2015 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Early Head Start

First Update to the 2014 Full Community Assessment
Summary

The 2015 Update is the first update to the EWU Early Head Start 2014 Triennial Full Community Assessment and shows no significant changes as defined by Head Start Performance Standard 1305.3 (see below).

The 2015 Update supports the findings of the last 2014 Triennial Full Community Assessment, and echoes the three long-term themes of this program’s Community Assessments, showing that Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties continue to:

1. Be the poorest region in the State of Washington, suffering from an ongoing lack of jobs that can support families,
2. Suffer from inadequate and inaccessible services, geographic isolation, and chronic family poverty, and
3. Have populations with a disproportionate number of children living in poverty.
The EWU Early Head Start service area covers 6,000 square miles of Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties in northeast Washington State, bordered to the north by Canada and to the east by the Idaho panhandle. These counties are federally designated frontier areas and medically underserved areas. Only five towns have populations over 1,000 and only one has more than 5,000 citizens. Most enrolled families drive 30 minutes to 2 ½ hours to get their groceries, social services and medical services.

To reach these isolated populations, EWU operates a home-based model that provides weekly Early Head Start services to families throughout the service area. Home visitors live and work in the communities they serve and are supported by a team of well-qualified and experienced managers and consultants with expertise in prenatal and infant/toddler health, nutrition, development, disabilities, infant mental health and family services. EWU Early Head Start has served the Tri-Counties since 1998.

EWU Early Head Start remains the only program to provide comprehensive infant/toddler services in the Tri-Counties while Rural Resources Community Action continues to provide Head Start services to the 3 to 5 year old children. State Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) services for 3 to 5 year old children are provided by both Rural Resources Community Action and NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101 (NEWESD 101). Rural Resources Community Action operates ECEAP Centers in Cusick, Springdale and Valley while NEWESD 101 operates Tri-County area centers in Columbia, Curlew, Northport, Orient, Republic, Selkirk and Summit Valley.
EWU EHS continues to play an essential role in providing services to low income families with infants and toddlers who live in the poorest and most underserved areas in Washington.

The number of families living in poverty remains high, especially when compared to the rest of Washington. Low income Tri-County families live in communities that have increased risk factors, making delivery of EHS services even more complex than in the past.

Health, nutrition, education and social services for children in general and more specifically, infants and toddlers in the 0-3 years of age population have been seriously impacted by the prolonged economic downturn that started during the 2008 Market Crash. And though recovery for the nation and state continue, it has been long, slow and painful for the Tri-County area and sluggish growth will likely continue. [See County Profiles for Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties, Employment Security Department, State of Washington].

With increasing poverty and decreasing resources, the impacts on children and families in the Tri-Counties continue to include:

1) Increased numbers of families dealing with multiple and serious risk factors;
2) Families having harder decisions to make about how to get the basic necessities of life (food, medicine, transportation, health care) and what they will do without;
3) Increased rates of homelessness and moving between temporary short-stay locations; and
4) Increased rates of families involved with the state’s Child Protective Services and increased numbers of children in foster care.
TRI-COUNTY
FAST FACTS

Ferry County

Total population 7,660 (up from 7,551 in 2010)

Largest community – Republic – 1,100 persons

Live births – 63

Children 0-4 years old – 358

Health ranking – 39 out of 39 counties in Washington

Child care – 1 licensed family child care with capacity for 4 infants and 4 toddlers

Living wage calculated for 1 adult and 1 child in Tri-Counties – $36,487

Per capita income – $30,114 compared to Washington State – $47,717

Per capita income ranking in state – 39 out of 39

Median household income - $37,604 compared to Washington State $58,577

Unemployment rate – 9.5% compared to Washington State 6.1% (as of November, 2014)

Persons below poverty level – 22.1% compared to Washington State 14.1%

One in five households has income less than the federal poverty level

One in five adults has no medical insurance

Median age of population – 48.71, compared to Washington State median age of 37.3
**Stevens County**

Total population 43,900 (up from 43,531 in 2010)

