



*(Art created by Youth Executive Committee member, Miya Longworth)*

# Coordinated Community Plan

To Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

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Lane County  
2022

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## Acknowledgements

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Additionally, we are grateful to each of the agencies and organizations who have stepped into conversations, brainstorming sessions, system modeling, and planning meetings to help make ideas come to life. It has been powerful to see so many individuals come to the table to create a plan to end youth homelessness in our community. We could not have done this work without our Technical Assistance providers, who provided various training and helped guide the path here.

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Connected Lane County  
DevNW  
Hosea Youth Services

Lane County Youth Services  
Looking Glass  
Ophelia's Place  
Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare  
Oregon Department of Human Services Self Sufficiency  
PacificSource Health Plans  
PeaceHealth  
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South Lane Public School District  
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St. Vincent de Paul

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4J Public School District  
Bethel Public School District  
Connected Lane County  
Lane Community College  
Springfield School District  
South Lane School District  
University of Oregon

### Core Team

Youth Executive Committee  
15th Night  
Looking Glass  
Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare

### Additional Partner Agencies

A Family for Every Child  
City of Eugene  
City of Eugene Chamber of Commerce

**Additional Partner Agencies Cont.**

City of Eugene Public Library  
City of Springfield Public Library  
Community Outreach through Radical Empowerment (CORE)  
Direction Service  
Eugene Police Department  
First United Methodist Church  
Junior League of Eugene  
Pearl Buck Center  
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## Definitions

The target population(s) this Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) will address include:

**Minors:** youth under the age of 18 who are unaccompanied, or not in the physical custody of parents or guardians.

**Young Adults:** youth ages 18 to 24 who are unaccompanied.

The acronym **YYA** (Youth and Young Adults) is used throughout this document to reference both populations.

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Projects follow criteria for defining homelessness as outlined by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Criteria is as follows:

### **Category 1: Literally Homeless**

Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- 1.1. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- 1.2. Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
- 1.3. Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

### **Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness<sup>1</sup>**

Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

- 2.1. Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
- 2.2. No subsequent residence has been identified; and
- 2.3. The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing

**Category 3: Homeless under other Federal statutes:** Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

- 3.1. Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes;
- 3.2. Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application;
- 3.3. Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the preceding 60 days; and
- 3.4. Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers

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<sup>1</sup> Students who meet the McKinney-Vento definition on page 16 can also qualify as homeless under HUD's definition in category 2 and 4

**Category 4: Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV**

Any individual or family who:

- 4.1. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
- 4.2. Has no other residence; and
- 4.3. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

## Mission & Vision

**Lane County Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup believes that a world without youth and young adult housing instability or homelessness is possible if communities work together to listen to and lift up young leaders' voices, ideas, and experiences. We recognize and honor that every youth and young adult is unique, valuable and an important asset to our community. We firmly believe youth voices should be celebrated with love and solidarity as the experts of their own experiences.**

**Nothing about us without us!**

### Vision

Lane County envisions a community where our response to youth and young adult (YYA) housing instability or homelessness (HIOH) will be swift and accessible. All youth in our community will be aware of available services before housing instability occurs, and will have the support they need to successfully complete a K-12 education and post-secondary training so they may obtain employment that, at a minimum, provides a living wage and the foundation for the advancement of their choosing. Educators, community members and stakeholders will be coordinated and accessible, and will have a thorough understanding of the resources available for any specific youth in need before a housing crisis occurs.

Understanding that no two YYA experiencing HIOH are the same, our programs are individualized and inclusive of particularly at-risk populations including:

- Pregnant and parenting youth
- Youth involved in the criminal justice system
- Youth aging out of the foster care system
- Youth experiencing physical and mental health challenges
- Youth with different abilities including intellectual and developmental
- Survivors of human trafficking and exploitation
- Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)
- LGBTQIA+ youth
- Immigrant youth
- Linguistically diverse youth
- Youth living in rural communities
- Youth from different socioeconomic backgrounds
- And minors under the age of 18

Our vision incorporates a variety of services to address YYA HIOH and includes expanding the definition of homelessness so that resources are available for youth who are couch surfing, doubled up, attempting to leave domestic violence situations, or at imminent risk of homelessness. All youth that utilize our resources are treated equitably and with dignity and respect.

**We envision a community where all programs will be strengths-based, trauma informed and come from a place where positive youth development is at the forefront of community partners' agendas.**

## A Letter from Youth Leaders

The Lane County Youth Executive Committee has reviewed this Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) and eagerly approves of it to our funders, current partnerships, and future community partners.

