

ANALYSIS

Item 7: Department of Human Services Homeless Youth

Analyst: Gregory Jolivet

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for Self Sufficiency programs by \$9,000,000 and establish one full-time limited duration Administrative Specialist 2 position (0.42 FTE) to expand homeless youth services.

Analysis: The Department of Human Services (DHS) administers the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP), which provides grants to community partners that serve youth between the ages of 14 and 24 who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. The services funded by these grants generally include prevention and case management services, emergency shelter, and short-term housing.

HB 5202 (2022) appropriated \$80 million General Fund to the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD) to fund an array of housing programs and services, including services to runaway and homeless youth provided through DHS. This request for Other Funds expenditure limitation will allow DHS to use the \$9 million transferred to the agency from HCSD for runaway and homeless youth services.

DHS plans to use the one-time money to supplement existing YEHP services, including prevention, case management, emergency shelter, and Host Homes, and initiate two new youth-specific housing services. The new services are: 1) a 25-year contract with College Housing Northwest to provide 21 units in Multnomah county for homeless college students; and 2) the establishment of a Direct Cash Transfer program targeted to youth who may have been historically excluded or harmed by traditional homeless services, including BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and youth with undocumented immigration status. DHS estimates up to 80 students may ultimately receive the direct cash transfer benefit. DHS intends to use the money transferred from HCSD to support related planning activities and some of the existing General Fund budget in the Self Sufficiency program to make direct cash payments.

DHS and HCSD have an interagency agreement and the contracts for these services are already in place and impacting the agency's budget. Accordingly, the Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board approve the request.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for Self Sufficiency programs by \$9,000,000 and establish one full-time limited duration Administrative Specialist 2 position (0.42 FTE) to expand homeless youth services.

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Oregon Department of Human Services
Oregon Housing and Community Services Department
Webb

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$9.0 million and establish one full-time limited duration Administrative Specialist 2 position (0.42 FTE) to expand the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP).

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) administers YEHP, which assists youth facing homelessness across Oregon in finding and maintaining housing. ODHS provides grants to community partners to serve impacted youth. In House Bill 5202 (2022), the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department was appropriated General Fund and directed to work with ODHS to expand efforts to address youth homelessness, as part of the housing package investments for homelessness response and prevention services. ODHS and OHCS executed an Interagency Agreement for \$9.0 million to fund the YEHP expansion within ODHS.

The YEHP expansion includes five categories of expenditures: 1) grants to current and new providers who are serving youth facing homelessness; 2) supplemental grants to host home providers that received initial grants through the pilot program created by House Bill 2544 (2021); 3) grants to providers for a transitional housing pilot program; 4) technical assistance, training and consultation services supporting YEHP; and 5) activities associated with planning and evaluating a Direct Cash Transfer pilot program. ODHS intends to use funding from its existing General Fund appropriation for Self-Sufficiency Programs to make the direct cash payments for the Direct Cash Transfer pilot program.

Legal Reference: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 606, section 2(3), Oregon Laws 2021, for the Department of Human Services, Self-Sufficiency Programs, by \$9,000,000 for the 2021-23 biennium.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

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October 24, 2022

Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Emergency Board
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301



RE: Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program, formerly Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

Dear Co-Chairs:

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) recognize funds are necessary to support the network of providers serving youth experiencing homelessness across Oregon and to enhance a system of services that responds to the crisis of youth homelessness in the state.

ODHS, with the backing of OHCS, requests Other Funds limitation in the amount of \$9 million for the ODHS Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program to deploy resources appropriated to OHCS during the 2022 session.

Nature of the Request

The housing and homelessness crises in the United States are directly affecting young people, with national estimates revealing that approximately one in 30 youths (13 to 17 years old) and one in 10 young adults (18 to 25 years old) experience homelessness over the course of a year.¹ Oregon projections indicate that approximately 8,300 youths and young adults need safe housing each year.²

In 2022 the Oregon Legislature budgeted \$80 million to OHCS via House Bill (HB) 5202 for the purpose of homelessness response and prevention services delivered through agency programs and community partners. As called out in the Budget

¹ Morton, M.H., Dworsky, A., & Samuels, G.M. (2017). Missed opportunities: Youth homelessness in America. National estimates. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Available at: https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/ChapinHall_VoYC_NationalReport_Final.pdf

² Corporation for Supportive Housing (2021). Housing Needs Assessment Summary Report. Available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/CHILDREN/Homeless-Youth/Documents/CSH-YH-Needs.pdf>

Report, this included resources to support ODHS services for homeless youth. OHCS subsequently transferred \$9 million to ODHS via a signed Interagency Agreement (IAA) number 7079, which is currently being amended to reflect updated information.

ODHS, with the support of OHCS, requests \$9 million in Other Funds Limitation for the ODHS Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program. With input from Youth Leaders with lived experiences in homelessness, the funds would pay for:

1. Grants to current and new service providers statewide who are serving youth experiencing homelessness;
2. Grants to organizations participating in the host home pilot funded by HB 2544 (2021) to fund their proposals at the full requested amount (which exceeded the appropriation amount);
3. Grants for transitional housing pilots providing rental assistance and long-term housing for youth who are college students experiencing homelessness;
4. Technical assistance, training and consultation services that support the YEHP programming; and
5. Activities associated with planning and evaluating a Direct Cash Transfer pilot for youth experiencing homelessness, with the exception of the actual cash payments to youth and the estimated fees associated with issuing such payments.

The IAA also funds a full-time, limited duration Administrative Specialist 2 position to support YEHP programming.

Agency Action

ODHS has worked with the Office of Contracts and Procurement to write the appropriate statements of work for grants and contracts to community and national organizations. Most grants and contracts have been executed.

Action Requested

ODHS, with the support of OHCS, is requesting \$9 million in Other Funds limitation for the ODHS Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program and acknowledgement of receipt of this report. These funds are derived from the \$80 million General Fund appropriation to OHCS by the Oregon Legislature in 2022. The request includes funding for one full-time, limited duration Administrative Specialist 2.

Legislation Affected

Increase ODHS Other Funds in ch 606 2(3), by \$9,000,000.

If you have questions, please contact Rob Kodiriy at rob.kodiriy@dhsosha.state.or.us for ODHS or Mike Savara at mike.savara@hcs.oregon.gov for OHCS.

Sincerely,



Fariborz Pakseresht, ODHS Director

Andrea Bell, OHCS Director



Cc: Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office
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Ali Webb, Department of Administrative Services
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Linda Morter, OHCS Budget Officer
Eric L. Moore, ODHS CFO