Largest community – Colville – 4,690 persons

Live births – 419   Children 0-4 years old – 2,209

Health ranking – 30 out of 39 counties in Washington

Child care – 16 licensed providers with capacity for 204 children (as of the end of 2013, down from 33 providers with capacity for 315 children in 2008)

Living wage calculated for 1 adult and 1 child in Tri-Counties – $36,487

Per capita income - $31,262 compared to Washington State – $47,717

Per capita income ranking in state – 37 out of 39

Median household income - $42,928 compared to Washington State $58,577

Unemployment rate – 9.6% compared to Washington State 6.1% (as of November, 2014)

Persons below poverty level – 16.5% compared to Washington State 14.1%

One in six households has income less than the federal poverty level

One in six adults has no medical insurance

One in nine households experiences food insecurity and limited access to healthy foods

Median age of population – 45.89, compared to Washington State median age of 37.3

**Pend Oreille County**

Total population – 13,210 (up from 13,001 in 2010)

Largest community – Newport – 2,150 persons

Live births – 143   Children 0-4 years old – 615

Health ranking – 34 out of 39 counties in Washington

Child care – 2 licensed providers with capacity for 107 children (as of the end of 2013, down from 5 providers with capacity for 195 children in 2008)

Living wage calculated for 1 adult and 1 child in Tri-Counties – $36,487
Per capita income - $33,682 compared to Washington State – $47,717
Per capita income ranking in state – 33 out of 39
Median household income $38,954 - compared to Washington State $58,577
Unemployment rate – 9.7% compared to Washington State 6.1% (as of November, 2014)
Persons below poverty level – 18.8% compared to Washington State 14.1%
One in six households has income less than the federal poverty level
One in six adults has no medical insurance.
One in nine households experiences food insecurity and limited access to healthy foods
Median age of population – 48.96, compared to Washington State median age of 37.3

Ethnicity

**Ferry County**
- White (non-Hispanic or Latino) – 74.2%
- Black or African American – 0.6%
- American Indian/Alaska Native – 16.7% *(Includes Colville Indian Reservation)*
- Asian – 1.0%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander – 0.1%
- Two or more race groups – 4.9%
- Hispanic or Latino – 3.8%

**Stevens County**
- White (non-Hispanic or Latino) – 87.2%
- Black or African American – 0.5%
- American Indian/Alaska Native – 5.7% *(Includes Spokane Indian Reservation)*
- Asian – 0.7%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander – 0.2%
- Two or more race groups – 3.2%
- Hispanic or Latino – 3.3%

**Pend Oreille County**
- White (non-Hispanic or Latino) – 89.2%
- Black or African American – 0.6%
- American Indian/Alaska Native – 4.0% *(Includes Kalispel Indian Reservation)*
- Asian – 0.7%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander – 0.1%
- Two or more race groups – 3.0%
- Hispanic or Latino – 3.4%
Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect in Accepted Referrals (per 1,000 children ages birth-17, as of 2012)

Washington State – 33.9
Ferry County – 60
Pend Oreille County – 67
Stevens County – 42.2

Number of Children- ages 0 to 3 years, with Individualized Family Services Plans (IFSPs) for Disabilities or Developmental Delays in Tri-Counties – 65

EWU EHS FAMILIES

- **Homeless** EHS infants & toddlers this year – **15% of enrolled children**
- Families involved with Child Protective Services this year – **22% of enrolled families**
- EHS infants & toddlers with a diagnosed *developmental delay/disability* this year – **16% of children**
- EHS infants & toddlers in *foster care* or placed with a legal guardian this year – **10% of children**
- **Youngest person** parenting an EHS infant or toddler – **18 years old (female)**
- **Oldest person** parenting an EHS infant or toddler – **70 years old (male)**
- Single parent households served by EHS this year – **33% of enrolled families**
- Two parent households served by EHS this year – **67% of enrolled families**
- Pregnant women served by EHS this year – **12% of enrolled slots**

