

Youth Experiencing Homelessness

ORS 417.799

Report to the Oregon Legislature

Self-Sufficiency Programs
Oregon Department of Human Services

September 2023

Executive Summary

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) submits this report to the legislature in accordance with ORS 417.799 Runaway and Homeless Youth. The report is intended to provide a status update related to the system of services and supports ODHS has developed for youth experiencing homelessness. The report will also highlight program updates and success stories.

The report includes additional information pursuant to House Bill 2544 (2021) Section 3. The additional report provision is repealed as of June 30, 2023 and therefore this will be the final specific exposition for the bill requirement.

Program Overview

Oregon's Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program was established in 2005 and originally administered by the Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF). In 2011, OCCF was terminated and responsibility for the coordination and delivery of services to runaway and homeless youth was transferred to ODHS.

In 2015, the legislature directed ODHS to enhance services for runaway and homeless youth, appoint an advisory committee and begin making annual reports related to the program. In 2018, ODHS transferred the program from the Child Welfare division to Self-Sufficiency Programs (SSP), where it is still housed.

In 2022, ODHS changed the program name to the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP), following a recommendation from the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Advisory Committee (YEHAC). The advisory committee wanted to highlight that the term "homelessness" should not be an adjective used to describe a young person, because homelessness is an experience in their lives that can be overcome. The YEHP partners with impacted youth, community organizations and state agencies to help youth secure housing and to prevent homelessness among youth across the state.

YEHP Funding

The 2023 Oregon Legislative Session saw two bills pass – HB2001 and HB5019 – that increased investment in housing and homelessness services across the state. These bills allocated \$18,750,000 in additional YEHP funding for youth homelessness services and housing supports. The funding includes:

- \$12,500,000 for shelter facilities, outreach, culturally specific services and mental health or substance abuse services, and transitional (medium-term) housing options.
- \$6,250,000 for the continuation or expansion of Host Home projects for youth.

While a significant overall increase from the historical base budget (not withstanding inflation) of roughly \$3,300,000, this new amount closely mirrors the level at which YEHP was operating during the 2021-2023 biennium. The 2021-2023 operating budget included temporary investments from the legislature and a short-term interagency transfer from Oregon Housing and Community Services. This was comprised of:

- \$1,000,000 appropriated by the Oregon Legislative Emergency Board (2021)
- \$3,000,000 budgeted from House Bill 2544 (2021)
- \$472,500 budgeted from House Bill 4013 (2022)
- \$9,000,000 transferred via Interagency Agreement from Oregon Housing and Community Services (2022)

Aside from HB4013, all these short-term investments terminated on June 30, 2023.

The enactment of HB2001 and HB5019 also allowed for the hiring of additional staff. While the program historically operated with just one staff person, in 2021, HB2544 enabled the hiring a Limited Duration (LD) staff member. A permanent administrative support staff from 2022 HB4013 and a LD program analyst were added to the program in July and August 2023, respectively. HB5019's provisions permitted the hiring of five additional LD positions to support the program's rapid growth.

Beginning with the 2023-2025 biennium, YEHP will receive \$1,294,517 from ODHS Child Welfare for the expansion of medium-term transitional housing opportunities for youth experiencing homelessness.

Finally, in 2023 HB3395 was approved, incorporating provisions for housing assistance aimed at low-income college students. This allocated \$4,000,000 to ODHS for extending financial aid to non-profit organizations to accomplish this. Additionally, it included \$244,963 for personnel to oversee the administration of these funds. Clarification is still being sought on the technical aspects of this bill's implementation.

YEHP-funded Services

YEHP currently funds services within the following areas:

- Prevention (Street Outreach and Day Drop-In supports)
- Emergency/Crisis (Overnight Shelter)
- Medium-Term Housing (Transitional Living Programming)
- Culturally Specific, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse supports
- Host Homes

Leveraging the additional funding from HB2001 and HB5019, YEHP initiated a Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP) in these service areas in March 2023. Submissions were received in April 2023, followed by thorough evaluations and awarding in May 2023.

Nearly all grants have been executed, with only three exceptions as of August 1, 2023. Initial disbursements were made in August 2023.

