

House Bill 4068: Technical fix for young adults in transition aged youth residential treatment homes

House Bill 2015 (2025) directed the Oregon Health Authority to establish rules to create a distinct licensing process for residential treatment homes serving “transition aged youth.” The bill defined a “transition aged youth residential treatment home” as a residential treatment home for young adults between the ages of 17.5 and 25 years of age who experience complex behavioral health challenges.

HB 4068 simply changes the age from 17.5 to 17, matching prior practice.

Prior to the passage of HB 2015, age 17 was the standard age for admission to Young Adults in Transition Residential Treatment Home (YAT RTH) facilities. HB 4068 amends the language to match current practice and will ensure young adults can get appropriate services.

Young adults aged 17, particularly those who are multi-system involved and transitioning out of children’s services, need access to developmentally appropriate residential services.

Without the passage of HB 4068, OHA will not be able to serve 17-year-olds in YAT RTH, leaving them at risk for adverse outcomes such as temporary lodging or homelessness.

Young adults are at a risky developmental stage; Oregon data shows that this age group is at higher risk for suicidal ideation, substance overdose, and emergency department usage for behavioral health needs, and is less likely to independently seek behavioral health treatment and supports.

Data collected by OHA’s Child, Family, and Lifespan unit indicates that between July 2024 and June 2025, several young people with significant mental health challenges who were 17 years old (but not yet 17.5) were in temporary lodging after being discharged from the Secure Inpatient Program because there were no appropriate placement options for them.

YAT RTH can help young adults who need extra help transitioning into adulthood with support and safe housing. Without changes in statutory language, several young people would not have access to appropriate services.