ORS 417.799 Report

September 15, 2026

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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.

Program Overview and Background

Oregon's Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program was established in 2005 and 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 youth experiencing homelessness was transferred to ODHS.

In 2015, the Legislature directed ODHS to enhance services for youth experiencing homelessness, 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 remains.

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).

In 2025, the Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 5526, which allocated a new continued service level (CSL) to sustain YEHP and its initiatives. This funding supported permanent staffing, direct cash transfers, and core services grants to local youth-serving organizations, ensuring continued assistance for youth experiencing homelessness in Oregon.

YEHP partners with impacted youth, community organizations, and state agencies to provide outreach, shelter, transitional living programs (TLP), host homes, and other supports that help youth experiencing homelessness achieve greater safety and housing stability.

Budget and Funding

2025– 2027 Biennium Funding Summary

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For YEHP, the funding included in SB 5526 originated from Policy Option Package (POP) 502 for Core Service Maintenance. The POP requested funding to maintain core service funding near the level previously supported through temporary funding increases. The resulting legislative allocation provided $17.8 million for YEHP core services.

In developing the request, several funding sources and activities that had previously supported YEHP were excluded:

1. One-time funds reported by grantees during the 2023–2025 biennium were not included.
2. Mental health grants were deprioritized to maintain focus on core service delivery.
3. Unattached YEHP base budget funds — previously used to exceed the legislative allotment for core services — were not included in the request.

The 2025 legislative session resulted in the passage of SB 5526, which allocated a permanent $19,707,205 to sustain YEHP and its initiatives, as well as make program staff positions permanent. The investment was aimed at maintaining existing service levels. The funding breakdown includes:

- $5,295,254 – Programmatically-Unattached Base Budget (General Fund)
- $19,707,205 – SB 5526 Funding (General Fund)
- $600,000 – Social Services Block Grant (Federal)
- $1,000,000 – Philanthropic Funding for Direct Cash Transfer+ Youth Payments
- **$26,602,459 - Total Program Budget**

Federal Funding Impacts

Program Level

Since its inception, YEHP has received $600,000 in federal SSBG funding. During the 2025–2026 year, Federal funding changes placed SSBG under consideration for removal. Because of this uncertainty, YEHP was forced to implement temporary reductions in service delivery. In mid-2026, the program was informed that SSBG would not be discontinued, allowing YEHP to move forward in July to fully utilize the $600,000 allocation.

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Local Service Provider Level

Major changes to the Federal Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) introduced new mandatory grant requirements and significantly shortened application timelines. These shifts prompted national legal challenges and created substantial uncertainty for service providers. Although funding levels for RHYA programs ultimately remained consistent with the previous year, the uncertainty forced some Oregon youth homelessness providers to make notable operational adjustments. Several organizations chose to discontinue pursuing these Federal funds, including at least one long-standing provider that had received RHYA grants for more than three decades.

Ongoing federal changes and delays in homelessness and youth homelessness funding may have lasting impacts on youth and the local programs who support them.

Core Services Maintenance Grant Program (2025-2027)

While the 2025 Legislative Session brought an important commitment of permanent funding, the program continues to operate within a tight fiscal landscape. YEHP's Core Services Maintenance grant program is delivered through awards to local community-based organizations across a range of program types and legislatively supported services. Through POP 502, YEHP received $17.8 million for Core Services grant investments. An additional $500,000 from the YEHP base budget brought the total Core Services Maintenance grant funding for the current biennium to $18.3 million.

To maintain service momentum achieved in the previous biennium—and in alignment with governmental directives—YEHP amended and continued all grants, with few exceptions, to the same providers for the same service types through June 2028. Funding-ceiling reductions were applied to host home programming due to considerations related to potential SSBG removal.

Core Services Awards by Service-Type (2025-2027):

Service-Type	**Awarded**
Outreach / Drop-In	$4,650,000.00

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Shelter	$3,350,000.00
Transitional Living Program	$4,250,000.00
Culturally Specific Supports	$700,000.00
Host Homes	$5,350,000.00

Core Services Awards by Geographic Location (2025-2027):

Region*	**Awarded**
Southern	$3,650,000.00
Mid Valley	$5,425,000.00
Metro – Tri County	$4,625,000.00
NW Oregon	$500,000.00
Oregon Coast	$1,390,000.00
Central/Gorge	$2,060,000.00
Eastern	$650,000.00

**Regions based off the Oregon Youth Housing Needs Assessment* (page 2).

The names and geographic locations of current YEHP-funded providers can be found in the YEHP Service Provider Map and on the program webpage under Contracted service providers.

