Valley also broke ground just prior to the start of the pandemic. The pandemic has delayed many of the projects due to the supply chain and labor shortages.

The pandemic elevated Unidos Bridging Community as a primary source of safe, trusting, and reliable information and resources for our community's Latinx members. Unidos was invited to participate in COVID vaccine and testing advisory workgroups, they were the recipients of numerous pass-through grants for COVID relief, and their bilingual, fact-based messaging filled a void in meeting the needs of our Spanish-speaking community.

CARES Act and American Rescue Plan funding available to the county is strengthening the possibility for reliable broadband infrastructure in Yamhill County's most lacking (and high poverty) communities. The need has been magnified during the work- and learn-at-home requirements of the pandemic. This has long been an issue for the more rural areas of our community.

Yamhill County Service Integration Teams distributed \$8,129 to community members in need in 2021 and through the support of community partners was able to leverage \$22,505. The majority of the requests came from the McMinnville and Newberg areas. Thirteen different agencies put forward funding requests to the SIT in 2021. Foremost among these were DHS, Head Start, Providence, Unidos, and Yamhill Carlton School District. Of the types of supports provided, rent assistance was by far the greatest making up 26.8% of standard annual funds and 75.9% of the additional COVID funding fulfilled requests.

Summary:

The impact of the pandemic on children's development including the potential of diagnosed disabilities and involvement in the foster care system will most likely impact the service provision in HSYC's near future. The impact of the rising cost of rent and lack of affordable housing in McMinnville, the increase of minimum wage and employment opportunities, and the increase in free-/ low-cost preschool opportunities throughout the county is also changing the need for services in each of Yamhill County's communities. We are now seeing a reduction of eligible children in McMinnville and Dayton, and an increase of participants in the communities of Lafayette and Newberg. We are expecting an increase in need in the West Valley due to low-income housing projects that are nearing completion. More children in our community need Head Start *and* childcare opportunities, making transportation key to their participation.