

HB 4039 -2, -3, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Prepared By: Amie FenderSosa, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates to the Department of Human Services \$2.5 million from the General Fund for services to be provided to unaccompanied homeless youth. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Youth homeless on streets are 60 - 80 percent more likely to be homeless as adults
- Research indicates \$1 million funding can support 700 homeless youth
- Service provider need to integrate mental health professionals with existing staff
- \$3.1 million in biennium funding serving 3,700 homeless youth equates to daily \$1.14 per individual
- Youth-focused shelter and trauma-informed service funding across Oregon communities
- 22,000 kindergarten - grade 12 homeless youth in Oregon; 1 in 6 are unaccompanied, separated from parents
- 14 service grantees for homeless runaway youth funded through Department of Human Services programming

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 02/05/20

Replaces measure. Defines unaccompanied homeless youth. Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct a statewide assessment of the needs of and the continuum of services for unaccompanied homeless youth that determines demographic information and services needed by this population, capacity of community action agencies to serve this population, and existing partnerships and coordination between state agencies, school districts and nonprofit organizations. Authorizes DHS to develop program guidelines and to award funds to organizations that serve this population. Directs DHS to provide a final report on efforts to the Legislative Assembly no later than March 1, 2021. Authorizes DHS to award enhancement grants to organizations serving homeless youth to increase accessibility to shelter facilities, and to support outreach, culturally specific services, mental health or substance abuse services, to support transitional housing options, such as host home projects. Authorizes DHS to award grants to organizations operating host homes, provided that organization operated a host home project on January 1, 2020 and can meet other program guidelines. Provides terms of grant administration. Directs DHS to report on the host home projects to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2021. Appropriates General Funds to DHS to conduct statewide assessments (\$230,000), and to provide grants to assist with assessments (\$70,000), provide grants to provide youth services (\$1,000,000), and to provide host home project grants (\$1,200,000). Sunsets grant programs effective July 1, 2021, and state assessment January 1, 2022. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

-3 02/10/20

Replaces measure. Defines “unaccompanied homeless youth.” Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct a statewide assessment of the needs of and the continuum of services for unaccompanied homeless youth that determines demographic information and services needed by this population, capacity of community action agencies to serve this population, and existing partnerships and coordination between state agencies,

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school districts and nonprofit organizations. Permits DHS to award one-year grants to organizations that provide services to unaccompanied homeless youth. Authorizes DHS to develop program guidelines and to award funds to organizations that serve this population. Directs DHS to provide a preliminary report by final report on efforts to the Legislative Assembly no later than March 1, 2021.

Authorizes DHS to award enhancement grants to organizations serving homeless youth to increase accessibility to shelter facilities, and to support outreach, culturally specific services, mental health or substance abuse services, to support transitional housing options, such as host home projects, and to adopt rules to administer the grant program. Defines "host home project," "long-term host home project," and "short-term host home project."

Permits DHS to award one-year grants to organizations that operate host-home projects for unaccompanied homeless youth. Outlines eligibility requirements for grant application. Requires a background check for a recipient of a host-home grant, for new residents of host homes during the grant period. Directs DHS to report on the host home projects to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2021.

Appropriates General Funds to DHS to conduct statewide assessments (\$230,000), and to provide grants to assist with assessments (\$70,000), provide grants to provide youth services (\$1,000,000), and to provide host home project grants (\$1,200,000). Sunsets grant programs effective July 1, 2021, and state assessment January 1, 2022. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

-4 02/11/20

Replaces measure. Defines "unaccompanied homeless youth." Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct a statewide assessment of the needs of and the continuum of services for unaccompanied homeless youth that determines demographic information and services needed by this population, capacity of community action agencies to serve this population, and existing partnerships and coordination between state agencies, school districts and nonprofit organizations. Permits DHS to award one-year grants to organizations that provide services to unaccompanied homeless youth. Authorizes DHS to develop program guidelines and to award funds to organizations that serve this population. Directs DHS to provide a preliminary report by final report on efforts to the Legislative Assembly no later than March 1, 2021.

Authorizes DHS to award enhancement grants to organizations serving homeless youth to increase accessibility to shelter facilities, and to support outreach, culturally specific services, mental health or substance abuse services, to support transitional housing options, such as host home projects, and to adopt rules to administer the grant program. Defines "host home project," "long-term host home project," and "short-term host home project."

Permits DHS to award one-year grants to organizations that operate host-home projects for unaccompanied homeless youth. Outlines eligibility requirements for grant application. Requires a background check for a recipient of a host-home grant. Directs DHS to report on the host home projects to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2021.

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BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program was assigned to the Department of Human Services (DHS). In 2019 it was placed under Self Sufficiency Programs. According to a 2016 report from the DHS Homeless Youth Advisory Committee, during the 2014-2015 school year, Oregon school districts counted 3,232

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unaccompanied homeless students. During the January 2015 Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Point-in-Time count, 1,280 unaccompanied youth plus 135 parenting youth (with 157 children), totaling 1,572 homeless youth were counted.

House Bill 4039 appropriates to the Department of Human Services \$2.5 million from the General Fund for services to be provided to unaccompanied homeless youth.