Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program
Youth Action Board Quarterly Report

YEHP
YAB

Quarter 2, 2026 | April 1st – June 30th

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Executive summary

Working alongside the ODHS Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP), the YEHP Youth Action Board (YAB) plays a vital role in amplifying youth voices, bridging the gap between youth and service providers and advancing initiatives that support young people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness across Oregon. Established in 2023, the YEHP YAB is a group of youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness working to create meaningful change for youth experiencing homelessness in Oregon through advising ODHS and partners on the priorities and needs of youth with lived experience. The YAB is currently staffed by a full-time Strategic Youth Engagement Coordinator (SYEC). This report serves as a high-level overview of the YEHP YAB's accomplishments, recommendations, and work in Q2.

Membership

YAB membership remains at 9 actively engaged youth with no shifts occurring this quarter. The current age range of YAB members is 17 to 24 years old. Youth currently reside in seven counties across Oregon: Multnomah, Linn, Lane, Coos, Jackson, Deschutes, and Crook Counties.

Activities and engagement

Meetings

There were seven regular board meetings with an average of 81% of members in attendance. Regular board meetings are a place for the YAB and SYEC to share updates, collaborate, discuss ODHS priorities, and more. Typically, regular board meetings alternate between staff led and youth led. In Q2, however, YAB members took initiative to lead all but one meeting.

Presentations and trainings

YAB members facilitated five presentations, including an introduction to the YAB, adultism, tuition and fee waivers and supporting 2SLGBTQIA2+ youth experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, the YAB was invited to attend two Oregon Alliance Youth Experiencing Homelessness Affinity Group meetings to talk about their work and inform group members about tuition and fee waivers for youth experiencing homelessness. The YAB has been invited to future meetings to provide additional training.

Partnerships

The YAB advanced work with existing partners, including collaborating with Maslow Project on the Youth Leadership Curriculum, supporting the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Advisory Committee (YEHAC) through committee participation, contributing to Oregon Direct Cash Transfers Plus (DCT+) provider meetings, and working with ODHS social media.

Key projects

YEHP YAB newsletter

The YEHP YAB newsletter continues to be a highlight of the YAB's work. In April, the special edition 5th issue was published. In it, YAB members highlighted their ongoing collaboration with community partners and their visit to Salem, Oregon. They also shared legislative resources, encouraging readers to engage themselves in the legislative process as citizens. The 6th issue, published in June, highlighted resources for hot weather, utility assistance, and more. The YAB Newsletter now has 94 subscribers, gained through YAB members promoting the project to peers, community members, and audiences at their presentations.

YEHP audit focus groups

YAB members work with the YEHP Community and Partner Support Analyst on audits to facilitate conversations with youth receiving services from YEHP grantees to learn about their experiences with programming, staff and more. Youth-led spaces encourage open and honest communication from clients, fostering a safe space for youth to contribute meaningful feedback towards improving service delivery. In addition, facilitating focus groups provides YAB members with a low-risk, high reward environment to develop their leadership skills alongside YEHP staff. The YAB facilitated 4 focus groups in Q2.

Youth recommendations

The YAB recommended establishing connections with local Continuums of Care (CoCs), service providers and data experts to develop strategies to capture more accurate data in Point in Time (PIT) counts. This recommendation stems from discussions regarding the 2025 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR).

Further, several YAB members recommended the development of a youth-led training to support service providers with fostering self-advocacy skills in young people experiencing homelessness. This training will build upon the YAB's existing "Adultism in Social Services" training, giving participants the tools to set youth up for long-term success.

Impact

In Q2, YAB members contributed approximately 180 hours towards meetings, presentations, training, and projects. In addition to summer schedule changes, several YAB members faced personal hardships which prevented them from being able to participate in YAB work as much as they hoped. Despite some being unable to take on additional projects outside of scheduled meetings, a couple of members increased their commitment to additional projects. Collectively, they began developing a new training, provided YEHP with feedback on a potential internship program, spoke to youth about their experiences with YEHP grantees and more.

Success stories

YAB achievements extend beyond collective progress. Authentic youth engagement means highlighting the successes that young people experience throughout their involvement.

As an update from a success story highlighted in the Q1 2026 report, the YAB member who was approaching their move-in date in an apartment has settled into their new place and is enjoying the benefits of stable housing in a safe community. They registered for college courses for the upcoming fall term and enrolled in Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) benefits through the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to help with housing costs. After moving to a new city, the youth has been able to facilitate networking opportunities, immersing themselves in community resources, beginning the process of volunteering with a local community partner.

One YAB member, who discovered the YEHP YAB through her case manager at Jackson Street Youth Services, had her story highlighted in their Youth Rising annual fundraising event. A couple of YEHP's staff attended the event in Albany to show their support. From this event, this YAB member connected with additional resources that led to her attaining stable housing through Jackson Street's transitional living program. They are now stable, connected to their community and exploring higher education opportunities in the public services realm.

Another YAB member and their spouse are excited to be expecting a child in the next few months. In anticipation of this new chapter in their life, the YEHP YAB member is working with the SYEC for resource navigation for pregnant and parenting youth and has taken steps to pursue higher education utilizing the Tuition and Fee Waiver.

Upcoming priorities

In Q3 and beyond, the YEHP YAB intends to work on several focus areas including strengthening collaborations with new and existing partners, expanding the ways they can improve upon service delivery, and informing a YEHP internship program.

Specifically, the YAB hopes to:

- Continue working with ODHS social media to educate the public about the realities faced by youth experiencing homelessness;
- Establish partnerships with local organizations doing direct work with young people;
- Broadening the YAB's scope of work via skill building, taking advantage of leadership opportunities and developing educational materials for partners;
- Provide consultation to YEHP throughout the process of building an internship program for young adults with lived experience; and,
- Maintain progress towards YAB members' personal and professional development, utilizing these skills in a real-world setting to positively impact Oregonians.