

Enrolled
House Bill 2092

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Kate Brown for Higher Education Coordinating Commission)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to youth programs; amending ORS 418.653, 418.658 and 660.353.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 660.353 is amended to read:

660.353. *[(1)]* **(1)(a)** There is created in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission the Oregon Youth Employment Program. *Subject to the availability of funding, the commission shall create and operate, and local workforce development boards shall manage, the program to provide],* **which 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.

(b) The commission shall, pursuant to criteria established by the commission, and after allocating a portion of program funds to the Oregon Youth Corps described in ORS 418.653, provide grants to local workforce development boards. The commission shall award grants in a manner that ensures no less than 20 percent of program funds are available to organizations with direct experience serving communities of color.

(2) The program shall [provide to participants in the program case management and support services that include, but are not limited to]:

(a) [Developing] **Ensure that at least 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;**

(b) Create an individual development plan for *[the]* **each program** participant that outlines work readiness, career and educational goals;

[(b)] **(c) Provide** work readiness instruction;

[(c)] **(d) Provide** at least *[12]* **five** weeks of paid internships, **pre-apprenticeships** or other work experience; *[and]*

[(d)] **(e) Pay at least minimum wage for work performed by program participants while in the program, or, if a program participant is prohibited by other state or federal law or agreement from receiving wages from the program provider, provide an award valued at an amount equal to at least the payment of minimum wage;**

(f) Provide academic support for earning high school graduation credit, completion of approved high school equivalency programs such as the General Educational Development (GED) certificate program or earning college credit for work experience or internships provided through the program[.];

(g) **Expose program participants to in-demand occupations and targeted sectors;**
(h) **Require program providers to submit a community engagement plan that details how the program providers will partner with and serve communities identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection; and**

(i) **Require program providers to offer English language learner and accessibility services that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).**

(3) The program[:]

[(a) Plan, implementation procedures and evaluation criteria shall be described in the local plan developed by a local workforce development board under ORS 660.327.]

[(b)] may provide for public and private sector employment opportunities.

[(4) Local workforce development boards responsible for managing the program shall ensure appropriate training and positive work experiences for participants.]

*[(5)] (4)(a) The commission shall [collaborate with the local workforce development boards to] collect data on **the program**, [youth work experience programs that] identify successful work experiences and allow for the identification and dissemination of the most promising practices.*

(b) The data collected shall [also] be disaggregated by:

(A) The race and ethnicity of program participants;

(B) Whether program participants come from urban or rural areas;

(C) The family income of program participants; and

(D) Any other characteristic of program participants that the commission determines by rule would be useful in evaluating the success of the program.

(c) The data collected shall include:

(A) The number of participants in the program[,];

(B) The number of participants that complete the program[,];

(C) The cost of internships and other work experiences provided[,];

(D) The academic credit earned by participants; and

(E) The number of certificates for passing approved high school equivalency tests such as the General Educational Development (GED) test earned by participants.

(5) The commission shall conduct culturally responsive outreach and engagement and offer technical assistance to prospective program providers.

(6) In a manner determined by the commission by rule, the commission shall assist identified program providers in recruiting program participants across diverse communities by providing:

(a) Translation and accessibility services for marketing materials; and

(b) Training to program providers in culturally responsive, social emotional health and mental health practices.

[(6)] (7) The commission shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation and operation of the program created under subsection (1) of this section. The rules shall include, but are not limited to, establishing eligibility criteria for persons participating in the program.

SECTION 2. ORS 418.653 is amended to read:

418.653. (1) Subject to the availability of funds, there is created **within the Oregon Youth Employment Program established under ORS 660.353** an Oregon Youth Corps that shall provide emergency services, public conservation, rehabilitation and improvement programs. The corps shall be headed by a program director, and shall be administered through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

(2) 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.

(3) Board members may receive reimbursement of necessary and actual expenses under ORS 292.495 (2), but may not receive compensation under ORS 292.495 (1) or otherwise for participation as a board member.

(4) Board members may be removed by the appointing authority. Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. Board members shall serve for a term of three years and may be reappointed for an additional consecutive term.

(5) The advisory board established under subsection (2) of this section shall advise the program director on the implementation of ORS 418.650 to 418.663.

SECTION 3. ORS 418.658 is amended to read:

418.658. (1) The program director of the Oregon Youth Corps shall establish **within the Oregon Youth Employment Program established under ORS 660.353** a separate program known as the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps. In addition to the established purposes of the Oregon Youth Corps, the purpose of the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps is to promote community service activities throughout the state for a broad cross section of Oregon disadvantaged and at-risk youth through programs that also include appropriate educational and job training opportunities for participants.

(2) In addition to projects submitted under ORS 418.660 (1), projects of the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps may include, but shall not be limited to:

- (a) Child care services.
- (b) Elderly and disabled care services.
- (c) Literacy education programs.
- (d) Recycling and other waste reduction services.

(3) The Oregon Community Stewardship Corps shall offer employment and educational opportunities of at least three but not more than 12 months' duration for selected participants.

(4) Under rules adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, participants who successfully complete any program under this section shall be eligible for up to \$1,500 in support vouchers that can be used to pay for tuition, books or other items or services that enhance and support education or employment.

(5) All Oregonians who are at least 13 years of age and under 25 years of age are eligible to participate in the program. To ensure that Oregon Community Stewardship Corps participants represent a broad cross section of Oregonians, special emphasis shall be given to recruiting school dropouts and other disadvantaged and at-risk youth, according to criteria established by the Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board.

(6) To the extent practicable, the program director shall enlist state and federal agencies, local government, nonprofit organizations and private businesses, and any combination of such entities, to act as sponsors for programs administered under this section. Selection of sponsors shall be based on criteria that include the following:

(a) The availability of other resources on a matching basis, including contributions from private sources, other federal, state and local agencies, and moneys available through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;

(b) 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;

(c) Assurances that proposed projects will not displace existing employees or duplicate existing private or government programs; and

(d) Assurances that proposed projects are devoted to the enhancement of the community and are not based in maintenance activities and that these projects meet an identified need.

(7) In consultation with the advisory board, the program director shall make grants for programs administered under this section.

Passed by House June 22, 2021

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 24, 2021

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2021

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2021

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2021

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Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State