Key points to note regarding the grant process:

- YEHP received grant requests totaling \$60,874,000 (\$47,400,000 for services and \$13,300,000 for Host Homes), exceeding HB5019's allocated budget by over \$42,000,000.
- A sum of \$19,500,000 was granted, which also incorporates an additional \$750,000 transferred from ODHS Child Welfare.
- Out of 57 applicants, 42 were awarded grants.
- Financial support for programs has been increased by at least 50 percent per quarter across all service domains (except for Host Homes), with notable increases ranging up to 100 percent in certain cases.
- Historical Job Development / Mentoring grants were discontinued as a YEHP-funded service area for 23-25.

Geographic Allocation of Requests and Awards:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
Southern	\$8,975,267.98	\$4,050,000.00
Mid Valley	\$15,932,819.76	\$5,825,000.00
Metro – Tri County	\$26,797,515.59	\$4,925,000.00
NW Oregon	\$1,933,872.00	\$500,000.00
Oregon Coast	\$1,283,750.00	\$1,240,000.00
Central/Gorge	\$3,987,045.50	\$2,260,000.00
Eastern	\$1,964,400.00	\$700,000.00

Regional breakdown can be found on page 2 of the [Youth Housing Needs Assessment](#).

Category Distribution - Requests and Awards:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
Prevention	\$17,548,835.27	\$4,850,000.00
Emergency/Crisis	\$5,997,666.20	\$2,750,000.00
Medium-Term	\$15,656,814.81	\$4,650,000.00
Culturally-Specific	\$6,359,804.27	\$600,000.00
MH/SA (Mental Health/Substance Abuse)	\$1,486,617.00	\$400,000.00
Host Homes	\$13,384,934.20	\$6,250,000.00

The names and geographic locations of current YEHP-funded providers can be found [here](#), and in the addendum at the end of this report.

Outcomes Measuring and Homeless Management Information System

YEHP recognizes that measuring outcomes is crucial for comprehending the effectiveness of these services and for making necessary adjustments if things aren't going as planned. With the start of the new biennium, we have incorporated standardized outcome metrics into all our YEHP contracts.

The West Coast Convening Framework has been adopted to establish these measurements. This framework, created collaboratively by representatives from all West Coast states, offers a consensus-driven outcomes framework centered on youth. It is designed to support outcome-focused care, data sharing and inter-agency analysis.

YEHP grantees will be evaluated in the next funding cycle using the following criteria:

- Safe and stable housing outcomes
- Building permanent connections
- Education and employment progress
- Well-being enhancement

Each of these categories will include specific sub-measures to gauge their achievements.

We are also in partnership with Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for provider data entry. OHCS and the Oregon Continuums of Care use a software called ServicePoint for their

HMIS. OHCS is the lead manager for the Oregon Multi Continuum of Care (OMC) which includes all counties outside of the Portland Tri-Counties and Lane County. HMIS is a data system that gathers information at the individual level. It captures demographics, as well as details about housing, shelter, and services offered. Our framework outcomes have been created and embedded in HMIS. Utilizing HMIS will:

- Enable real-time access to data
- Enhance our understanding of demographics.
- Reduce redundancy in reporting for youth-serving agencies.
- Allow YEHP to tap into existing reporting structures in HMIS, rather than generating a separate report.
- Help YEHP identify duplicate data and ascertain the number of youth served within an organization, not just under a specialized grant.

Additionally, we've initiated short-term evaluation studies for our Direct Cash Transfer pilot that includes quantitative and qualitative approaches, in-person interviews, surveys and program-level reporting on housing access.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Advisory Committee

The Youth Experiencing Homelessness Advisory Committee (YEHAC) plays a role in advising ODHS on policies and procedures essential for statewide service delivery to youth facing homelessness. YEHAC convenes quarterly meetings, and its meeting agendas are accessible on the [YEHP website](#).