Grant Programs	**Counties Served**
A Family for Every Child	Lane
Alternative Youth Activities	Coos, Curry
AntFarm	Clackamas
Boys & Girls Aid	Washington
Christians as Family Advocates	Lane
Church at the Park	Marion, Polk
Clatsop Community Action	Clatsop
College Housing Northwest	Multnomah
Community in Action	Malheur
Community Works	Jackson

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Connected Lane Co.	Lane
Dev NW	Clackamas, Lane
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas
Family Faith & Relationship Advocates	Douglas
Hearts with a Mission	Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lincoln, Douglas
Home Plate	Washington
Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization	Multnomah
Integral Youth Services	Klamath
J Bar J Youth Services	Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook
Jackson Street Youth Services	Benton, Linn
Janus	Multnomah
Kindred Partners	Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Marion
Looking Glass	Lane
Lutheran Community Services	Yamhill
Maslow Project	Jackson
Mid Willamette Valley CAA	Marion, Polk
Native American Youth Association	Multnomah
New Avenues for Youth	Multnomah
Next Door	Hood River
Northeast Oregon Compassion Center	Baker, Union, Wallowa
NW Human Services	Marion, Polk
15th Night	Lane
Outside In	Multnomah
Parrott Creek	Clackamas
Salvation Army	Jackson
Thrive Housing Network	Lane
Yamhill Community Action Partnership	Yamhill
Youth360	Union

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Youth Empowerment Shelter	Wasco
Youth Era	Marion, Lane
Youth Progress	Multnomah

Program Staff

The passage of SB 5526 provided YEHP with ongoing positions to support the full implementation of the program and its initiatives. Without this funding, the team would have been reduced to one Policy Analyst and one Administrative Support staff member. While the positions were classified as “new”, most were previously limited duration (LD) roles. As a result, the team structure remained largely consistent with the previous biennium, and nearly all positions were filled by existing staff. A new Operations and Policy Analyst 3 position, originally delayed by the statewide hiring freeze, received approval to move forward in July 2026. The position is expected to be filled in September 2026, bringing the YEHP team to a fully staffed and permanent workforce.

YEHP positions span a wide range of responsibilities that collectively support the program’s mission. The team includes roles dedicated to overall program administration and alignment, operational and policy guidance, administrative support, and individual subject-matter areas. Analysts lead work in data and evaluation, direct cash transfer initiatives, prevention programming, youth engagement, technical assistance and auditing, and tribal partnership development. Together, these positions ensure consistent, coordinated support for YEHP’s initiatives and the youth they serve.

Data and Outcomes

Youth homelessness remains a significant concern in Oregon. According to 2025 federal Point-in-Time (PIT) Count data, unaccompanied youth — defined as individuals under the age of 25 who are experiencing homelessness without a parent or guardian and who are not accompanied by a child of their own — represented approximately 8% of the state’s population experiencing homelessness.

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Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reported a total of 2,128 unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in the 2025 PIT count, including 476 youth under age 18 and 1,652 young adults ages 18-24. Approximately 69% of unaccompanied youth counted were experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Changes in PIT Count methodology, including in Multnomah County, limit the ability to reliably compare 2025 results with prior years. As a result, the 2025 data should be interpreted as a snapshot of youth homelessness rather than as evidence of a year-over-year trend.

PIT Counts also have limitations in capturing the full extent of youth homelessness. Young people experiencing housing instability may not be identified through the PIT Count, particularly those who are temporarily staying with friends or family or otherwise experiencing homelessness outside the locations and circumstances captured by the count. Additionally, states that prioritize youth homelessness through coordinated planning and sustained collaboration are better positioned to locate, engage, and count young people experiencing homelessness.

Other analyses have therefore used broader data sources to assess youth housing needs. A 2021 statewide housing needs assessment conducted by CSH estimated that approximately 8,300 Oregon youth and young adults were likely to need safe, affordable housing and services to achieve and maintain housing stability.

Program Infrastructure and Data Strategy

Beginning in the 2023–25 biennium, YEHP required funded providers to report program data through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as part of broader efforts to strengthen alignment with Oregon's homelessness data systems. As YEHP began using HMIS data for statewide reporting, significant data quality issues emerged, including incomplete and inconsistent provider reporting and discrepancies across key program measures. These issues were compounded by Oregon's decentralized HMIS structure, in which data are maintained across multiple regional systems rather than a single statewide database. ODHS also lacked the dedicated HMIS expertise, staffing, and data access needed to independently validate, reconcile, and analyze YEHP data across those systems. Taken together, these

