

Introducing QUEST:

A treatment foster care program for young people in Oregon who identify as LGBTQIA+



Problem: Queer-identified youth are disproportionately represented in the child welfare and juvenile justice system. They have heightened stress and mental health needs, higher suicidal ideation, and increased instances of substance use. Our system lacks options that meet the unique needs of these youth.

Solution: Oregon Community Programs is excited to announce a first-of-its-kind program for foster youth in Oregon: QUEST - Queer, Unity, Equity, Safety, and Trust. QUEST is an individualized application of Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCO) that focuses on the unique needs and values of LGBTQIA+ youth and their communities.

How: Qualifying youth live in treatment foster homes specially recruited and trained to provide affirming treatment.

Foster parents participate in ongoing services which focus on coaching and training to maximize youth success.

Involvement of the youth's family or other long-term resource begins from the first day, and is designed to meet the individual needs of the youth and their family or chosen family. **Youth and foster parents have access to 24/7 on-call support from a mental health professional.**

QUEST is designed to help:

- young people successfully live in a community setting
- strengthen familial relationships
- increase access to mental healthcare that affirms their identities
- build positive life skills
- increase confidence in navigating systemic oppression

Youth Receive:

- individual therapy
- family therapy
- skills training
- case management
- service coordination
- access to pro-social activities that align with their identities

Why TFCO?

Multiple studies have shown that youth in general who receive TFCO have reduced depression, reduced depression, increased positive school engagement, fewer court convictions, decreased substance use, fewer future residential placements, increased attachment to adults, and an increase in resilience. Involvement in OCP's new specialized treatment foster care program for LGBTQIA+ youth raises those successes to the next level. QUEST will respond to their needs in an affirming and supportive manner that honors the unique identities and values of the youth.