Eligibility of Pregnant Women and Children Enrolled & Served in 2013-2014

Needs of Families with Infants and Toddlers in the Tri-Counties

- Employment – Jobs, higher wages and job training
- Transportation
- Health care, including specialized care for infants and toddlers, pediatric care, dental, obstetrics, and other specialties
- Food security, nutrition, access to food vendors
- Mental health services
- Parenting skills and education
- Affordable and adequate housing and ancillary services, such as weatherization, utility assistance, and emergency housing
- Social services
- Child care

Key Community Resources

- Rural Resources Community Action Program (including Head Start and ECEAP)
- Washington State Department of Child and Family Services (DSHS)
- Washington State Employment Security Department
- Northeast Washington Tri-County Health District
- Local school districts
- Local food banks
- Spokane Community College
- NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101 (NEWESD 101)
- Local non-profits and local religious organizations
- Northeast Washington Alliance Counseling Services
- Pend Oreille County Counseling Services

These Fast Facts meet the minimum federal requirement that a community assessment contain the following information:

1) The demographic make-up of eligible children and families, including their estimated number, geographic location, and racial ethnic composition;

2) Other child development and child care programs that are serving eligible children;
3) Estimated number of children with disabilities;

4) Data regarding education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and families;

5) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families as defined by families of Early Head Start eligible children and by institutions in the community that serve young children; and

6) Resources in the community that could be used to address the needs of Head Start eligible children and their families.

Federal Performance Standard 1305.3(c).
What is in a Community Assessment Update?

As required by federal regulations, EWU EHS conducted a Full Triennial Community Assessment in 2014. The program conducts updates to the Full Community Assessment in each of the interim 2 years. *Performance Standard 1305.3.*

In the 2015 Community Assessment Update, EWU EHS looked for significant changes in the following information:

1) The *demographic make-up of eligible children and families*, including their estimated number, geographic location, and racial ethnic composition;

2) *Other child development and child care programs* that are serving eligible children;

3) *Estimated number of children with disabilities*;

4) Data regarding *education, health, nutrition, and social service needs* of eligible children and families;

5) The *education, health, nutrition and social service needs* of eligible children and their families *as defined by families* of Early Head Start eligible children and by institutions in the community that serve young children;

6) *Resources in the community* that could be used to address the needs of Head Start eligible children and their families.

If significant changes were discovered, EWU EHS must reconsider its previous decisions:

1) Determining the *program’s philosophy, and long-range and short-range objectives*;

2) Determining the *type of component services* that are most needed and the program options that will be implemented;
3) Determining the recruitment area;

4) Determining appropriate locations for centers and the areas to be served by home-based programs;

5) Setting criteria that define the types of children and families who will be given priority for recruitment and selection.

*Performance Standard 1305.3.*

**Demographic Make-Up – No significant changes.**

There are no significant changes to the estimated number, geographic location, and racial ethnic composition of eligible children and families in Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties.

For a recent detailed analysis of the social, economic and health challenges facing families in the Tri-Counties, see *Risk and Protection Profiles for Substance Abuse for Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties*, May 2014, *Research & Data Analysis Division, Washington State Department of Social & Health Services*.

There are minor changes to population projections for the Tri-Counties.

- Ferry County – 7,551 in 2010 to 7,650 in 2013 to 7,660 as of April 2014.
- Pend Oreille County – 13,001 in 2010 to 13,150 in 2013 to 13,210 as of April 2014.
- Stevens County – 43,531 in 2010 to 43,800 in 2013 to 43,900 as of April 2014.

*(State of Washington, Office of Financial Management, Forecasting Division.)*

Most of the Tri-Counties’ population lives in Stevens County (43,900) with 13,210 and 7,660 living in Pend Oreille and Ferry counties, respectively. Much of the population lives near
U.S. 395 that serves as the main transportation corridor for Stevens County and to a lesser extent, Ferry County. Highway 2 serves a similar function in Pend Oreille County.

There are no communities in the Tri-Counties with a population of over 5,000. About 60% of the population lives outside of incorporated towns.