2022/2023 YEHAC Membership:

Agency / Representation	Member Name
Oregon Department of Education - McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program	Chris James
Oregon Department of Education - Youth Development Division	Cord Bueker
Oregon Department of Human Services - Child Welfare	Greg Thomas
Oregon Housing and Community Services	Jenne Bauer-Leffler
Oregon Health Authority - School Mental Health Specialist	Mikah Rotman
Oregon Youth Authority	Laura Ward
Portland/Multnomah County - Homeless Youth Continuum	Caitlin Campbell

Salem Health	Tricia Frizzell
Oregon Alliance	Royce Bowlin
Hearts with a Mission	Kevin Lamson
Home Plate Youth Services	Bridget Calfee
Maslow Project	Fallon Stewart
Boys and Girls Aid	Andrea Logan Sanders
New Avenues for Youth	Sarah Nadeau
J Bar J Youth Services	Eliza Wilson
Native American Youth Association	Naduah Wheeler
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	Britt Conroy / Jenny Pratt
Oregon Department of Human Services - Self-Sufficiency YEHP	Matt Rasmussen (Chair), Jennifer Kellam

Youth Engagement

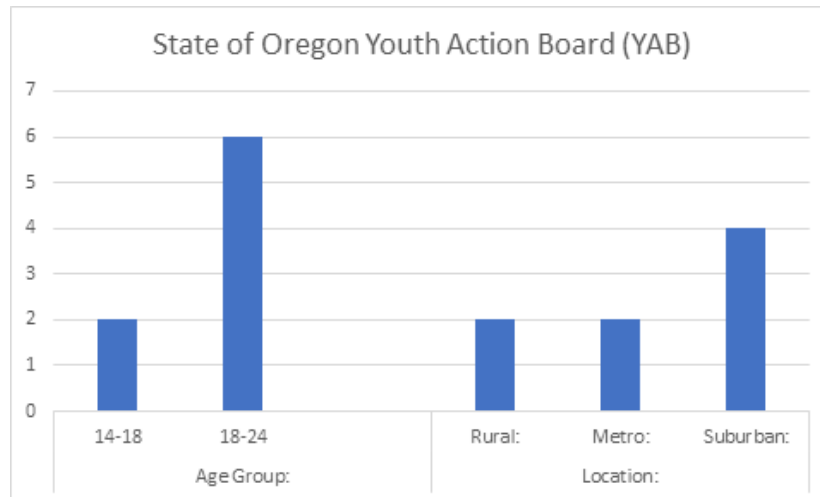
The 2021 Statewide Youth Housing Needs Assessment yielded not only housing unit and cost projections for youth housing across the state, but also formed a coalition of engaged youth leaders seeking to sustain their involvement in this endeavor and co-create/design youth-specific housing opportunities.

A prominent recommendation from the assessment was for ODHS and YEHP to maintain its engagement with these young leaders. Consequently, YEHP enlisted technical support to foster and facilitate the establishment of a statewide Youth Advisory Board (YAB) that mirrors both the geographic and demographic distribution of young individuals served by YEHP-funded programs.

The technical assistance sought by YEHP encompasses hands-on guidance, enabling the department to comprehend and realize the logistical, training and planning requisites essential to nurturing a youth-led process and cultivating YAB members who authentically represent the diverse youth voices across the state. YEHP is championing a youth-led process, wherein youth collaboratively work with and ideally progress towards reform initiatives, including evaluating necessary process adjustments to foster genuine engagement, scrutinizing ODHS's decision-making process, outlining distinct staff and participant roles, delineating the YAB's role and potential authority in policy and funding decisions, and establishing a procedure for proposing changes.

Presently, YEHP is connected with eight youth hailing from various parts of the state, representing geographic areas – including the Portland Tri-County, Mid-Valley, Oregon Coast, Southern Oregon and Central Oregon – and soon expanding into Eastern Oregon. Youth have varied demographics and different experiences with navigating

homelessness. Members are compensated as professionals for their contributions to the YAB. Information sessions were held in May 2023 and the inaugural meeting was convened on July 2023. Meetings are continuing on at least a monthly basis and YEHP staff are collaborating with YAB members and the technical support partner to refine the structure and outcomes of this important collaborative group.