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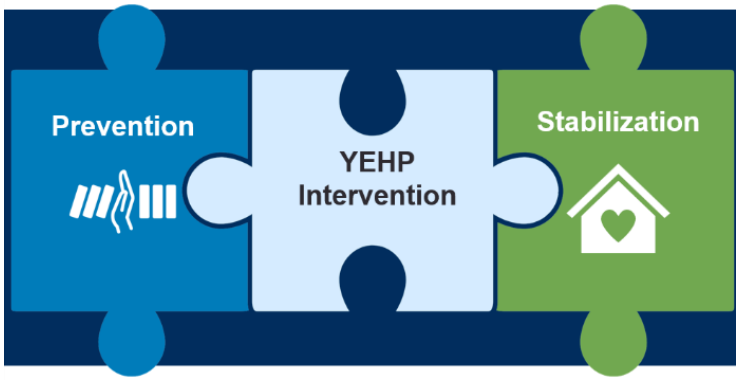
challenges meant that HMIS data could not be consistently relied upon for statewide YEHP reporting. YEHP therefore paused HMIS reporting and transitioned to Smartsheet-based reporting as its current program reporting system.

YEHP is now working in partnership with the ODHS Office of Planning, Policy and Research to strengthen the quality and usefulness of its existing data. This work includes assessing the completeness and consistency of provider-reported data, identifying and addressing high-priority reporting issues, and providing targeted technical assistance to improve reporting quality. YEHP is also working to strengthen how quantitative data and provider narratives are used together to communicate program reach, services, and impact. In the longer term, YEHP will use lessons from this work to evaluate options for a more sustainable data infrastructure that supports reliable reporting while accounting for provider capacity, data privacy, and the diverse service models funded through the program.

Core Services Data & Outcomes Context

Youth homelessness work spans a broad continuum—from upstream prevention strategies that stop homelessness before it starts, to intervention services that improve the immediate circumstances of youth experiencing homelessness, and finally to stabilization resources that support long-term housing and independence.

Most YEHP-funded programs operate within the intervention portion of this continuum, between prevention and stabilization - designed to keep youth safe, prevent further instability, and equip them with the skills and resources they need to transition successfully. YEHP's funded core services array cannot, on their own, fully end youth homelessness.



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YEHP recognizes that youth homelessness outcomes go beyond housing placement alone. Youth experiencing homelessness often face numerous challenges, including generational poverty, trauma, mental and physical health needs, and limited social support.

The manual Smartsheet reporting process shifts emphasis beyond simply tracking housing status (a factor often outside of YEHP's direct control). Instead, it aims to better illustrate the reach and impact of YEHP's core services by highlighting youth's access to and engagement within services.

2025-2026 Outcomes

YEHP funds support five service types within the program's core components: shelter services, transitional living programs, outreach and drop-in services, host homes, and culturally specific services. Providers develop service delivery models that reflect the needs, resources, and capacity of their respective regions, resulting in diverse approaches tailored to the unique characteristics of their communities. The aggregated data presented in this report reflects service delivery to youth and young adults across the state. The service and demographic data presented below are aggregated from provider reports and are not deduplicated across service types or providers. As a result, youth who received multiple services or were served by more than one provider may be represented more than once in statewide totals. Demographic data is also subject to reporting limitations, including incomplete or inconsistent data entry, and therefore may not align with reported service counts.

Since July 2025, providers across all YEHP core service types have reported serving 5,029 youth and documented contact with an additional 638 individuals through outreach and drop-in services. These additional outreach connections were short, basic-needs encounters and information was not captured through other, more detailed reporting methods.

In addition, providers reported that 1,801 youth received housing supports and 2,127 youth received transportation supports. Providers also reported that education services were provided directly to 1,009 youth, while 824 youth were referred to external education resources. For reporting purposes, "received services" refers to services provided directly by

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the YEHP provider, while "referred services" refers to services for which youth were connected to outside agencies.

Provider-reported demographic data for the reporting period indicates that 4,033 youth (approximately 71%) were between the ages of 18 and 24, while 1,543 youth (approximately 27%) were 17 and under. An additional 91 youth (approximately 2%) turned 25 during the reporting period. Across all age groups, 45% of youth served self-identified as youth of color, demonstrating the program's reach among a diverse population of young people.

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.

Over the past year, the YEHAC has focused on strengthening Oregon's youth homelessness system through clearer statutes, more youth driven decision making, streamlined grant administration, and expansion of housing and support pilots.