As of April 1, 2014, Chewelah (2,620 persons), Colville (4,690 persons), Kettle Falls (1,610 persons), Newport (2,150 persons) and Republic (1,100 persons) remain the only Tri-County communities with populations over 1,000 persons. *(State of Washington, Office of Financial Management, Forecasting Division.)*

The geography in the 6,000 square miles of the Tri-Counties is some of the most rugged in the United States. Much of it is federally designated frontier area.

As shown in the map on the following page, the region is divided by mountain ranges that run north and south. Between the mountains are small, steep valleys in which the majority of people live.

Scenic and mountainous national forest land and tribal reservation lands take up most of the region’s non-private lands. These public lands make up about 75% of the Tri-Counties and are a major factor in where people can live in the region, especially in Ferry County where less than 18% of the land is privately owned.

Public ownership of the federal land removes it “from potential revenue generation, from property taxes, sales taxes and other sources of income.”
Tri-County Service Area:
Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties
Other Child Development and Child Care Programs – No Significant Changes.

As noted in the 2014 Full Triennial Community Assessment, access to child care continues to be a challenge in the Tri-counties. Decreased state subsidies, low profit margins and increased state regulation continue to make it difficult for private child care businesses (center or family) to remain open.

There are no licensed child care centers in Ferry County. It has one family childcare provider that can serve a maximum of 12 children (of which 4 can be infants and 4 can be toddlers).

In January 2015, Community-Minded Enterprises, Child Care Aware of Washington provided EWU EHS with a list of licensed child cares in the Tri-Counties (see tables below). Of the 21 licensed child care providers in Stevens County on the list, 6 are Family Child Cares, 6 are Child Care Centers and 9 are Head Start/ECEAP, Early Head Start or School District sites. Stevens County went from having 22 licensed child care providers with a capacity for 315 children in 2008, to 16 providers with a capacity for 204 children at the end of 2013. [Child Care in Stevens County, February 2014, Child Care Aware of Washington.]

“In Pend Oreille County the number of child care providers had dropped from 5 with the capacity for 195 children in 2008, to 2 providers, with capacity for 107 children at the end of 2013.” [Child Care in Pend Oreille County, February 2014, Child Care Aware of Washington.] Six Pend Oreille County child care providers are on the January 2015 Community-Minded Enterprises list including 1 Family Child Care and 1 Child Care Center at the Kalispel Tribe’s Camas Center in Cusick. The other 4 on the list are Head Start/ECEAP or Early Head Start sites.
### Licensed Child Care Sites for Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Type Of Care</th>
<th>Minimum Age Range</th>
<th>Maximum Age Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FERRY</td>
<td>REPUBLIC</td>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>11 years 11 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEND OREILLE</td>
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<td>Child Care Center</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>12 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEND OREILLE</td>
<td>NEWPORT</td>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>2 years 6 mos.</td>
<td>11 years 11 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>COLVILLE</td>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>11 years 11 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>VALLEY</td>
<td>Child Care Center</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>12 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>WELLPINIT</td>
<td>Child Care Center</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>6 years 11 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>CHEWELAH</td>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>11 years 11 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>VALLEY</td>
<td>Child Care Center</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>12 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>COLVILLE</td>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>11 years 11 mos. 3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>NINE MILE FALLS</td>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>11 years 11 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>COLVILLE</td>
<td>Child Care Center</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>12 years</td>
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<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>KETTLE FALLS</td>
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<td>12 years</td>
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<td>STEVENS</td>
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<td>3 years</td>
<td>12 years 11 months</td>
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<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>COLVILLE</td>
<td>Child Care Center</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>12 years 11 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preschool Program Sites for Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Type Of Care</th>
<th>Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PEND OREILLE</td>
<td>CUSICK</td>
<td>Preschool Program CUSICK HS/ECEAP</td>
<td>Ages 3-5 years</td>
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<td>PEND OREILLE</td>
<td>Metaline Falls</td>
<td>Preschool Program ECEAP - Selkirk</td>
<td>Ages 3-5 years</td>
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<td>PEND OREILLE</td>
<td>County wide Home-Based Services</td>
<td>Preschool Program EWU Early Head Start</td>
<td>Ages Prenatal – 3 years (Home-Based services)</td>
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<td>PEND OREILLE</td>
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<td>Preschool Program NEWPORT HS/ECEAP</td>
<td>Ages 3-5 years</td>
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<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>COLVILLE</td>
<td>Child Care Center COLVILLE HS/ECEAP</td>
<td>Ages 3-5 years</td>
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<td>Preschool Program ECEAP - Summit Valley</td>
<td>Ages 3-5 years</td>
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<td>County wide Home-Based Services</td>
<td>Preschool Program EWU Early Head Start</td>
<td>Ages Prenatal – 3 years (Home-Based services)</td>
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<td>Preschool Program ECEAP - Springdale</td>
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<td>Child Care Center KETTLE FALLS HS/ECEAP</td>
<td>Ages 3-5 years</td>
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<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>CHEWELAH</td>
<td>Child Care Center CHEWELAH HS/ECEAP</td>
<td>Ages 3-5 years</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