Direct Cash Transfer Plus Pilot

In February 2022, YEHP joined forces with the national organization Point Source Youth to design and launch a pilot initiative known as Direct Cash Transfer Plus (DCT+). This initiative is tailored to individuals aged 18 to 24 experiencing homelessness with an intention to become housed. DCT+ is a poverty alleviation strategy¹ that provides consistent financial support to identified youth, addressing their expressed needs, and facilitating their transition out of homelessness. Planning efforts spanned the year, eligibility criteria were established, and initial payments began in February 2023. These payments will continue over a 24-month period until January 2025.

Oregon's DCT+ pilot is being implemented across urban, rural, and suburban regions, including:

- Metro Multnomah County: \$1,000 per month to 75 individuals, optionally accompanied by support from the Native American Youth Association.
- Rural Clackamas County: \$1,000 per month to 10 individuals, optionally aided by AntFarm Youth Services.

¹ Morton, M. H., Chavez, R., Kull, M. A., Carreon, E. D., Bishop, J., Deferred, S., Wood, E., Cohen, L., & Barreyro, P. (2020). Developing a direct cash transfer program for youth experiencing homelessness: Results of a mixed methods, multistakeholder design process. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall.

- Suburban Deschutes County: \$1,000 per month to 35 individuals, optionally assisted by JBarJ Youth Services.

All youth also have access to a one-time \$3,000 Enrichment Fund. This valuable addition stems directly from conversations with young individuals, who have pointed out that even as they start receiving stable DCT income, significant financial obstacles often hinder their progress towards housing objectives.

Recognizing the substantial life changes that can unfold when youth begin receiving consistent DCT payments, we have observed these funds being employed for various purposes, including but not limited to:

- Covering first month's rent and housing security deposits
- Acquiring or repairing a vehicle
- Procuring essential furniture
- Addressing debt repayment
- Supporting relocation expenses (e.g., transportation to a new city)
- Moving costs (e.g., U-Haul rental, professional movers)

Key aspects of this DCT+ pilot include:

- Oregon is the second location in the nation, after NYC, actively implementing DCT for youth. Oregon's pilot is also supporting the highest number of youth nationally, making ODHS YEHP a prominent leader in this initiative.
- Youth Leaders from Oregon were hired by Point Source Youth, with YEHP funding, to contribute to all phases of DCT+ planning, including pilot structuring, leading planning meetings, providing training, and crafting the Oregon Direct Cash Transfer Handbook.
- While DCT primarily involves cash support, it is reinforced by specialized optional supportive programming (the "plus" in DCT+) covering:
 - Financial Empowermentⁱ
 - Housing Navigationⁱⁱ
 - Case Managementⁱⁱⁱ
- Youth receive payments directly through ODHS via paper check, direct deposit, or addition to their SNAP EBT card.

We acknowledged that our pilot project was going to have constraints in terms of financial resources. Consequently, YEHP is driven by equitable and judicious allocation of funds to youth who continually experience homelessness at higher rates. It was of paramount importance that eligibility and prioritization criteria be formulated with the input of youth. We orchestrated several meetings to delineate our eligibility and prioritization strategy. These deliberations were spearheaded by youth leaders to ensure their voices carried the most weight in the discussions. YEHP and the DCT planning team placed equity at the forefront of the decision-making process, resulting in the following prioritization structure:

<u>Basic Eligibility</u>	<u>1st Prioritization</u>	<u>2nd Prioritization</u>	<u>3rd Prioritization</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-24 years old • Connected to or coming into CBO Programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping somewhere not fit for habitation + interest in getting housed • Unstably housed (overpopulated housing, TLP, couch-surfing, shelter, motel, etc.) + interest in getting housed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2SLGBTQIA+ • BIPOC • Pregnant or Parenting • Returning citizens (formerly incarcerated) • Undocumented • DV/IPV history • Trafficking survivor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of time in shelter or TLP • Length of time unstably housed • Length of time sleeping somewhere not fit for habitation

To ensure effectiveness and consistency, YEHP has compiled an Oregon Direct Cash Transfer Handbook detailing all aspects of DCT implementation, including optional services like housing navigation, financial management, and tailored engagement strategies for enrolled youth.

