
Docket Item:

Youth and Young Adult Employment

1. HB 2092/ORS 660.353 - Oregon Youth Employment Program
2. ORS 418.650-.663 - Oregon Youth Corps
3. SB 762/ORS 757.xxx-- Modernize and Improve Wildfire Preparedness- Oregon Conservation Corps

Summary:

Prior to the 2021 legislative session, HECC's Office of Workforce Investments (OWI) had a small youth-focused portfolio that included:

- Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Funding
- Oregon Youth Corps

Through to the passage of HB 2092, SB 762, and associated budgets, the 2021 Legislature added the following programs to OWI's portfolio:

- Oregon Youth Employment Program
- Oregon Conservation Corps

These various programs have responsibilities for youth employment in a variety of industry sectors for youth people aged 13-24. While components of the programs vary, there are numerous overlapping goals including:

- Meaningful work experience including payment of wages
- Essential employability skills
- Skills training and development
- Career pathway/career exposure
- Expectation of serving those most at risk including those facing generational poverty, rural, and historically underrepresented youth
- Utilization of an equity lens and focus on tribal communities/projects

All youth programs include granting to various youth-serving community organizations.

The Oregon Conservation Corps is more complex and includes the creation of a new citizen board with fundraising and granting responsibilities and a fiscal relationship with the Oregon Community Foundation.

A total of 4.0 FTE are included in these packages.

Material:

HECC-OWI Work Portfolio Overview PDF
HECC OWI Youth Statutes
HB2092 Enrolled
SB762 Enrolled

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

August 12, 2021

Docket Item #: 12.0

Staff Recommendation:

This item is for information only, but Commissioners should expect to see related rules and updates in subsequent Commission meetings.

HECC Office of Workforce Investments (OWI) Work Portfolio



WORKFORCE AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WTDB)

- WIOA State Plan and Governance**
 - WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Rapid Response, and Youth programs
 - Discretionary grants
- Business & Industry Engagement**
 - Sector Partnerships
 - Registered Apprenticeship/other earn & learn
 - Workforce General Fund grants
- Public Workforce System Partnerships**
 - Strategic Innovation grants
 - Local Workforce Development Boards
 - WorkSource Oregon

OREGONSERVES

- AmeriCorps: National Service**
 - AmeriCorps*State Corps grants
- Volunteerism & Civic Engagement**
 - Volunteer Generation grants
- Disaster Response & Recovery**
 - Disaster CORPS

FUTURE READY OREGON

- Oregon Youth Employment Program (OYEP)**
 - OYEP grants
- Oregon Conservation Corps (OCC)**
 - Fundraising/private match
 - OCC Grants
- Oregon Youth Corps (OYC)**
 - SummerCorps grants
 - Community Stewardship grants
- Youth Workforce System Partnerships**
 - WIOA Youth Program
 - DHS grants

Equitable Prosperity
Employment - Training - Access - Engagement - Continuous Improvement - Innovation

HECC-OWI Youth Statutes

	OYC (ORS 418.650-418.663)	OYEP (ORS 660.353)	OCC (ORS ???)
Program Purpose	Relating to youth employment, skills training, and stewardship enhancement. To establish a disadvantaged and at-risk youth program in order to perform conservation work of public value in the most cost effective manner; To utilize such a program as a means of needed assistance to protect, conserve, rehabilitate, and improve the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the state; and To utilize such a program to increase educational, training and employment opportunities for disadvantaged and at-risk youth for the purpose of improving work skills, instilling a work ethic, and increasing employability.	Relating to youth employment, skill development, and career/pathway exposure. OYEP shall operate subject to the availability of funds, including eligible federal funds, for the purpose of providing meaningful work experience and workforce training for persons between the ages of 14 and 24.	Relating to wildfire prevention and youth workforce and Forest-related or rangeland-related career path training. The purpose of the Oregon Conservation Corps is to: Reduce the risk wildfire poses to communities and critical infrastructure; helping to create fire-adapted communities; and Engaging youth and young adults (ages 13-26) in workforce training while reducing hazardous fuels.
Summer or Year-round	Summer implied, Community Stewardship Corps required.	Unspecified	Unspecified, however, sawyer and feller work may not be allowed during the summer months due to fire risk.
Granting Authority	Yes	Yes	Yes
Purchasing Authority	Yes	Not Specified	Not specified other than funds may be used for a promotional website and materials to solicit private funds, and "provides funding to support the work conducted by the Oregon Conservation Corps Program."
Personnel Exemptions	Exempt from State Personnel Relations Law as per ORS 418.657 (3) (a), exempt from UI as per Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 15-86, Prevailing wage exemption as per OAR 839-025-0100 (2) (b).	No	Are exempt from prevailing wage laws.
Land Law Regulation	Oregon Youth Corps shall ensure that projects selected under ORS 418.650 to 418.663 shall be consistent with all other provisions of applicable state and federal law relating to the management, oversight and administration of affected public lands.	No	NEPA, Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), and Defensible Space Requirements.
Age Range	All Oregonians who are at least 13 years of age and under 25 years of age	Between 14 and 24	Youth and young adults between 13 years of age and 26 years of age.
Demographics of Youth Served	Assume that application of the eligibility and participation criteria results in enrollment of at least 75 percent disadvantaged and at-risk youth among the total number of participants. Currently defined as "Youth at-risk and disadvantaged are those who may be unable to achieve the educational, economic or social expectation of their community."	75 percent of program participants are from communities of color, rural communities, communities that have faced generational poverty or other communities that have been historically underrepresented in youth employment as identified by the commission by rule; no less than 20 percent of program funds are available to organizations with direct experience serving communities of color.	Defines and uses an equity lens in awarding grants by identifying and supporting populations with greater vulnerability including communities of color, indigenous communities, communities with members who have limited proficiency in English and communities with lower-income members.
Minimum Wage	Yes	Yes or Equivalent	Yes or Equivalent
Individual Development Plan	No statutory requirement	Yes	No statutory requirement
Work Readiness Instruction	Yes	Yes	Yes

