



Presentation to the 2023 House Interim Committee on
Early Childhood and Human Services

ODHS Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

Sept. 27, 2023

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Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

- The Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP) provides **housing supports and services** to unaccompanied youth ages 14 to 24 experiencing homelessness and unable to reside safely with a parent or guardian
- ODHS relies on a **network of youth-serving organizations** across the state to deliver services
- YEHP has expanded increasingly over the past two biennia and **strives to reach more young people** in more areas of the state
- \$18.75 million one-time investment in 2023-25 biennium
 - Investments end June 30, 2025



Implementation timeline



Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) update

- Spring 2023
 - 57 applications
 - **More than \$60 million total funding requested**
 - 42 providers awarded 61 grants awarded totaling \$19.5 million*
 - 10 new grantees
 - Two additional counties served (Curry and Clatsop)
 - 50 percent increase in funding across most service domains

Category	Amount requested
Prevention	\$17.5 million
Medium-term housing	\$15.6 million
Host homes	\$13.4 million
Culturally-specific	\$6.4 million
Emergency/Crisis	\$5.9 million
Mental health/Substance abuse	\$1.5 million

*Includes \$750k fund transfer from Child Welfare

Highlights since investment



Highly successful and efficient procurement process



Youth leadership and engagement



Better outcomes data



Deepening partnerships with other ODHS programs

Impact on the ground

Hearts with a Mission (Jackson, Josephine Counties)

- **Homeless for several months**, rejected by family
- Able to separate from unsafe individuals and **maintain safe and stable housing**
- **Maintained a job** since arriving
- **Graduated** from a vocational/technical skills program
- Over the three months of training, **he did not miss one class**



Impact on the ground

Northwest Human Services HOST Program (Salem)

- **Living out of car** having fled domestic violence
- Concerns with **legal issues, suicidal thoughts, and mental health** challenges
- **Immediate basic needs met** at Resource Center
- Completed the application for the Transitional Living Program (TLP)
- **Accepted a job** in Portland as a classroom assistant in a school and started commuting
- **Purchased furnishings and moved to Portland** with help from TLP savings match program
- Have since been **promoted at work** and receiving certification as a Montessori classroom assistant



“[W]hile I don't miss the situation that led me to HOST, I do miss the incredible people like you I was able to meet. I cannot thank you enough for the support I received to get me to where I am today.”

Highlight: Alignment with Child Welfare

**Child Welfare
Independent Living
Program**



**SSP Youth
Experiencing
Homelessness
Program**

Challenges



Ongoing and sustainable funding needs



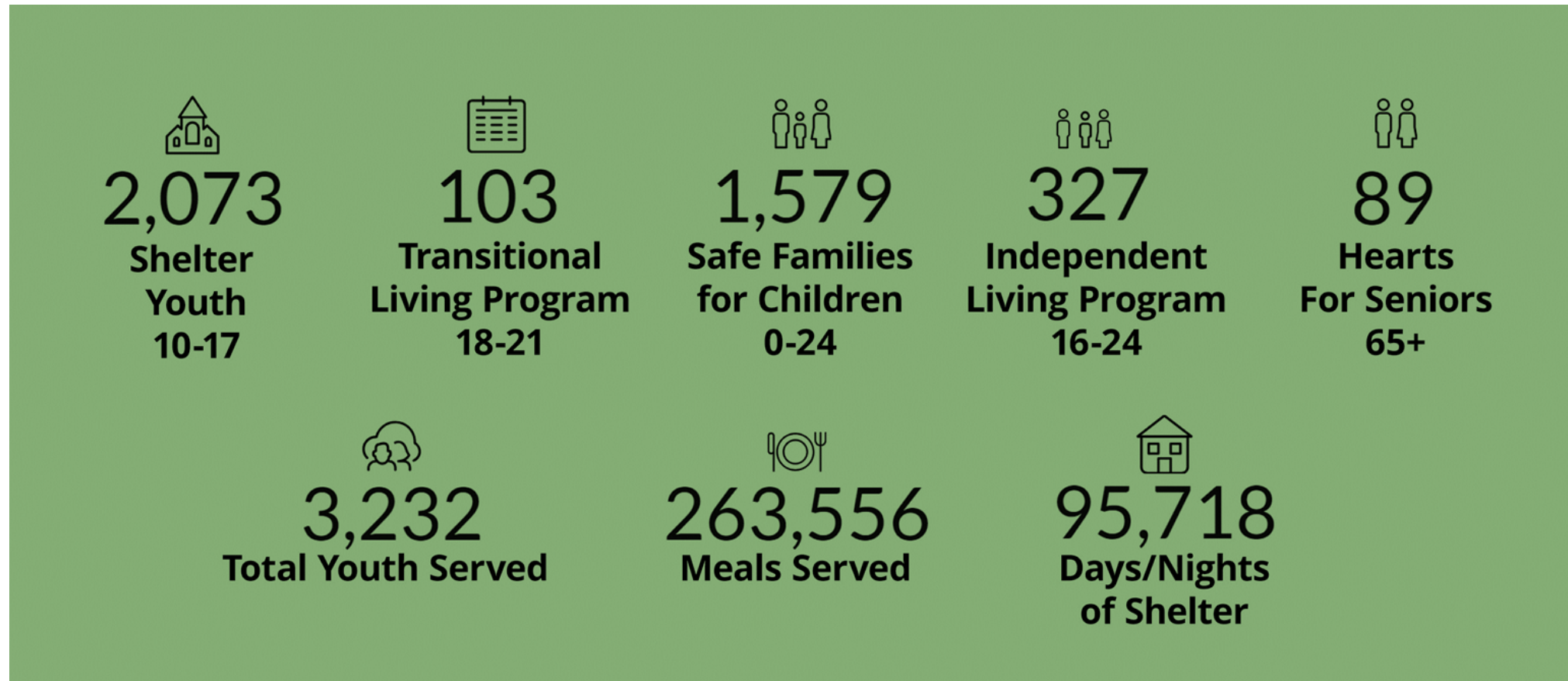
Capacity-building support for continued expansion



