



# Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

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# What's at stake: The safety and well-being of Oregon's young people

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Every young person deserves safe, stable housing.

And yet, every night in Oregon, thousands of unaccompanied young people go to sleep in tents, abandoned buildings, makeshift shelters, or on the couches of friends or strangers – all without the security of a home or family.



# Oregon Youth Homelessness: By the numbers

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**8,300**

homeless young people in  
need of safe housing and  
services every year\*

**5th**

highest number of  
Unaccompanied Homeless  
Youth (UHY) across U.S.\*\*

**3rd**

highest number of UHY  
without shelter across  
U.S.\*\*

\* Corporation for Supporting Housing Youth Housing Needs Assessment

\*\* U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2020 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report

# Risk: Perpetuating inequities through homelessness

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- Factors contributing to youth homelessness include family conflict or an unsafe home life, family economic hardship, aging out of the foster care system, failing to complete high school, and young pregnancy or parenting.\*\*
- Black, Indigenous and youth of color and youth identifying as LGBTQIA2S+ are more likely to experience homelessness.\*<sup>0</sup>
- Youth experiencing homelessness become adults experiencing homelessness, with fewer opportunities to reach their full potential.\*\*

\* *Youth of Color Disproportionately Impacted by Housing Instability*

\*\* *Voices of Youth Count: National Estimates Report*

<sup>0</sup> *LGBTQ Young Adults Experience Homelessness at More than Twice the Rate of Peers*

# Special considerations

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- Young people face unique housing challenges, having limited or no credit history, fewer references, and age bias among landlords who see them as unreliable.\*<sup>0</sup>
- In some parts of Oregon, especially rural and coastal areas, the only option may be an adult shelter that can't support the unique needs of young people. Youth may choose instead to live on the street or in other unsafe situations rather than stay at an adult shelter.\*\*

\* *Coming of Age: Reimagining the Response to Youth Homelessness in Canada*

\*\* *Better Off in a Shelter? A Year of Homelessness & Housing among Status Immigrant, Non-Status Migrant, & Canadian-Born Families*

<sup>0</sup> *Youth Experiencing Homelessness Face Many Challenges (SAMHSA)*

# Legislative funding

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- **Per biennium**
  - \$2.5 million - General Fund
  - \$600,000 - Federal Social Services Block Grant
- **New short-term investments**
  - \$1 million - Oregon Legislative Emergency Board (2021)
  - \$3.6 million - House Bill 2544 (2021)
  - \$472,500 - House Bill 4013 (2022)
  - \$9 million - OHCS Interagency Agreement (2022)

# Legislative funding: Ongoing and anticipated results



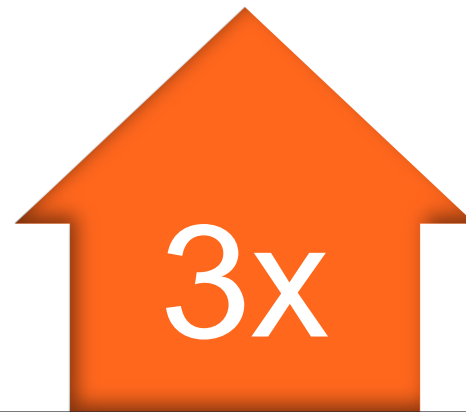
## Service Locations

increased from 12 to 18 counties, better serving rural areas



## Grants & Contracts

increased from 24 to 55, nearly doubling funding opportunities



## YEHP Providers

increased from 13 to 37, almost tripling program presence



- Host Home Project
- Increased Transitional Living Program investment
- Youth-specific affordable housing units

# Solution: Host Home Project

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<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-ulyGI09rW2VS6xXbmbw3ABoh8D6B1ev/view>



# Solution: Proposed 2023-25 YEHP Policy Option Package

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YEHP's Policy Option Package for the 2023-25 biennium builds on recommendations from the Statewide Needs Assessment:

- Enhance programming
- Continue Direct Cash Transfer pilot
- Create paid internships for youth
- Support Youth Advisory Board



Thank you