January 2015 - Community-Minded Enterprises, Child Care Aware of Washington
EWU Early Head Start transitioned almost 40% of its graduating children to Head Start, ECEAP, Developmental Preschool or other preschool in the last program year. *(2013-2014 EWU EHS Program Information Report).*

The challenges of finding child care was voiced by several members of the EWU EHS Policy Council during a discussion in October, 2014 as part of this year’s community assessment activities. Among the difficulties mentioned was the severe lack of child care availability, from areas that have no child care at all, to the frustration of finding that the one licensed child care in the area has a long wait list because they are the only one that can accept state assistance. Members commented that they felt that the state was partially to blame because the standards to become licensed to provide Home-Based care are so high that it is too hard to do, as well as being very expensive to keep up with the frequent changes in regulations.

One Policy Council member shared that when she had her second child she chose to become a stay at home mom because the costs of child care made it unfeasible to continue. Another mom said that she had recently taken her calculator out and factored in the gas money that she was spending when she drove from her home to the nearest child care provider (20 miles away) and then back to work two times a day, along with the costs of the child care and found that at her hourly wage it *costs her $2 an hour to work.* (It should be noted that despite this fact, this mom continues to work and, like many in the Tri-County area, does so by relying on family members and friends for child care whenever possible).

“Colville has some good child care (providers) that are expensive and some cheap child care (providers) that are bad,” commented another member.
Estimated Number of Children with Disabilities – No Significant Changes.

Caring for a child with a disability is challenging. Whether juggling speech therapy and doctor appointments, or simply getting transportation to a Child Find event, getting services is made more difficult depending on your circumstances and the circumstances of the community in which you live.

The Tri-Counties have many interconnected community risk factors that disproportionately impact low-income families, and more so for those families with disabilities. Education, health, nutrition and social services are inadequate and difficult to access with transportation and geographic barriers and limited services. With these limited services being centralized in Colville and Newport, it makes them inaccessible to many not living in town or without adequate transportation.

Funding for state and local government services has not kept up with increasing needs, resulting in continued impacts on the ability of agencies to provide services. Confusion about how to maintain continuity of medical insurance coverage between Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act jeopardizes coverage for entire families. Local non-profit organizations are straining under the burden of providing additional services while having fewer resources. Families often need to travel out of the tri-county area to access medical and dental care for infants and toddlers because of a lack of primary providers and specialists. Additionally, mental health services are limited. Existing services have not increased to match increasing need or populations. Instead, many are still struggling with continued reductions of the available resources.

The efforts needed for a family to access services for their child with disabilities while navigating one or two family circumstances is much different than a family faced with those risk factors in an underserved, rural community. Community risk factors coupled with existing
family risk factors places another layer of burden on the Family Resource Coordinator to locate, identify, and create Individualized Family Services Plans for children with disabilities not present in other service areas in Washington State.

In 2014, 65 children completed Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) out of total of 105 children who were formally or informally referred to the local lead agency. This number of IFSPs continues a pattern started in 2013 with 64 completed IFSPs. This is up significantly from prior years where completed IFSPs hovered in the 30 – 35 range. As of January 2015, there were 37 active IFSPs and 14 active referrals.