Need for set-aside long-term housing for youth

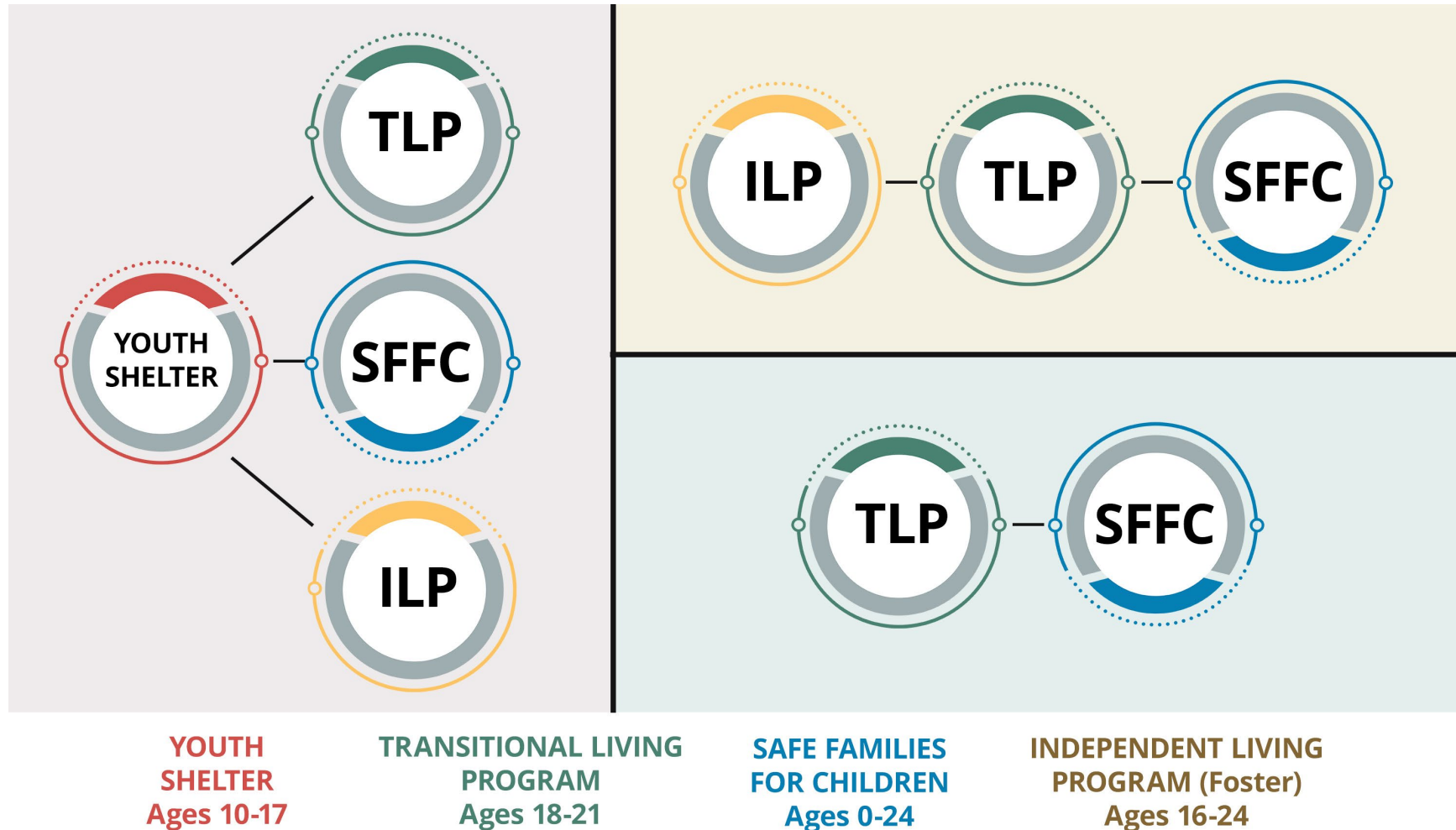
Provider perspective

Kevin Lamson, Hearts with a Mission



Provider perspective

Kevin Lamson, Hearts with a Mission





The seal of the State of Oregon is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread at the top, a ship on the left, a plow on the right, and a central sunburst. Below the sunburst is a banner that reads "THE UNION". At the bottom of the seal, the year "1859" is inscribed. The words "STATE OF OREGON" are written around the perimeter of the seal.

Thank you