YEHP is partnering with Lens Co., a research and advocacy partner specializing in West Coast youth homelessness work. Lens Co. collects and compiles quantitative data about participants through data capture, email surveys, and in-person conversations. Although data collection is ongoing, the following information has been gathered thus far:

- In just six months since payments began, it is reported from community-based organizations that 63 percent of youth receiving DCT have been housed.
- Baseline DCT surveys have indicated:
 - 67 percent of recipients reported experiencing homelessness for over 12 months when beginning DCT.
 - 50 percent of recipients reported being previously denied housing for not meeting income requirements.
 - 38 percent of recipients reported parenting their own children.
 - 45 percent of recipients reported working at least 35 hours/week.
 - 85 percent of recipients reported needing at least occasional assistance with food access.
 - 46 percent report experiencing inter-relationship violence.

While quantitative data holds importance, we also emphasize the significance of qualitative data. It is particularly relevant to comprehend how cash access influences various facets of a young person's life beyond housing, including mental and physical health, interpersonal relationships, education and employment opportunities.

Youth-Specific Affordable Housing Investments

Affordable housing options tailored for youth are notably scarce throughout Oregon. In early 2022, an Interagency Agreement with Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS) facilitated YEHP's provision of youth-specific free and affordable housing opportunities through a pioneering partnership with College Housing Northwest (CHNW), a non-profit housing provider. This collaboration led to an extension of CHNW's Affordable Rents for College Students (ARCS) program, aptly named ARCS Plus, with the "plus" signifying 100% rent coverage, as opposed to the 50% offered by ARCS.

Youth began entering the 25 ARCS Plus housing units in June 2022 and were filled by October 2022. During the inaugural year of ARCS Plus, CHNW housed 30 students facing housing insecurity who were struggling to secure affordable housing while pursuing their education or career training objectives. When partner organizations identified a young person in need, they referred them to the ARCS Coordinator, often resulting in housing placement in under 3 weeks. New Avenues for Youth and the Native American Youth Association provided intensive case management to ARCS Plus students, expediting their access to supplementary support and services.

Outcomes were remarkably positive: six students successfully obtained degrees or certificates and 12 transitioned to the "standard" ARCS program. Only 4 students disenrolled from school or training due to extenuating circumstances. This pilot year underscored the tangible impact of longer term housing support on student retention and completion, with an impressive 87% of ARCS Plus students remaining enrolled in school or achieving a credential.

ARCS Plus concluded on June 30, 2023, due to the expiration of the Interagency Agreement and the absence of funding earmarked for continuing youth-specific housing opportunities. HB3395, which passed late in the 2023 Legislative Session, is geared towards housing support for low-income college students. We did not have clarity on legislative intent at the time of ARCS Plus' conclusion, so were unable to extend the contract at that time.

Leveraging the same OHCS fund transfer, YEHP also entered a financial partnership with CHNW to secure a 72-unit apartment complex in SE Portland. CHNW committed to reserving up to 21 apartment units for 25 years at 30% of the area median income (AMI) – roughly \$600/month. This initiative is dedicated to youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including individuals transitioning from systems like Child Welfare or the Oregon Youth Authority. Funding secured the Connery Place Apartments in SE Portland, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in May 2023. To date, two youth have moved in and an additional five are on the waitlist to be admitted once units are updated and available.

Tuition and Fee Waiver for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

In June 2022, the Oregon State Legislature enacted HB4013, extending tuition and fee waivers for higher education to eligible youth who have either experienced or are presently experiencing homelessness. YEHP has taken the lead on implementing this opportunity. Alongside inter-agency meetings and collaborations, YEHP accomplished the following initiatives within the initial months:

- Development of a Frequently Asked Questions document
- Creation of tuition and fee waiver eligibility form
- Creation of youth tuition and fee waiver application
- Presentations to community partners

Applications began in November 2022, resulting in the entry of 30 applications into the eligibility portal as of now. It is anticipated that these figures will continue to rise.

