

LC 596
2021 Regular Session
52500-006
9/16/20 (DRG/ps)

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Alters scope of duties and data collection requirements for Oregon Youth Employment Program.

Places Oregon Youth Corps and Oregon Community Stewardship Corps within Oregon Youth Employment Program.

A BILL FOR 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) 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.

(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 par-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 ticipant that outlines work readiness, career and educational goals;

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

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

5 [(d)] (e) **Pay at least minimum wage for work performed by program**
6 **participants while in the program;**

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

11 (g) **Expose program participants to in-demand occupations and**
12 **targeted sectors;**

13 (h) **Require program providers to submit a community engagement**
14 **plan that details how the program providers will partner with and**
15 **serve communities identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection; and**

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

19 (3) The program[.];

20 [(a) *Plan, implementation procedures and evaluation criteria shall be de-*
21 *scribed in the local plan developed by a local workforce development board*
22 *under ORS 660.327.*]

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

24 [(4) *Local workforce development boards responsible for managing the pro-*
25 *gram shall ensure appropriate training and positive work experiences for par-*
26 *ticipants.*]

27 [(5)] (4)(a) The commission shall [*collaborate with the local workforce de-*
28 *velopment boards to*] collect data on **the program**, [*youth work experience*
29 *programs that*] identify successful work experiences and allow for the iden-
30 tification and dissemination of the most promising practices.

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

1 (A) **The race and ethnicity of program participants;**

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

3 (C) **The family income of program participants; and**

4 (D) **Any other characteristic of program participants that the**
5 **commission determines by rule would be useful in evaluating the suc-**
6 **cess of the program.**

7 (c) **The data collected shall include:**

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

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

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

11 (D) **The academic credit earned by participants; and**

12 (E) **The number of certificates for passing approved high school equiv-**
13 **alency tests such as the General Educational Development (GED) test earned**
14 **by participants.**

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

18 (6) **In a manner determined by the commission by rule, the com-**
19 **mission shall assist identified program providers in recruiting program**
20 **participants across diverse communities by providing:**

21 (a) **Translation and accessibility services for marketing materials;**
22 **and**

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

25 [(6)] (7) **The commission shall adopt rules necessary for the implementa-**
26 **tion and operation of the program created under subsection (1) of this sec-**
27 **tion. The rules shall include, but are not limited to, establishing eligibility**
28 **criteria for persons participating in the program.**

29 **SECTION 2. ORS 418.653 is amended to read:**

30 418.653. (1) **Subject to the availability of funds, there is created within**
31 **the Oregon Youth Employment Program established under ORS 660.353**

1 an Oregon Youth Corps that shall provide emergency services, public con-
2 servation, rehabilitation and improvement programs. The corps shall be
3 headed by a program director, and shall be administered through the Higher
4 Education Coordinating Commission.

5 (2) Upon implementation of subsection (1) of this section, there shall be
6 created an Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board to consist of nine members,
7 three to be appointed by the President of the Senate, three to be appointed
8 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and three public members to
9 be appointed by the Governor. No more than one Senator and one Repre-
10 sentative shall be appointed.

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

14 (4) Board members may be removed by the appointing authority. Vacan-
15 cies shall be filled by the appointing authority. Board members shall serve
16 for a term of three years and may be reappointed for an additional consec-
17 utive term.

18 (5) The advisory board established under subsection (2) of this section
19 shall advise the program director on the implementation of ORS 418.650 to
20 418.663.

21 **SECTION 3.** ORS 418.658 is amended to read:

22 418.658. (1) The program director of the Oregon Youth Corps shall estab-
23 lish **within the Oregon Youth Employment Program established under**
24 **ORS 660.353** a separate program known as the Oregon Community
25 Stewardship Corps. In addition to the established purposes of the Oregon
26 Youth Corps, the purpose of the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps is to
27 promote community service activities throughout the state for a broad cross
28 section of Oregon disadvantaged and at-risk youth through programs that
29 also include appropriate educational and job training opportunities for par-
30 ticipants.

31 (2) In addition to projects submitted under ORS 418.660 (1), projects of the

1 Oregon Community Stewardship Corps may include, but shall not be limited
2 to:

3 (a) Child care services.

4 (b) Elderly and disabled care services.

5 (c) Literacy education programs.

6 (d) Recycling and other waste reduction services.

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

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

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

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

26 (a) The availability of other resources on a matching basis, including
27 contributions from private sources, other federal, state and local agencies,
28 and moneys available through the federal Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
29 tunity Act;

30 (b) The provision of related educational and job training programs to
31 participants, including but not limited to school and college coursework,

1 training for approved high school equivalency tests such as the General Ed-
2 ucational Development (GED), project-related education and professional
3 training;

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

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

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

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