Services to children ages birth-to-three in Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties are coordinated by NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101 (NEWESD 101) through a contract with the Washington State Department of Early Learning, Early Services to Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program. This contract provides for the employment of a full-time Family Resource Coordinator, who coordinates referrals from parents and community partners for the evaluation and planning of special services for children with disabilities (ages birth-to-three).

Since NEWESD 101 hired the new Family Resource Coordinator in November, 2012, there has been a significant increase in the number of IFSPs completed in the Tri-County area. This is likely due to a number of factors including having a single-purpose, full-time Family Resource Coordinator (FRC), an increase in the number of children with disabilities, a comprehensive infrastructure within NEWESD 101 that provides a system to work with the 21 – 23 school districts who provide birth-to-three disabilities services and increasing referral and collaboration with the Eastern Washington University Early Head Start home-based program. The FRC is the largest referral source to EWU EHS, with 50% of the children on IFSPs enrolled in EWU EHS.
NorthEast Washington (NEW) ESD 101
2014 Early Services to Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Summary
Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille FRC Services

2014 Calendar Year Totals: 105 Referrals
65 IFSPs (2013 total was 64 IFSPs)
37 current IFSPs
14 current referrals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District or Town</th>
<th>Current IFSPs</th>
<th>Current Referrals</th>
<th>Current follow-up w/ DAYC needed</th>
<th>NEW ESD 101 Current Monitoring</th>
<th>2014 Total IFSPs</th>
<th>2014 Screened Didn’t Qualify</th>
<th>2014 Non-responsive, Declined Services</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Onion Creek</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
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<td><strong>65</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
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</table>
NorthEast Washington (NEW) ESD 101
2014 Early Services to Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Summary
Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille FRC Services Map

Map: Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>IFSPs</th>
<th>Referrals</th>
<th>Total 2014</th>
<th>Total 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nine Mile</td>
<td>7i</td>
<td>2r</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
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KEY:

- Nine Mile 7i - 2r 9 / 11
Numerous EWU EHS families voiced appreciation for the work that the Family Resource Coordinator for the Tri-County area had done for them. The lone FRC for the area manages the process from referral-to-evaluation-to-services within a 45 day timeline including:

- Making initial contacts with parents to follow-up on the referral
- Arranging face-to-face meetings in family’s home to meet the parents and child
- Educating parents about the evaluations and services planning process their child has a right to receive
- Motivating parents to have their child’s development evaluated
- Conducting DAYC evaluations and sharing results with parents
- Supporting parents as they struggle with denial, grief, anger and acceptance of their child’s development and what it may mean for their future
- Planning how move forward given logistical issues and barriers like lack of transportation, lack of adequate housing, lack of medical care
- Addressing the wide variety of socio-economic, health, developmental and cultural factors that may play into a family’s willingness and ability to obtain and retain disabilities services
- Updating school district administrators, staff and contractors at the twenty-three (23) independent school districts in the Tri-Counties on birth-to-three services and systems and assisting them in identifying resources and strategies to meet each child’s individual needs
- Coordinating and facilitating Individualized Family Service Plan meetings and contracts
- Following-up on the provision of services, evaluating progress and facilitating the transition of services at age three to an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Additionally, this Family Resource Coordinator manages entry of data into the state database system, writes the IFSPs, ensures school district sign-off on agreed services, distributes IFSPs, and conducts 70% of her work in rural towns and homes that are 20 minutes to 2 hours away from her office (one way!).
The coordination of IFSP services requires expertise in dealing with a wide range of disabilities as well as school districts which have a responsibility to provide such services. This can be challenging for Tri-County school districts, many of which are very small and have limited experience or resources to address complex disabilities issues. School districts often have no services during summer.