The path we took to get here was tiring but well worth it. Enlightenment-era philosopher Voltaire once wrote “Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without,” we believe that through collaborative problem solving and extensive conversations on allocating these funds, we have created a diamond for our community. Ensuring equity and strategic partnerships are at the foundation of our work, we believe this CCP will support youth in need and help us achieve our vision of swift and accessible housing options and homeless prevention programs in Lane County.

Our shared vision is to create supportive and safe environments for the youth in Lane County to not only grow but thrive. As youth leaders, we believe that our voices have had a tremendous impact shaping the inception and execution of our community’s plan. This process has broadened our perspectives on youth homelessness by giving us the opportunity to reflect on and lift up our individual as well as shared experiences. Community partners have held space to garner a deeper understanding of what it is truly like living as a youth experiencing housing instability and homelessness. We are passionate and driven to see this plan through and will continue to learn, grow, and experiment with this process to ensure solutions are tailored to the specific needs of young people like us in our community.

Ultimately, we are proud of this work. We appreciate having a seat at the table and being collaborators in this process. We are excited to see the result and know that these funds will have an amazing impact on our community. We have reached the end of the conception phase of this project and are ready to move forward to see how far it takes us. Our guiding principle will continue to be the words of Roman philosopher Marcus Aurelius, “Waste no more time arguing about what a good [person] should be. Be one.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and grant these funds to our community. Despite best intentions, youth voices have historically been marginalized and ignored in these conversations and because of our intimate involvement in this process, we feel like this Coordinated Community Plan is truly representative of our needs. The Youth Executive Committee endorses this plan and can’t wait to see the effect it will have on our community. We fully believe you will see great things come from Lane County.

Sincerely and passionately,

Lane County Youth Executive Committee



## Statement of Need

### Data Sources Overview

Lane County spans 4,722 square miles spanning the Oregon Coast to Cascade Mountains. The county encompasses 12 cities which include Coburg, Cottage Grove, Creswell, Dunes City, Eugene, Florence, Junction City, Lowell, Oakridge, Springfield, Veneta, and West Fir. Sixty-one percent of the population in Lane County reside in the Cities of Eugene and Springfield, where most service providers are located.

In recent years, Lane County has devoted resources to better understand the scope of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in our community. In January of 2019, Lane County conducted the first youth-specific Point-In-Time (PIT) Count and in March released a Lane County Youth Homeless Needs Assessment<sup>2</sup> (YHNA). The YHNA reflected a year's work from February 2018 to March 2019 and included data collected from the Oregon Department of Education, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Department of Human Services Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice programs, the 15th Night (43 local providers), U.S. Census Data, Eugene Public Library Teen Center records, nationwide research, and other regional data. Information found below is a reflection of what can be found in the YHNA, with updated data to include years 2019 to 2021.

Dedicated YHDP funding from HUD will assist in addressing the needs identified in the following section.

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<sup>2</sup>[https://p1cdn4static.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_3585797/File/HSD/FINAL%20Youth%20Homeless%20Needs%20Assessment%202019.pdf](https://p1cdn4static.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3585797/File/HSD/FINAL%20Youth%20Homeless%20Needs%20Assessment%202019.pdf)

## Scope of Youth Homelessness in Lane County

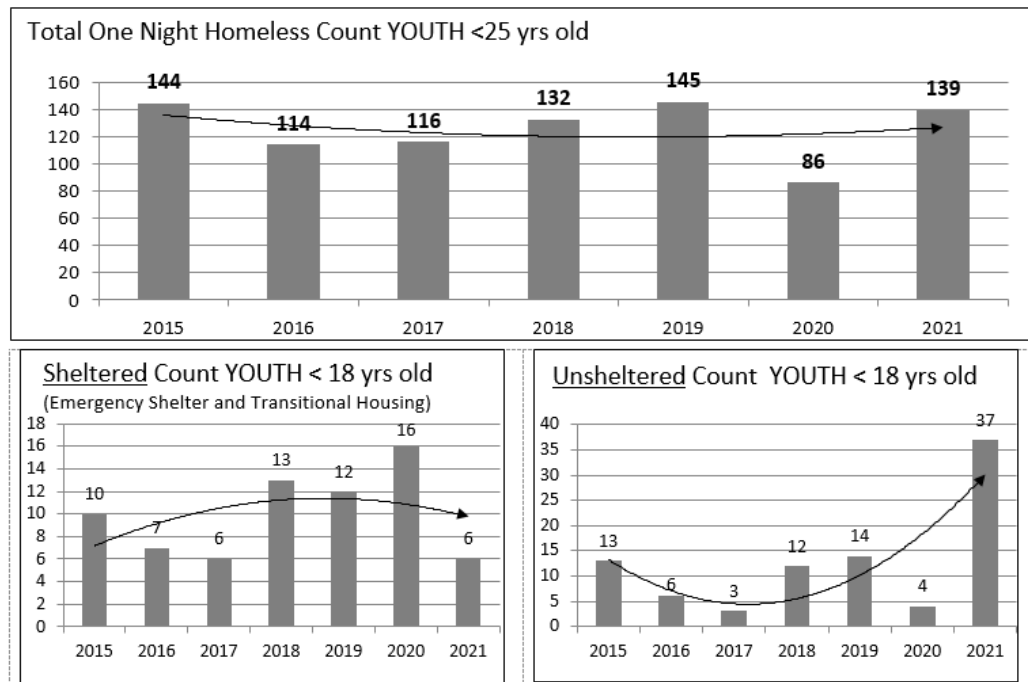
In 2020, HUD released the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), a document intended to share a picture of the state of homelessness in the United States, and the nation's capacity to serve people who are currently or formerly experiencing homelessness<sup>3</sup>. The AHAR ranks Oregon as one of the states with the highest rates of homelessness, reporting 35 people per 10,000, and third in the percentage of people experiencing homelessness who were unsheltered at 61%. At the local level, Eugene, Springfield/Lane County CoC was reported to have one of the largest numbers of people experiencing homelessness amongst largely urban CoCs in the United States.