YEHAC Membership:

Agency/ Representation	Member Name
Oregon Department of Human Services – Self Sufficiency Program - YEHP	Adam Jenkins (nonvoting) Freya Nehila (nonvoting)
Oregon Department of Human Services – Child Welfare	Stacey Mahler Crystal Sneddon
Oregon Department of Education – McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program	Lexi Morales
Oregon Health Authority	Christie Taylor
Oregon Housing & Community Services	Dele Oyemaha
Oregon Youth Authority	Laura Ward
Youth Development Oregon	Paul Sell

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Higher Education Coordinating Commission	Stephanie Soloman
Multnomah County Homeless Services Department – Homeless Youth Continuum	Caitlin Campbell
Oregon Community Continuum of Care (Rural Balance of State CoC)	Brooke Matthews
Oregon Alliance	Vera Stoulil (co-chair)
Youth360	Kitia Chambers (co-chair)
Boys & Girls Aid	Drew Williamson
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon – Second Home Program	Jennifer Hale
Hearts with a Mission	Brian Wenzel
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization	Lyn Tan
Jackson Street Youth Services	Kendra Phillips
Youth Empowerment Shelter	Marco Bietl
YEHP Youth Action Board	YAB Representative #1
YEHP Youth Action Board	YAB Representative #2

References / More Information: 2015 HB 2232

Youth Action Board and Youth Engagement

YEHP is committed to a youth-driven philosophy in which young people collaborate closely with the program. Established in 2023, the YEHP Youth Action Board (YAB) plays a vital role in amplifying youth voices and strengthening connections between youth, service providers, and government agencies. YAB members work directly with YEHP's Strategic Youth Engagement Coordinator and contribute to decisions and initiatives that strengthen YEHP's statewide youth homelessness response system.

Through the YAB, YEHP currently engages nine youth from the Portland Tri-County, Mid-Valley, Oregon Coast, Southern Oregon, and Central Oregon regions. During its most recent recruitment in Fall 2025, 28 youth across Oregon applied to join the YAB.

Since July 1, 2025, YEHP YAB members:

- Consulted with YEHP to inform current program priorities based on the experiences and needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

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- Developed and facilitated trainings for YEHP partners, covering topics such as an introduction to the YEHP YAB, adultism in social services, tuition and fee waivers for youth experiencing homelessness, professionalism, and trauma-informed care.
- Traveled to Salem to meet with YEHP staff and the Director of ODHS Self-Sufficiency Programs, and engaged with state representatives and senators to uplift the experiences of youth experiencing homelessness.
- Participated in YEHP hiring panels.
- Facilitated focus groups with youth served by YEHP-funded providers.
- Contributed to project-based work designed to advance youth voice across YEHP initiatives.

Additionally, the YEHP YAB prioritized partnerships to strengthen youth engagement across the system. A major collaboration was established through a YAB proposal to the YEHAC prompting the committee to welcome the ongoing participation of two YAB members. The YAB also partnered with Southern Oregon-based service provider Maslow Project to form a workgroup focused on developing a curriculum for youth with lived experience who are interested in building advocacy and leadership skills. The YAB also worked with ODHS social media staff to develop concepts for public-facing posts aimed at educating Oregonians about youth homelessness and increasing the visibility of ODHS content among young people.

The YAB produces quarterly reports outlining their activities, accomplishments, and goals, including how their work aligns with this committee's priorities. These reports are publicly accessible on the YEHP website.

A message from former YAB Member:

"I wanted to inform the YEHP team and the YAB that I am currently facing a lot of positive change. [My job] promoted me to the Transitional Living Program Case Manager…. I am super honored and excited for this opportunity… Along with my promotion, I am attending Rogue Community College to get my Associates in General Studies then transfer to Southern Oregon University to obtain a Political Science Degree. The YEHP Tuition and Fee Waiver helped me with this path… I want to express my gratitude for being given the opportunity to be part of this Youth Action Board and all the experiences I have had to learn, grow and collaborate with not only state employees and

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processes, but also with youth around the state of Oregon who also have lived experience with youth homelessness. Being a member of the YEHP YAB has empowered me, built my confidence, and given me hope for not only my future, but also the future of our state's homeless youth. I am very grateful to have had this experience with you all. While I may not be a member of the YAB anymore, I plan to make a reappearance someday working for the State of Oregon. The YEHP team helped paint this amazing path for my future. Thank you for believing in me."

Direct Cash Transfer Programming

What is the Direct Cash Transfer (DCT+) program

DCT+ is a housing and poverty alleviation strategy that provides consistent, targeted financial support to eligible youth, addressing their immediate needs and supporting their transition out of homelessness.

- Provides $1,000/month for 24 months, as well as a one-time Enrichment Fund payment of $3,000.
- Wraparound supports provided by Community Based Organizations (CBOs): housing navigation, case management, financial coaching.
- Payments administered via paper check, direct deposit, or state-issued EBT card.
- Built in partnership with Point Source Youth (PSY), a national organization with expertise in youth homelessness and DCT programs, and experts with lived experience. PSY has been the primary national policy advocate for youth-focused DCT, manage a multi-state initiative to expand cash access to youth, and author the National DCT Handbook, a comprehensive blueprint utilized by governments and nonprofits nationwide.

