

# Task E: Building the Continuum of Care to Meet the Needs of Children & Youth

## Overview

This project ensures that the specific needs of the child or youth shape placement decisions rather than the capacity placement crisis. The focus is on building a service and placement structure with the help of all child serving state agencies.

## How

The continuum of care project team includes Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), DHS Child Welfare (CW) and Intellectual & Development Disabilities Program (IDD), Oregon Department of Education (ODE), providers and System of Care consultants.

This group will work to ensure cross agency partnership and shared solutions to service and placement gaps. Guidance and feedback will be continuously collected from local groups, field staff, providers, youth and family representatives and stakeholders.

## Why

Children and youth with complex needs are often involved in two or more systems, such as corrections, mental health or developmental disabilities. Within the guardian role and as a child placing agency, Child Welfare is accountable to meet safety and health needs. The continuum of care is overseen and funded by multiple state agencies and a seamless system of care is needed to ensure child and youth needs are met.

## Desired Outcomes

- ✓ Structure for placements and services that are available to children and youth based on their needs
- ✓ Structure that supports local communities in removing barriers to care for children and youth
- ✓ Align policies and procedures across state agencies
- ✓ Increased child safety
- ✓ Coordinate a fully developed and right sized continuum of services, placements and supports