Based on data collected in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), we estimate that there are at least 823 unaccompanied YYA experiencing homelessness, 1,486 unaccompanied YYA at-risk of homelessness, 243 pregnant or parenting YYA experiencing homelessness, and 133 pregnant or parenting YYA at-risk of homelessness.

## PIT Count

The 2019 PIT Count identified a total of 2,165 persons experiencing homelessness in Lane County; of those, 145 were unaccompanied youth under 18 and transition-age youth (TAY).<sup>4</sup> Preliminary data from the 2021 PIT Count reflects a slight decrease in the overall number of YYA under 25 experiencing homelessness at 139 YYA. There is also a drastic increase in the number of unaccompanied, unsheltered minors from 4 in 2019 to 37 in 2021.

2021 Lane County Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Youth data

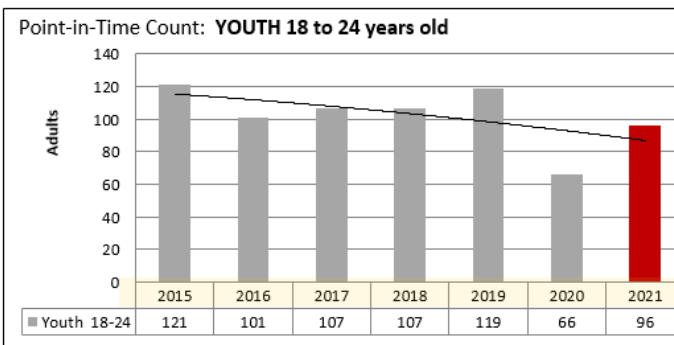
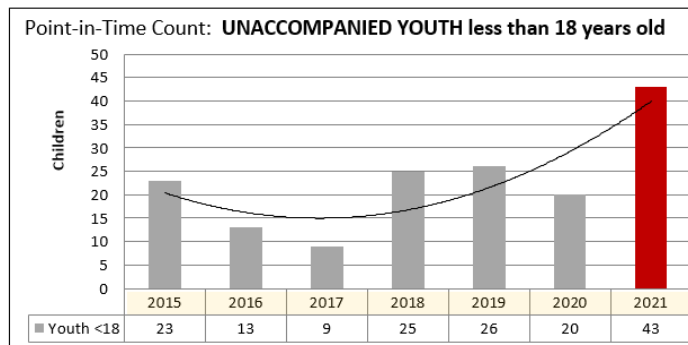


<sup>3</sup> <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/47953/Point-in-Time-Count-2019-Full-Report#:~:text=The%202019%20PIT%20Count%20saw,1%2C999%20were%20over%20age%2018.>

Additionally, the total number of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 identified in the PIT count almost doubled from 2019 to 2021, while the number of TAY decreased by 23 in the same time frame.

2021 Lane County Point-In-Time Count



### HMIS & Coordinated Entry Data

A total of 823 YYA experienced homelessness in calendar year 2021, according to HMIS. This number is determined by YYA who, at the time of project entry, are homeless. There were an additional 70 youth who HMIS reported as having unknown situations at the time of project entry, and are not included in the overall number for this reason. In HMIS, there are no specific data points that identify YYA at-risk of homelessness. However, there is data collected on the number of unaccompanied youth seeking service programs in Lane County who, at time of entry, were housed. That number totals 1,486. We can assume these youth are at-risk of homelessness based on the fact that they are still seeking services. It is important to note that the HMIS in Lane County, in addition to collecting data for programs serving individuals experiencing homelessness such as Shelter, Outreach, Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing, also collects client-level data for a multitude of anti-poverty programs including food pantries, community service centers, homelessness prevention and rent assistance programs.