DCT+ was designed to alleviate the financial barriers young people face in securing housing and improving overall well-being and has demonstrated significant positive impacts in both areas for participating youth.

DCT+ pilot (2023-2025):

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In 2025, YEHP concluded its first two-year DCT+ pilot, designed for young adults ages 18 to 24 who were experiencing homelessness and seeking housing. The full evaluation report is available online. The initiative proved highly successful, and YEHP received intentional funding in SB 5526 to continue refining the program through a second two-year demonstration.

DCT+ 2.0 (2025-2027)

DCT+ 2.0 was made possible in part through additional investments beyond YEHP's base budget—specifically, a $240,000 allocation through SB 5526 and a $1,000,000 contribution directly to YEHP from philanthropic partner Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), the latter earmarked specifically for youth payments in Deschutes County.

YEHP launched this second demonstration in September 2025 and enrolled an additional 120 youth across five CBOs – up from three in the previous demonstration.

- Multnomah County via Native American Youth Association (20 youth)
- Multnomah County via Outside In* (20 youth)
- Clackamas County via Ant Farm Youth Services (20 youth)
- Jackson County via Maslow Project* (20 youth
- Deschutes County via J Bar J Youth Services (40 youth)

  **new CBO*

Point Source Youth (PSY) is again providing technical assistance and independent evaluation is now being completed through Johns Hopkins University. The evaluation includes:

- Long-form surveys at baseline, every six months, and six months after the final payment.
- Short-form surveys every two months, except during months when long-form surveys are administered.
- Focus groups with at least five youth participants at baseline, every six months, and six months after the final payment.
- Comparison Group

Outcomes

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Based on the most recent data gathered by Johns Hopkins—using youth-reported information—at the eight-month evaluation, the following outcomes were identified:

- Housing
  - 77% reported living in stable housing
- Employment
  - 29% reported working full-time or self-employed
  - 19% reported working part-time
  - 35% reported actively job searching
- Education
  - 17% reported as students
- Well-being
  - 22% reported pregnant or parenting
  - Rates of skipping or missing meals decreased
  - Access to health insurance increased

12-month reporting data will be captured in October 2026 and will be reported in the 2027 yearly report.

Tuition and Fee Waivers for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

In June 2022, the Oregon State Legislature enacted HB 4013, extending Tuition and Fee Waivers for higher education to eligible youth who have either experienced or are presently experiencing homelessness and meet certain additional eligibility criteria. YEHP oversees eligibility determination, student communication, verification of services, and portal entry.

Between July 1st, 2025, and June 30th, 2026, YEHP approved 158 eligible youth for the waiver, bringing the total number up to 380 waiver-approved youth.

Child Welfare Collaboration

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Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers – Housing Navigation Demonstration

Building on the collaborative work completed in 2025—including the creation of a Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) toolkit to help Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and Child Welfare (CW) offices improve voucher access—YEHP and CW expanded this partnership in March 2026 by launching the FYI Housing Navigation Demonstration in multiple Oregon communities.

This demonstration uses a braided funding approach to provide grants to CBOs for FYI housing navigation services, with the goal of preventing youth homelessness and strengthening support for young people transitioning out of foster care. These necessary housing navigation services support young people in accessing FYI vouchers administered by local PHAs.

In addition to direct navigation and case management for youth, the demonstration has involved ongoing large-scale coordination between YEHP, Family First and Youth Transitions programs within Child Welfare, Child Welfare contracted Independent Living Programs (ILP), CBOs, PHAs, and local ODHS offices in each community.

Coordinating among all partners has initially focused on streamlining referral processes, establishing shared releases of information to support communication about each youth's case, and designating single points of contact or shared email addresses so every partner understands the referral and voucher workflow. Even in counties with existing FYI voucher usage, low lease-up rates and difficulty maintaining contact with youth underscored the need for a more coordinated local system that supports youth effectively.

County	ODHS Staff	Community Organization	Public Housing Authority	Independent Living Provider
Clackamas	Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency staff	Northwest Family Services	Housing Authority of Clackamas County	Youth Villages

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Columbia	Child Welfare staff	Youth ERA	Northwest Oregon Housing Authority	Tillamook County YMCA
Jackson	Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency staff	Maslow Project	Housing Authority of Jackson County	Hearts with a Mission
Lane	Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency staff	A Family for Every Child	Homes for Good Housing Authority	Looking Glass
Marion	Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency staff	Church at the Park	Salem Housing Authority	Marion Polk Youth Services

Outcomes

Because Marion and Lane counties experienced a slower start, YEHP currently has data from the other three pilot locations as of July 2026. Across those counties, 11 youth were served between March and June 2026. Of these youth, 7 had been approved for a voucher, and 3 subsequently secured stable housing. The remaining 4 youth were either in the process of applying for a voucher or had confirmed eligibility but required additional support prior to submitting a full application.

