



# Ensuring the dignity of children in foster care Senate Bill 548 implementation update

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September 23, 2024

# Supporting youth during difficult transitions

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ODHS is committed to upholding the dignity of all children and young people experiencing foster care.



# Background

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- Caseworkers are required to be prepared with luggage or duffel bags for a child's belongings when the child enters or exits foster care or transitions between placements.
- It is a rare circumstance – and only when it is out of the department's control – to transport a child's belongings in a trash bag.
- Community partners have stepped up with generous donations of bags, and ODHS also purchases bags when needed.



# Senate Bill 548 (2023)

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Directs ODHS to:

- Maintain inventory of luggage carriers for caseworkers to use when transporting the belongings of children involved in foster care.
- Report annually to the Legislature on each instance when trash bags were used and the reasons for their use.
- Include in each report ODHS' supply of luggage carriers and inventory management practices.



# Annual report - July 2023-July 2024

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## Number of instances:

- **16,603 moves** when a child's belongings were transported
- **10 instances** when trash bags were used instead of luggage

## Reasons for use:

- Clothes needed to be washed and were placed in trash bag initially.
- Ice storm prevented caseworker from being able to safely travel to an office to obtain luggage.
- Another individual brought belongings in bags to CW (e.g., resource parent, CASA, shelter).
- Duffle bags were brought and used but weren't enough to transport all the child's clothing



# Inventory and purchasing

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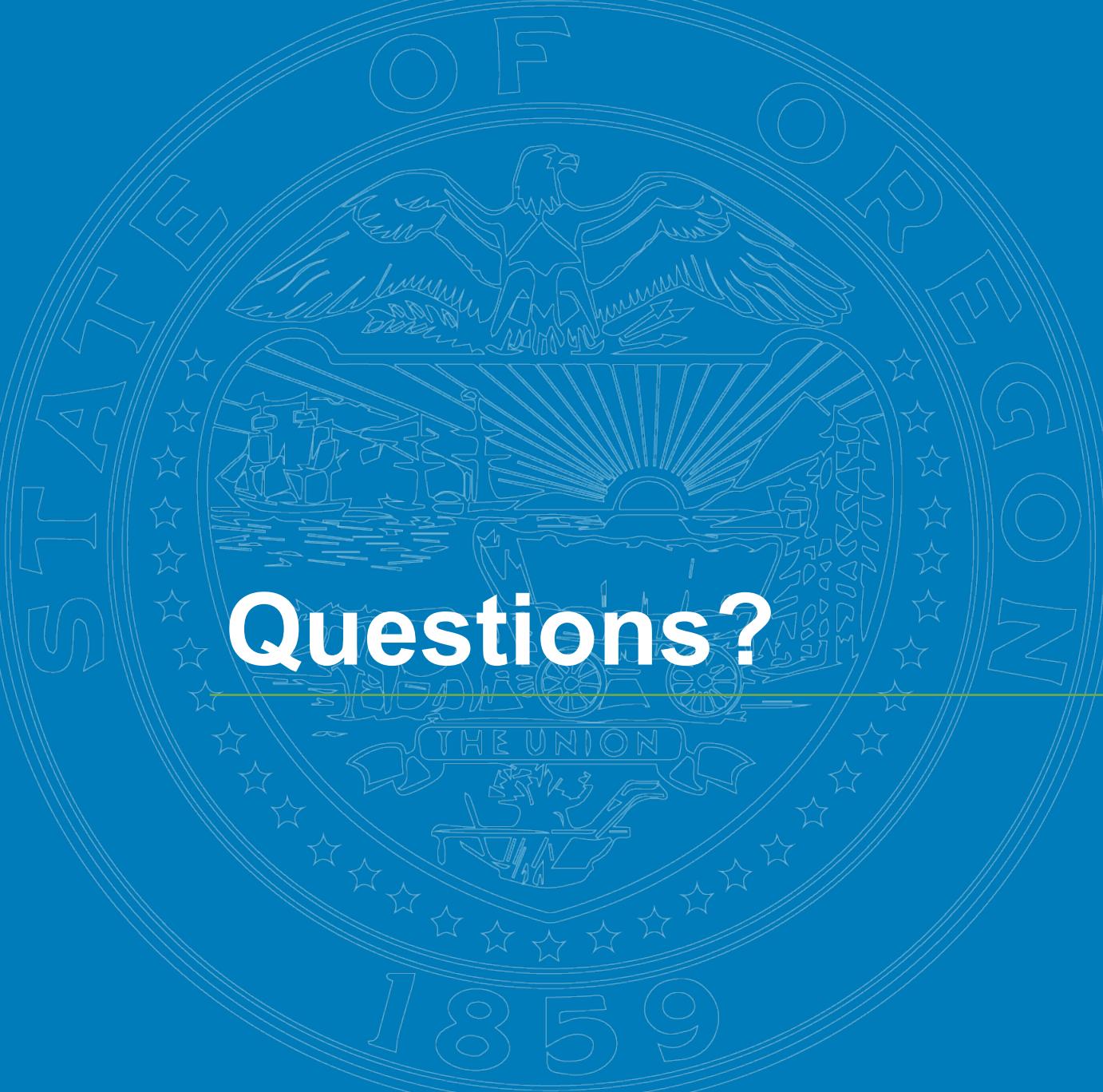
**From July 2023 to July 2024:**

- 6,155 luggage carriers purchased
- 2,742 luggage carriers provided to youth
- Current stock: 3,143 luggage carriers

## Procurement practices

- District, program and office managers have been directed to purchase appropriate carriers and replenish supplies.
- Monthly reminders are set to offices to submit inventory and report any trash bag use
- We continue to accept donations of luggage from community partners





# Questions?

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