Of the several public school districts in the Tri-Counties, only 2 districts (Colville and Newport) have more than 1,000 students while 13 have less than 500 students. The Evergreen School District is the smallest with 20 students. The number of districts and their small sizes makes coordination of educational services difficult, especially for children with disabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District and County</th>
<th>Enrolled Students as of May, 2013</th>
<th>Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Special Education Students</th>
<th>Number of Teachers</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curlew (Ferry)</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pre-K to Grade 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orient (Ferry)</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pre-K to Grade 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic (Ferry)</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>60.1%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>K to Grade 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keller (Ferry)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
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<td>K to Grade 6. Serves Colville Indian Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incelheim (Ferry)</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serves Colville Indian Reservation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen (Stevens)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>K to Grade 6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northport (Stevens)</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pre-K to Grade 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion Creek (Stevens)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pre-K to Grade 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kettle Falls (Stevens)</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colville (Stevens)</td>
<td>1,877</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit Valley (Stevens)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chewelah Valley (Stevens)</td>
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<td>62.8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<td>Columbia (Stevens)</td>
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<td>76.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Walker (Stevens)</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>Loon Lake (Stevens)</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>K to Grade 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellpinit (Stevens County)</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>65.8%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Serves Spokane Indian Reservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selkirk (Pend Oreille)</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pre-K to Grade 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cusick (Pend Oreille)</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>K to Grade 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newport (Pend Oreille)</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Pre-K to Grade 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>46.1%</td>
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</table>
This description of the extraordinary circumstances that surround services to children with disabilities in the Tri-Counties is provided here to underscore the dire need for additional financial resources from ESIT to support the delivery of Part C services to children in these underserved and under-resourced communities.

The Tri-Counties continue to be designated as a Medically Underserved Area. They also remain designated as Primary Care, Dental Care and Mental Health Care Professional Shortage Areas. During 2013, the number of primary care physicians per 100,000 residents in:

- The combined Tri-Counties was 54, decreasing from 56 during 2010.
- Washington State was 82, decreasing from 97 during 2010.
- The U.S. was 94, decreasing from 106 during 2011.

Ratio of primary care physicians
1 per 2,563 in Ferry County (population 7,660)
1 per 1,611 in Stevens County (population 43,900)
1 per 2,156 in Pend Oreille County (population 13,210)
By comparison, 1 per 878 in King County (population 2,017,250)

Ratio of Dentists
1 per 1,926 in Ferry County
1 per 2,177 in Stevens County
1 per 4,327 in Pend Oreille County
By comparison, 1 per 1,009 in King County

[2014 County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation].

The needs of eligible children and their families continue to be significant because:

- Education, health, nutrition and social services are inadequate and difficult to access, with transportation, geographic barriers, and limited services being major factors.
- Services are centralized in Colville and Newport, further limiting access.
- Many families still do not have adequate transportation, bussing is very limited, and transportation support services have barriers like disallowing siblings to ride with a mom and her child to go to a medical appointment.
➢ Families often need to travel out of the area to access medical and dental care for infants and toddlers because of a lack of primary providers and specialists, or those that will accept state insurance.

➢ Funding for state and local government services has not kept up with increasing needs, resulting in continued impacts on the ability of agencies to provide services.

➢ Confusion about how to maintain continuity of medical insurance coverage between Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act jeopardizes coverage for entire families.

➢ Local non-profit organizations are straining under the burden of providing additional services while having substantially fewer resources.

➢ Mental health services are limited.

EWU EHS parents noted the following needs:

➢ Housing
  o Lack of affordable housing and subsidized housing for families with children.
  o HUD Housing has a years-long wait list and once families are approved and given a HUD voucher, they must obtain housing within 60 days or lose the voucher. The process is time consuming as paperwork is required by renter, landlord and employers.
  o House hunting is extremely challenging in an environment where many rentals don’t qualify for HUD, owners refuse to rent to younger parents, and new HUD rules regarding 1 bedroom for every 2 children, regardless of their age/gender make the option undesirable.

➢ Employment opportunities

➢ More medical clinics and medical staff
➤ More quality doctors and specialists

➤ More medical services generally

➤ More educational offerings/options. “It’s great to have the Colville Community College, but they don’t offer many night classes and don’t have any child care support for students,” said one EHS Policy Council member.