Targeted Housing Assistance Program (THAP) Demonstration:

Through a financial and support partnership with the Child Welfare Family First and Youth Transitions teams, YEHP has begun implementing the second Targeted Housing Assistance Program (THAP, pronounced “tap”) demonstration in Oregon. Rather than serving youth who are already experiencing homelessness, THAP is designed as a housing stability and homelessness-prevention strategy.

While the first demonstration focused on youth who were not involved in state systems, this second, modified demonstration centers eligibility on youth who qualify for Child Welfare

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contracted ILP services. Eligible youth must be at least 18 and no more than 23 years old, and meet one of the following criteria:

1. Currently in foster care with a planned exit in 180 days or less; or
2. Formerly in foster care and:
    a. Had at least 180 days of substitute care placement after their 13th birthday; and
    b. Were in foster care at age 14 or older.

This pilot began in June 2026, focusing on eligible youth in four ODHS districts:

- District 2 (Multnomah)
- District 4 (Linn, Benton, Lincoln)
- District 13 (Baker, Union, Wallowa)
- District 14 (Umatilla, Morrow)

Eligible youth may receive a one-time, need-based cash payment to stabilize their housing situation. Each participant works with a prevention specialist from the Lead Service Provider—Jackson Street Youth Services (JSYS) —or a local ILP provider to develop a housing stability plan and determine the financial assistance needed to maintain or secure housing and avoid homelessness.

The demonstration launched in June 2026 and consisted of a pre-implementation phase that included coordination with Point Source Youth, a national nonprofit implementing THAP nationwide, and hiring local youth consultants to review and refine program materials before distribution to districts and ILP providers. During this time, processes for cash delivery were established, and YEHP and Family First staff have just begun outreach to ILP and Child Welfare staff, as well as the ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs, to engage youth living in eligible pilot regions.

The demonstration intends to serve up to 60 youth, and is scheduled to conclude in, or around, December 2026. Johns Hopkins is providing data and evaluation for THAP.

Transitional Living Joint Contracting

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YEHP and the Child Welfare Youth Transitions Program continue partnering through joint contracting to expand transitional housing options for young adults ages 18–24, including those currently or formerly in foster care, recently exited from care, or experiencing homelessness. Their joint contracting pilot, funded collaboratively across multiple ODHS programs, supports up to five young adults at a time and provides more stable funding, predictable budgets, and coverage for operating costs. By pooling resources and aligning goals, this partnership strengthens housing stability for vulnerable young adults across systems.

Internal and External Partnerships

Internal

Tribal Engagement

YEHP strengthened its approach to serving Indigenous youth and Tribal communities, who continue to experience disproportionately high rates of housing instability. In 2026, YEHP began foundational work to develop a Strategic Tribal Plan focused on building stronger relationships with Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes through intentional engagement, collaboration, and partnership.

The Strategic Tribal Plan centers Tribal sovereignty, cultural knowledge, and meaningful inclusion of Tribal voices throughout the planning process. YEHP is committed to working alongside Tribal communities to develop culturally responsive, community-driven solutions that improve outcomes for Indigenous youth navigating homelessness and housing instability.

Additionally, YEHP has strengthened its internal capacity by appointing a Tribal Liaison, who works closely with other agency Tribal Liaisons to ensure YEHP's work is guided by Tribal perspectives, culture, and understanding.

Training

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YEHP continues to strengthen awareness around the expansion of its programs—not only by highlighting the growth of YEHP, but by holding the team to a high standard of meaningful, intentional engagement with communities across the state. Ensuring youth are effectively served through local ODHS offices requires a strong foundation of wrap-around services and coordinated support. It is equally important that the broader ODHS workforce has access to accurate information, efficient tools, and clear guidance to confidently connect eligible youth and families with available resources. This collaborative approach enhances the agency's ability to deliver intentional, high-quality services to youth experiencing homelessness across the state.

YEHP remains focused on creating pathways for information-sharing and access, enabling local ODHS staff to make informed decisions and provide the support youth and families need. Over the past year, YEHP has strengthened internal communication channels, improved access to program resources, and expanded opportunities for staff engagement.

