Introduction:

The Children, Youth and Families Team consists of representatives from community-based and governmental organizations, including primary care and behavioral health providers, community advocacy organizations, local Coordinated Care Organizations, United Way, Oregon Department of Human Services, and Lane County Health & Human Services. The Team identified both strengths and needs associated with recovery from COVID-19 and the resulting economic downturn, as well as resources and recommended practices. The Team also identified the stresses and loss points that most affect this population. The work of the Team will continue with periodic updates and additional material added to the Toolkit as the pandemic continues.

Major Conclusions:

1. The COVID19 pandemic and 2020 economic downturn could contribute to major adverse experiences in the life of many children. In particular, children from families in poverty, facing systemic oppression and racism, experiencing family dysregulation or extreme need may be most negatively affected.
2. Families with the fewest resources have the greatest need for services and assistance to replace resources that are commonly provided through schools, including education, school meals, health clinics, behavioral health/oral health services, college prep/vocational programs, social programs.
3. Technology resource disparities (lack of hardware, adequate broadband, educational software) are magnifying economic differences between families and impacting youth opportunities.
4. The pressures of quarantine, social distancing, limited travel, and disrupted work/school schedules may result in increased family conflict and resultant trauma and stress.
5. Reduced in-person contact with children and families across social, education and service systems has contributed to a decrease in utilization of crisis services and interventions, with significantly fewer child abuse reports and an inability to identify children and families in crisis.

Identified Stress/Loss Points for Children, Youth and Families:

- Basic needs for food, shelter, utilities, and healthcare may not be met
- Family Isolation due to quarantine and Oregon’s “Stay at Home” order
- School closures at every level from childcare to college
- Challenges to accessing equitable services and resources for children and families with language access or other unique needs, including disabilities and special needs children
• Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are more challenging to meet through home schooling and online classes
• Employment/income reduction or loss
• Loss of daily structure with decreased work and school schedules
• Overwhelmed parent/family relationships due to sheltering at home
• Physical touch not allowed due to social distancing is especially hard on children’s play styles and attachment needs
• Adults are distracted and distressed, less playful with children, less able to be emotionally resilient
• Loss of social mentoring and peer-to-peer for students
• Children missing friends and social events including family lifecycle events such as graduations, weddings, baby showers, funerals
• Libraries, stores, malls, summer camps, recreation centers, sports programs closed or limited hours
• Family Resource Centers closed or limited hours
• Family vacations cancelled; summer vacation plans disrupted
• Racism, oppression and related violence affect children and families in myriad ways
• Civil unrest, protests and news stories are frightening for children and adults
• Trauma may be experienced in many different ways, including numbness to emotional stress
• Workplace stress points: working from home has benefits and disadvantages which may impact family priorities
• Layoffs; job insecurity; income reduction; limited workforce training and internships
• Oral health interventions in the schools limited; oral health services disrupted
• Vaccination levels have dropped, as have well-child check-ups and elective health interventions
• Health disparities are exacerbated by limited access to in-person services