➤ Child care

➤ Gap in pre-school services for 3-4 year olds

➤ Transportation

➤ More affordable food

➤ Increased access to affordable quality food, including farmers markets

➤ Nutrition support. Several EHS parents and EHS staff commented on the difficulties associated with the help offered through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program including:

  o Long drive times to clinics offering WIC as funding cuts have reduced the number of locations where they can be accessed.
  o WIC food vouchers are provided in one month increments that are required to be filled in one shopping trip. Many note that local stores often do not have enough of the WIC items in stock to fill their orders, and that when they do, families often don’t have the resources to safely store that amount of food at one time.

➤ Increased services for children with disabilities
**Community Resources – No Significant Changes.**

Health, nutrition, and social services for the 0-3 years of age population have not increased and continue remain at low levels. The realities are that:

- State and federal funding reductions will continue into the foreseeable future, limiting resources available in the Tri-Counties.
- There is uncertainty about the extent of possible upcoming federal funding cuts. Financially strapped local agencies, including EWU EHS, need to plan how to provide essential services, but do not have the information necessary to make informed decisions.
- The Tri-Counties has a shortage of service providers with the expertise needed for infants and toddlers.
- The Tri-Counties has limited ability to support increasingly complex programs (examples include lack of funding, local expertise, facility options or necessary support services).

Existing community resources continue to provide essential services to the eligible children and families. Major resources include:

- Rural Resources Community Action, Washington State Department of Child and Family Services (DSHS), Washington State Employment Security Department, NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101 (NEWESD 101) and Northeast Washington Tri-County Health District continue to be major resources for low income families.
- The local food banks.
- Mental health and substance abuse services agencies.
- Local religious and non-profits organizations.
- Job training and educational opportunities provided by Career Path Services, Spokane Community College and Washington State University.
An EWU EHS Policy Council member voiced a concern regarding future resources for the rural Tri-County area communities being even further diminished. He shared an editorial from the publisher of his local newspaper, the Newport Miner.

In his November 11, 2014 article, Publisher Fred J. Willenbrock begins by writing:

“When Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., came to Newport she made an important observation when she said: ‘The meaning of rural is being redefined.’ She is right and that isn’t good for rural America.”

Mr. Willenbrock goes on to explain the problem facing Newport and other like communities.

“The census showed a large portion of the Pend Oreille County population travels to work in Spokane. This might be a fact but it doesn’t mean that this community is a suburb of the city. It’s easy to see that this is a rural community too far from the services of Spokane supported by the larger urban tax base. But the federal government says since the county is suddenly in their statistical view a suburb, we’re not eligible for many of the grants and programs to help low income and small tax base rural communities.”

The article then discusses the overlooking of the real needs of rural communities far from the cities when grouped with them and suggests that they are being “lumped” together so the federal and state government can stop spending extra money to help these needy communities. He states that:

“The logic is that reclassifying will save the government money almost instantly; just reclassify rural areas into suburbs of the nearest city. Stop sending grants to rural health care facilities for example – the people can go to the city, the government is saying.”

Mr. Willenbrock also points out another issue that impacts rural communities.

“In north Pend Oreille County, two cities were hit by a different survey problem. They might be denied state grants important to maintaining city infrastructure because statistics showed the average income is too high. But the statistics were flawed because they only surveyed a few people and obviously got those with higher
incomes. The state says they only need to survey a percent of the population but forgot that 2 percent of 300 is six. Six surveys didn’t show what is really going on in the town. The towns need the assistance just as much as they have in the past.

We have also observed the attempt for years to lump our obviously rural communities in with Spokane for economic development funding. This doesn’t work either; these communities are different and little funding will make it from Spokane north to this community.”

In many instances, the process of aggregating data results in poorly reflecting the real risks and circumstances faced by small rural populations, as the numbers themselves appear to be small, but when viewed as a percentage of the population they are actually quite significant and in some instances much higher than in many more populated areas, (as can be seen in the Estimated Number of Children with Disabilities section above).