External

Program Audits

Upon receiving funding during the 2025 legislative session—and gaining the staff capacity to support this work—YEHP began implementing a plan to review and audit grantee programming. Beginning in November 2025 and continuing through June 2026, YEHP audited 15 organizations in 7 different counties. Audits have two main components: a site visit and a youth focus group.

The site visit consists of YEHP staff meeting in person with program leaders and conducting a walkthrough of relevant facilities. The audit reviews program guidelines, staff training and culture, and administrative and leadership capacities.

The youth focus groups represent a vital form of program engagement and a space for YEHP staff to learn about how program actions and decisions are seen by the youth themselves. YEHP values the input of youth with lived experience, and the youth focus groups are facilitated by members of the YEHP YAB.

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As a result of these audits, YEHP is developing additional training, providing resources for grantees in the form of guidebooks, and prioritizing common issues faced by many providers.

Civic Roundtable

Civic Roundtable is a government operations platform designed to connect public servants and simplify collaboration with both internal teams and external partners. In response to multiple YEHP partners' requests for strengthened communication and to promote more meaningful engagement, YEHP partnered with Civic Roundtable after the platform was awarded a *Strengthening Coordination, Communication, and Data Sharing* grant from the Raikes Foundation. This grant supports an Oregon pilot implementation of the platform at no cost to YEHP and with no staffing impact or commitment beyond the pilot period.

Through this partnership, YEHP and Civic Roundtable are implementing a secure, shared digital collaboration space designed to improve statewide coordination, data communication, and information management. The platform will enable real-time communication updates, collaborative workspaces, and simplified access to resources for YEHP partners.

A YEHP-specific platform was officially created in July 2026, with additional partner onboarding and communication activities beginning August 2026.

Conclusion

The 2025–2027 biennium has been a period of continued progress, stabilization, and evolution for YEHP. Unlike the uncertainty that defined the previous biennium, this year brought the first commitment of permanent funding for YEHP in more than a decade, marking a critical turning point for the program and the statewide system that supports youth experiencing homelessness. At the same time, YEHP continued to operate within a tight fiscal landscape shaped by federal shifts, narrowed NOFO timelines, and evolving grant requirements that created real challenges for providers across Oregon.

Despite these pressures, YEHP advanced its mission through strengthened system coordination, youth-driven leadership, and targeted support initiatives. The program

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sustained core services through $18.3 million in grant investments, maintained provider continuity to protect local service capacity, and adapted to federal uncertainties affecting RHYA, SSBG, and FYI voucher administration. YEHP also deepened partnerships with ODHS Child Welfare through multiple efforts that kick started YEHP's involvement in homelessness prevention and collectively expanded housing stabilization options for youth transitioning from care or facing housing insecurity.

Youth leadership remained central to this progress. The YAB broadened its statewide representation, strengthened partnerships with providers and agencies, supported YEHP training and outreach efforts, and advanced statutory recommendations to elevate lived experience within the YEHAC. Their work contributed to more authentic youth engagement and helped shape a more responsive and equitable statewide system.

With sustained legislative support and continued collaboration across agencies, providers, and communities, YEHP is well-positioned to advance a more youth-centered, stable, and accessible homelessness response system—one that ensures Oregon's young people have better pathways to safety, housing stability, and long-term well-being.

Success Stories

Outreach & Drop-In:

I have been helped so much from 15th Night when I was homeless, and now I can help other youth which is really amazing. Truly, I didn't know there could be such lovely people who were willing to just be there and hear you out. These people have really helped me grow along the way.

- *Youth at 15th Night (via program audit)*

[We] first connected with D just before the start of his senior year. He had become unhoused at what should have been one of the most exciting times of his young life. Yet, despite this traumatic upheaval, D radiated a positivity and determination that was nothing short of inspiring. He had a plan: get a car, keep his job, graduate, and join the military. His unwavering optimism was so bright that our outreach team nicknamed him D the Light.

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D was determined to figure things out on his own. Then halfway through the school year, D vanished. His doubled-up housing situation had fallen apart, and to survive, he had made the painful decision to stop attending school to focus on work. It was our established Street Outreach relationship that ultimately brought D back into contact with our team.

Sitting with D, the case manager learned the full weight of his struggle: a grueling commute from Grants Pass to school in Cave Junction and no working phone to contact anyone. With communication re-established, D was once again connected to the people and resources that wanted to see him succeed. Through the final weeks of school, D rallied, completed all his work, and walked across the stage to receive his diploma. D's story is a powerful example of what is possible when a youth's fierce resilience is met with timely, tangible support. His drive was immense, but when circumstances overwhelmed him, Maslow Project was not just a safety net, but an active partner. That first outreach connection built the trust necessary for him to accept help when he needed it most.