Additional Partnerships

In addition to the aforementioned collaborations, the YEHP maintains robust engagement with the following entities:

- Oregon Network of Host Home Organizations
- 1115 Waiver Implementation Planning team
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) recipients in Lane, Marion/Polk, and Clackamas Counties
- Child Welfare's Youth Transitions Unit, Self-Selected Environment, and Youth & Young Adult Services workgroups
- Oregon Continuums of Care
- Family Preservation Community Partner Forum
- West Coast Convening planning

Success Stories

Prevention:

During this year's Point in Time (PIT) homeless count our outreach team was able connect with a number of families and individuals experiencing homelessness. One youth in particular came to our attention through another of our community partners who made the introduction. This youth identifies as transgender, experiences a developmental disability and had been homeless for several months, living in a van as his family had rejected him. Our team quickly developed a relationship with this youth

and within a week he was doing an intake. This youth has been able to separate from unsafe individuals and maintain safe and stable housing. He has become more confident and social. The youth has maintained a job since arriving and just recently graduated from a local vocational/technical skills program where he learned about carpentry and metalwork. Over the three months of this vocational training, he did not miss one class!

- Hearts with a Mission

Crisis:

Evie wasn't sure how YCAP could help. She was told to talk to a case manager by her boyfriend, a resident in the YCAP Transitional Living Program, who told her that he thought YCAP would help her navigate from her current situation. Evie had constant struggles with her mom which led to unresolved fighting almost every day. She was hoping that she could find a way to get her mom to listen to her that she wanted to live with her dad full time and be allowed more independence. Being 18 in six months, she felt like she was ready, but her mom wasn't interested in discussing this with her.*

As a result, she had been living on friends' couches and struggling because of her home life. YCAP moved Evie into a host home shelter through the Safe Shelter program. This program gave Evie and her mother the space that they needed at that time. Staff contacted Evie's mom and she agreed to mediation when Evie was ready. Evie worked with a case manager to connect her with mental health services and to learn about setting up a bank account. After spending some time doing the work to set herself up for success she agreed to mediate with her mother. Staff helped to facilitate the meeting, through an emotional conversation they agreed to let her live with her dad full time. In the end Evie was reunited with a safe and trusted family member, and was given a chance to voice her concerns in a positive way.

- Yamhill Community Action Partnership

Medium-Term Housing:

A young adult, identifying as non-binary, came to the HOST Resource Center after being referred from Center for Hope & Safety. They were living out of their car having fled a domestic violence situation. During the client intake they disclosed having concerns with legal issues, suicidal thoughts, and mental health challenges. They visited the Resource Center every day for meals and a shower and were able to get immediate basic needs met.

Over time, the Youth Engagement Coordinator developed rapport with them. After many conversations and visits they completed the application for the Transitional Living Program (TLP) and created a growth plan. Three weeks later, they moved into TLP. They advocated for their needs and self-identified the areas they needed the most support.

They accepted a job in Portland as a classroom assistant in a school and started commuting. With the help from the TLP savings match program, they were able to purchase furnishings and move to Portland. It's been a couple months now since they graduated from HOST. We recently received an email with the news that they have now been promoted at work and receiving certification as a Montessori classroom assistant, closing with "...[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."

- Northwest Human Services (HOST)

Host Homes:

A Coordinator worked closely with a student who arrived in Oregon seeking asylum and since arriving here, has faced abuse, family tragedy, and personal tragedy. We were able to connect them with a host home that allowed them to focus on their education.

Additionally, we were able to connect them with legal representation as part of their asylum case, support them when they faced a medical emergency, and provided them with necessities. Their stable housing situation allowed them to connect with friends and other individuals in their community and navigate being a refugee in this country. Thanks to this program, the youth was able to find some stability for the first time in two years since arriving.

- Second Home

Direct Cash Transfer Plus (via Youth recipient):

I am a recipient of DCT funds and the following is why I advocate, want and hope for the permanency of DCT.

Reason jun (one), DCT gives me hope and is showing me that anything is possible. When I first found out about DCT I was in awe. I was surprised that something like this exists. And the fact that DCT exists has given me hope for a better future for me, future generations and our collective community. And seeing things like the DCT exist and remain in our communities helps keep me alive and is medicine to my soul because it reminds me that there are people that C A R E about and for me and are working to make sure that I and many others in situations like me are receiving the resources that we need to get our needs/wants met and to not just survive but to T H R I V E while I'm/we're here on this tx'otx' (earth), as well.