Length of Program	Unspecified other than 12 month requirement for Community Stewardship Corps support vouchers.	Minimum five weeks	Unspecified
Specific Projects	Yes, mostly natural resource and community stewardship based.	No statutory requirement	The committee shall consult with the State Forestry Department to ensure that the Grant process awards funds to proposals that: Protect at-risk communities and infrastructure within the wildland-urban interface ; and Meet standards for fuel treatment established by the State Forestry Department.
Credit Attainment Required	For the Community Stewardship Corps, the provision of related educational and job training programs to participants, including but not limited to school and college coursework, training for approved high school equivalency tests such as the General Educational Development (GED), project-related education and professional training	Provide academic support for earning High School Credit, GED Attainment, or College Credit	No statutory requirement
Sector Exposure	Unspecified	Yes, in demand occupations and targeted sectors.	Forest-related or rangeland-related career path training.
Community Outreach and Engagement	Implied	Culturally responsive outreach	Implied through the Wildfire Risk Explorer Map.
Board Requirement	Upon implementation of subsection (1) of this section, there shall be created an Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board to consist of nine members, three to be appointed by the President of the Senate, three to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and three public members to be appointed by the Governor. No more than one Senator and one Representative shall be appointed.	None	The Oregon Conservation Corps Advisory Committee is established within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The Governor shall determine the number of members on the committee and appoint the members.

<p>Board Purpose</p>	<p>The advisory board established shall advise the program director on the implementation of ORS 418.650 to 418.663.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to manage the Oregon Conservation Corps Program. The committee shall, in collaboration with a qualified nonprofit foundation, (OCF) actively seek and source private donations to support the Oregon Conservation Corps Program. The committee may direct the expenditure of moneys from the Oregon Conservation Corps Fund for a promotional website and materials to solicit private funds. The committee shall administer a grant process that: Provides funding to support the work conducted by the Oregon Conservation Corps Program; Defines and uses an equity lens in awarding grants by identifying and supporting populations with greater vulnerability including communities of color, indigenous communities, communities with members who have limited proficiency in English and communities with lower-income members; Awards grants to eligible organizations; Ensures that grant awards support activities described in section 21; and Establishes guidelines for prioritizing grant-supported projects to reduce community fire risks, promote youth and young adult workforce development and educational experiences and reduce hazardous fuels.</p>
<p>Assurances</p>	<p>Projects shall: Result in an increase in employment opportunities for disadvantaged and at-risk youth over those opportunities which would otherwise be available; Not result in the displacement of currently employed workers, including partial displacement such as reduction in the hours of nonovertime work or wages or employment benefits; Not impair existing contracts for services or result in the substitution of state for other funds in connection with work that would otherwise be performed; Not substitute jobs assisted under ORS 418.650 to 418.663 for existing federally assisted jobs; Not employ any person when any other person is on layoff by an employer from the same or any substantially equivalent job in the same area; and Not be used to employ any person to fill a job opening created by the act of an employer in laying off or terminating employment of any regular employee, otherwise reducing the regular workforce not supported under ORS 418.650 to 418.663, in anticipation of filling the vacancy so created by hiring a person to be supported under ORS 418.650 to 418.663.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>