- *Maslow Project*

Shelter:

They kept me and my son off the streets, and I know they are going to continue to do so. I don't know where I would be without them.

- *Youth at Integral Youth Services (via program audit)*

One highlight was the successful housing placement of several youth who secured permanent housing despite significant barriers related to housing availability and affordability. During the fiscal year, six participants exited to permanent housing destinations, including one young parent who secured housing with ongoing rental assistance. These outcomes reflect the persistence of participants and the value of consistent case management, housing navigation, and community partnerships.

- *Clatsop Community Action*

Transitional Living Program:

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I was in a dark situation, all I needed was someone to give me a chance, and I got a call from the program [DevNW] and they told me same day that I was getting an apartment. Everything got ten times better, they let me be very independent, and I'm very thankful.

- *Youth at DevNW (via program audit)*

A youth was referred to our program by her college's Basic Needs Hub…because she was couch surfing between a couple of friends after she moved out of her school's student housing because she could not afford it. She was in our program for a little over a year, during which time she was able to receive individualized case management that helped her build the skills she needed to manage living in her own apartment for the first time, get stable employment, earn 25 college credits, and increase her cumulative GPA by .14. The stability of our program allowed her to gain the positive rental history and income needed to make [a] new life sustainable for her family. [S]he was able to make meaningful progress toward a degree, stabilize her housing situation, gain employment, and establish the skills and support network she needed to move into an unsubsidized private market rent.

- *College Housing Northwest*

Host Homes:

This program is super essential and vital. I've seen what it looks like for kids who aren't in programs like this and those who are. Kids who are in this program, we are in a better place because of working with them.

- YEHP Focus Group Participant

One of the youth in our Host Home Program had an incredible year. He graduated from high school with a 3.8 GPA while balancing school, extracurricular activities, and a part-time job. He has continued working throughout the summer to save money for college and will be pursuing a degree in Fire Science this fall. He also enrolled in college support programs to help make the transition to higher education as successful as possible. Watching his confidence grow over the past year has been rewarding, and his success shows what can happen when young people have stable housing, caring adults, and the support they need to reach their goals.

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- *Alternative Youth Activities*

Culturally-Specific Services:

It has been a joy to watch A thrive in our program. After a period of intense change -- they became homeless after their twin sister was deployed. Since A began working with [us], they have developed a wonderful, productive working relationship with their case manager, started a business plan, and moved into their own apartment. A was one of the clients that traveled with us to Houston for the Historically Black College Tour. They have since completed their GED & are enrolling in our local community college to pursue their passion for fashion. Their case manager reports that, during a recent meeting, A "talked about how lucky they are and how much [the apartment] means to them." We can't wait to see what they'll do next!

- *Outside In*

Direct Cash Transfer (DCT+):

[DCT] has helped me with stress about my bills and continuing to have a stable home

- Youth enrolled in DCT+

This program has helped us get into an apartment without struggle and I've been able to fix some health issues with the money I've been getting.

- *Youth enrolled in DCT+*

I love DCT Oregon thanks for transforming my life!

- *Youth enrolled in DCT+*

[DCT} has given me an income so I can actually obtain housing

- *Youth enrolled in DCT+*

Tuition and Fee Waivers:

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“I want to thank you again for your help with registering me for the [Tuition and Fee Waiver] program. I’m excited to share that I’m currently maintaining an “A” average in both of my property management classes and am hoping to secure an internship by winter to apply what I’ve learned in a real-world setting. Your organization’s…support has given me access to academic opportunities I wouldn’t have been able to afford on my own, and I’m truly grateful for that.”

- *Tuition and Fee Waiver recipient*

"The tuition and fee waiver program means opportunity. It is an opportunity to pursue a meaningful future and a career that I never thought possible for myself or others like me. For a long time, I believed I wasn't able or worthy enough to get the chance to pursue higher education. This program changes that. It grants youth who have been disproportionately disadvantaged a genuine chance to break the cycle. By providing access to stability and opportunity, it represents an investment in my future and a validation that my abilities and potential are not limited by my circumstances."

- *Tuition and Fee Waiver recipient*

"I have recently informed my college of my eligibility regarding the Tuition and Fee Waiver. I am genuinely excited to learn how this will unfold. I wish you the utmost best for helping me through this. I do think I never would have gotten this far in this process without the help of you and the handful of individuals that did what they did best and proved themselves amazing people."

- *Tuition and Fee Waiver recipient*

"I just wanted to say I am still currently in honor roll! I care so much about my education. This is my second term completed and starting spring term in a week! I am so privileged to have this opportunity and am very thankful every day."

- *Tuition and Fee Waiver recipient*

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