Reason kab' (two), DCT gives me an opportunity to treat my selves and others to things that I've (day) dreamed about being able to give and receive. For example, with DCT I can now treat myself to a bed and a bed frame -some things I've been trying to figure out money for 1 1/2 - 2 years. And with DCT I am able to treat my younger sibling to her first iPhone. A phone she's wanted and day dreamed about for years. And with the DCT money I can I N V E S T in my dreams, because I can now financially afford to pay for

sewing, singing and DJing classes out of my own wallet. And those are just some classes that I've been wanting to take for years and some my whole life, now made possible to experience because of DCT.

Reason oxeb' (three), DCT allows me to depend a lot less on my Mam (Dad) for money for things like, groceries, utilities (e.g. paper towels, toilet paper, fem hygiene products, etc.), misc. bills, etc. And this is a huge deal, because my Mam (dad) is verbally and emotionally abusive towards me from time to time and our relationship sucks, for that reason and amongst other reasons. DCT helps me with not having to interact with my Mam (father) as much anymore. And not interacting as much with my Mam (father) is really beneficial for my mental and emotional health.

I strongly urge DHS to make DCT permanent. DCT, to me, is a game changer and is & possibly will be a life saver and giver to/for many. I can't wait and hope to see DCT evolve into some thing[s] that I believe it has potential to become in our collective community and be for in people's lives in the days, months, years, etc. to come. "

- Native American Youth Association

Youth-Specific Housing:

"Jade" was facing eviction when they learned about the ARCS Plus program. Jade was close to completing their bachelor's degree in psychology from PSU, but they were considering leaving school because they couldn't afford rent. With no parents or other support people in their life Jade was happy to get support from New Avenues and CHNW staff to move into a studio at The Amy. Once situated in their apartment they applied for employment with CHNW as a Community Assistant and were hired to work part-time at \$16/hr in the building supporting other student residents. In June, Jade completed their BA and will be moving out at the end of the summer to live independently. They plan to pursue a job in psychology research and eventually enroll in a master's program.

- College Housing Northwest

Addenda

1. YEHP HMIS Demographics & Outcomes Table
2. Youth Homelessness Providers
3. YEHP HB 2544 Host Home Report Addendum

Endnotes

ⁱ ODHS worked with providers and youth to define financial empowerment as a combination of the following supports:

- Financial education and literacy (understanding paychecks, recurring payments, Afterpay, Payday Loans, impacts of DCTs on non-cash benefits)
- Access to financial wellness workshops
- Budgeting (including large lump sums and unexpected income)
- Credit/debt help
- Partnerships with banks and credit unions (and applying for accounts)
- Being able to provide a physical address to receive mail
- Tax preparation support
- Financial guide/coach - available to help with spending decisions
- Employment literacy - advocating for fair wages and benefits

ⁱⁱ Shared definitions for the type of supports needed through navigation programming in Oregon:

- Help with housing/rental applications
- Landlord recruitment and building rapport with landlords
- Assessing youth for housing wants/needs
- Housing linkage/referral
- Roommate matching
- Identifying housing while on probation
- How to be a “good” tenant/renter/neighbor/roommate
- Discussing co-signers
- Translation of documents and legalese as needed
- Understanding leases, housing rights, and legal aid
- Maintenance issues and housing conditions advocacy
- Understanding all costs and hidden fees
- Knowing how and when to make rental payments
- Understanding and accessing payment ledgers Oregon Direct Cash Transfers + Handbook 13
- Finding housing with pets (pet fees, emotional support animals, etc.)
- Communication between youth, case managers, housing navigators (who/when)
- Housing tours and housing fairs

ⁱⁱⁱ What “case management” meant for young people in this community in Oregon:

-
- Needs assessment (ongoing, as needs change over time)
 - Youth-led goal planning (reoccurring, re-evaluating)
 - Navigating resources, service matching, referrals (“warm hand-offs”)
 - Skill-building support
 - Advocacy and self-advocacy tools
 - Safe and intentional communication (inclusive of home visits, as desired)
 - General peer support
 - Assistance with obtaining identity documents
 - Childcare and parenting resources
 - Transportation
 - Addiction and recovery support
 - Support with family connections and other relationships
 - Translation services (as needed)
 - Furniture resources



For additional information:

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