



# Rental Assistance for Youth (RAY)

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From Homeless to Hopeful

Presenter

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**(she/her)**

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# Improving lives of Oregonians

## OREGON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CONTINUUM

### HOUSING STABILIZATION



### AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING



### HOMEOWNERSHIP



### EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE

#### CORE PROGRAMS

- Energy Bill Pay Assistance
- Weatherization Programs
- IDA (Asset Building)
- Emergency Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Rental Housing Fund (Rental Assistance)

#### CORE PROGRAMS

- 9% AND 4% LIHTC
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- LIFT Rental
- Gap Funding
- Oregon Multifamily Energy Program
- Agriculture Worker Housing

#### CORE PROGRAMS

- Home Ownership Assistance Program (HOAP)
- Down Payment Assistance
- Oregon Bonds Residential Loan Program
- Oregon Homeownership Stabilization Initiative
- LIFT Homeownership

[Read more  
about  
Oregon's  
Statewide  
Housing Plan](#)

## STATEWIDE HOUSING PLAN PRIORITIES

**Equity and Racial Justice** – Advance equity and racial justice by identifying and addressing institutional and systemic barriers that have created and perpetuated patterns of disparity in housing and economic prosperity.

**Homelessness** – Build a coordinated and concerted statewide effort to prevent and end homelessness, with a focus on ending unsheltered homelessness of Oregon's children and veterans.

**Permanent Supportive Housing** – Invest in permanent supportive housing, a proven strategy to reduce chronic homelessness and reduce barriers to housing stability.

**Affordable Rental Housing** – Work to close the affordable rental housing gap and reduce housing cost burden for low-income Oregonians.

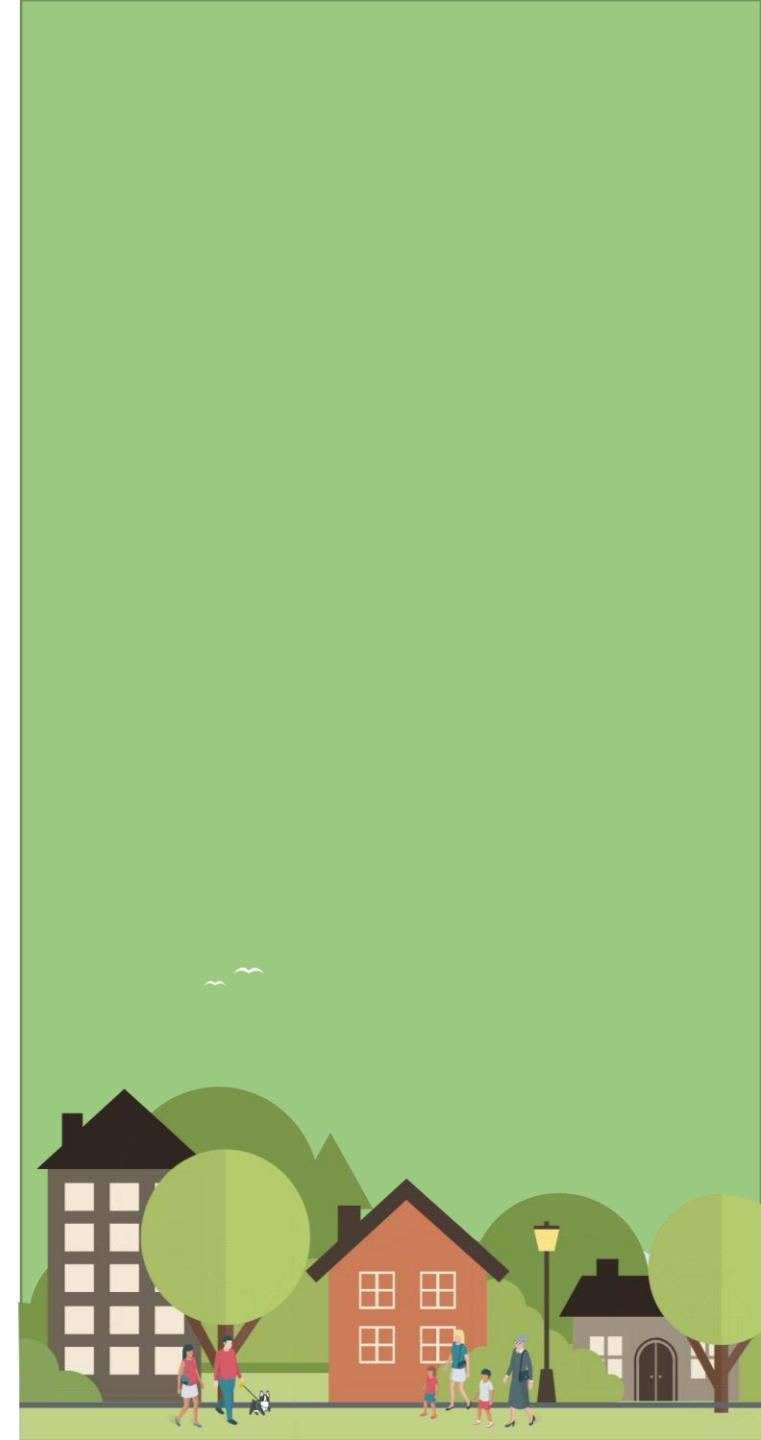
**Homeownership** – Expand homeownership for low- and moderate income Oregonians with the tools to successfully achieve and maintain homeownership, particularly in communities of color.

**Rural Communities** – Change the way OHCS does business in small towns and rural communities to be responsive to the unique housing and service needs and unlock the opportunities for housing development.

# House Bill 2163

invests \$4.5 million to support individuals younger than 25-years-old and are transitioning out of:

- foster care
- homelessness
- behavioral health or treatment facilities
- corrections or detention facility



# Legislative requirements

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Operate program in one urban, one rural, and one coastal area



Data collection on program



Report outcomes to the Oregon Housing Stability Council (by 9/2022 & 9/2023)



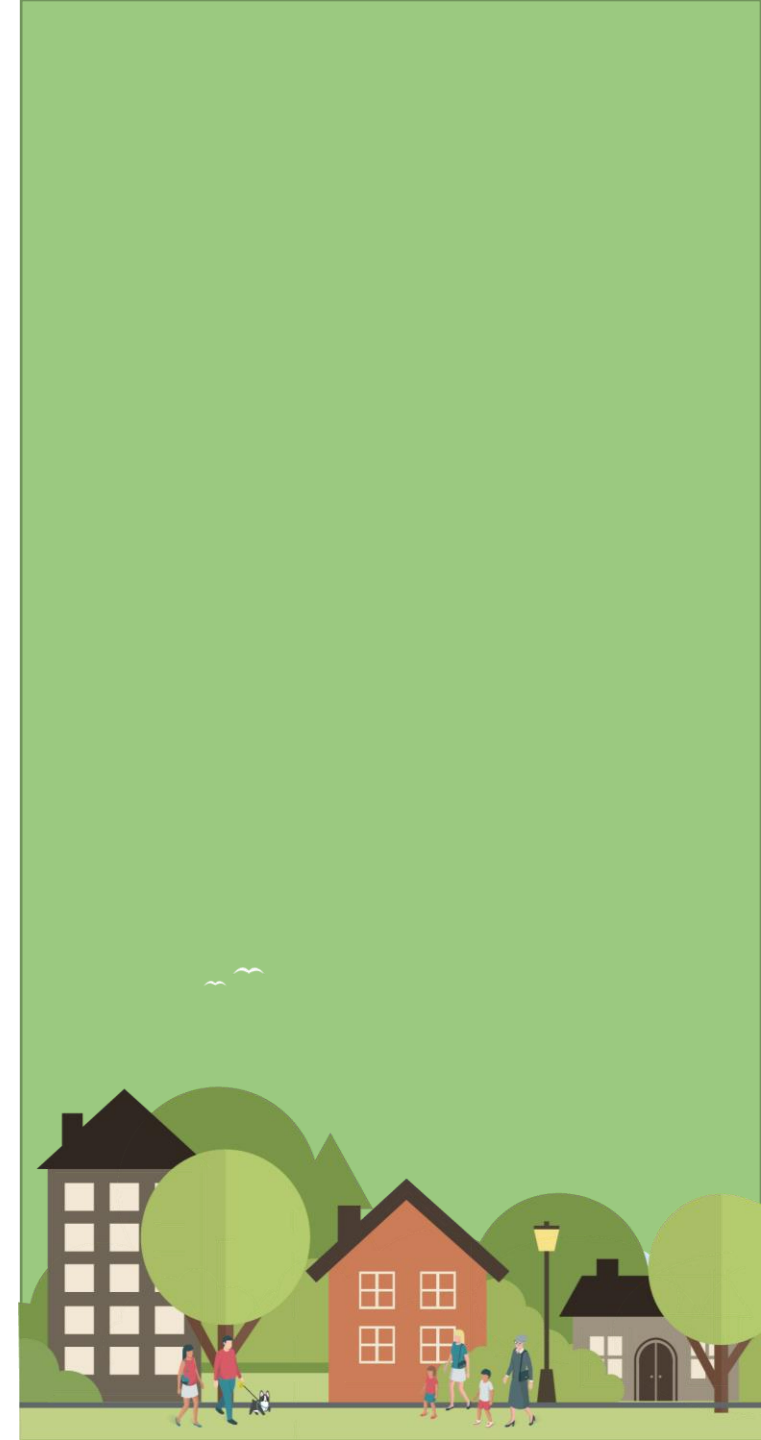
# Looking at the Research

Historically, research has focused on deviance and barriers to recovery

3.5 million unhoused youth in the U.S.

Less visible than other demographics due to “couch surfing” and “sleeping rough”

Individual resilience, when developed and encouraged, increases recovery from homelessness.



# RACIAL JUSTICE LENS



More than 75% of youth in Oregon Youth Authority system have diagnosed mental disorders



13% of youth interacting with the Oregon Youth Authority system are Black/African American

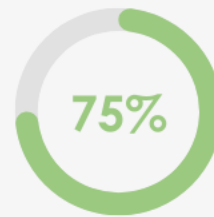


4.9% of youth in the Oregon foster care system are American Indian/Alaska Native

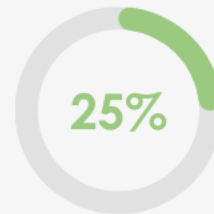
Nationally, LGBTQ+ youth make up roughly 40% of the homeless youth population and 7% of the general youth population



## LGBTQ+ HOMELESS YOUTH FOCUS GROUP



75% of homeless youth that participated identified as LGBTQIA+



25% of participants identified as Latino/a/x



# Northwest Oregon Housing Authority

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- Goal: Up to 15 independent youth in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties
- Using existing infrastructure that was strengthened by HUDs Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program
- Leverage community based systems and expertise
- Three (3) service providers:
  - Clatsop Community Action
  - Columbia Action Team
  - CARE, Inc.

# Housing Authority of Washington County

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- Goal: 40 independent youth
- Modeled on existing SHS Rent Assistance Program
  - Pairs tailored services with long term rent assistance
  - Utilizes extensive homeless referral system
  - Extremely flexible admissions criteria and higher assistance limits
- Two service providers: Homeplate and Boys & Girls Club
- Strategies to engage underserved communities



# Project timeline



# References

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