Lane County's Coordinated Entry collects data that includes risk factors and vulnerability of unhoused individuals. In 2021, 126 unaccompanied YYA completed a Coordinated Entry assessment.<sup>5</sup> Of those, 71% reported that their current episode of homelessness was caused by a relationship that broke down, an unhealthy or abusive relationship, or because family or friends caused them to be evicted. Once homeless, many of these YYA experienced added trauma; 47% reported that they have been attacked or beaten up since becoming homeless and 45% reported that they have threatened or tried to harm themselves or someone else in the last year. This data reflects what we already know; youth and young adults are especially vulnerable when experiencing housing instability or homelessness. Lane County must have a swift and accessible response to youth homelessness to prevent youth and young adults from experiencing these vulnerabilities and trauma.

### Pregnant and Parenting Youth

Lane County recognizes that pregnant and parenting YYA are an important and particularly vulnerable population. There is national evidence to show that pregnancy and parenthood are common among youth experiencing homelessness. The Voices of Youth Count found that 44% of female-identified and

<sup>5</sup> Lane County VI-SPDAT and FSPDAT for Youth

18% of male-identified YYA ages 18 to 25 experiencing homelessness reported being pregnant or a parent. In the same findings, 10% of female-identified and 3% of male-identified youth ages 13-17 reported being pregnant or parenting.<sup>6</sup>

Lane County HMIS data from 2021 shows 8 parenting youth under the age of 18 that are heads of household. This means that they are young parents accessing the homeless service system accompanied by their children.

Additionally, HMIS captured 235 parenting YYA ages 18-24, totaling 243 pregnant and parenting YYA. These data are not reflective of the number of parenting youth whose children are not staying with them as that is not tracked in HMIS.

Parenting Youth CY2021				
	Total Parenting Youth	Total Children of Parenting Youth	Total Persons	Total Households
Parenting youth < 18	8	6	16	6
Parenting youth 18-24	235	239	482	165

Additional data from Coordinated Entry show that out of 126 YYA who completed an assessment in 2021, 10 (7.9%) female identifying youth reported being pregnant at the time of the assessment.

Pregnant and parenting youth require additional services and support tailored to meet their needs. They may have little to no experience living on their own, feel unprepared for the responsibilities of parenthood, and be working through challenges associated with adolescence and early adulthood. Other barriers specific to parenting youth include lack of childcare, leaving them vulnerable to dropping out of school or being unable to pursue employment.

At the moment, there are no systems set up to identify the number of YYA unaccompanied, pregnant and parenting at-risk of homelessness. However we can defer to HMIS data that show 48 unaccompanied pregnant and parenting YYA who accessed Homeless Prevention funds in 2021; 2 of which were ages 12-17, and 46 were 18-24. Similarly, 85 pregnant and parenting unaccompanied YYA accessed Covid Rent Relief, all of whom were 18-24. These data points reflect that 133 pregnant and parenting YYA are at-risk of homelessness in Lane County.

To gather a better picture, with the understanding that data are not deduplicated across systems, we can look to other data sources. In 2021, the Oregon Health Authority reported that 3,158 women gave birth in Lane County; of those 22 were ages 10 to 17, and 64 were ages 18 to 19.<sup>7</sup> There is not enough data to reflect how many of these new mothers are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. However, based on national studies we know that pregnancy and parenting are significant risk factors amongst YYA and can assume that the 86 new mothers are all at risk of homelessness.

<sup>6</sup> <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/pregnant-and-parenting-youth-experiencing-homelessness/#glossary>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/VITALSTATISTICS/BIRTH/Documents/2021/birthage21.pdf>

We can also look at data on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to gather insight on the needs of YYA living in low income households who may be at risk of homelessness.

TANF Households					
	Cottage Grove	Eugene	Florence	Springfield	Total
Age 16-17	8	46	3	28	85
Age 18-24	9	51	3	42	105

In Lane County, there are 190 youth and young adults ages 16 to 23 who are receiving TANF benefits. The chart above is not limited to youth receiving TANF as head of household. According to Oregon Department of Human Services District 5, there are 46 of these youth who are listed at head of household on their own TANF. Although some of these youth may not be experiencing homelessness right now, they are experiencing intense poverty, a significant risk factor that could easily lead to an episode of homelessness.

There is a lack of youth-specific pregnant and parenting shelters available in Lane County. There are shelters and medium to long term housing programs that pregnant or parenting youth can access, but there are limited beds and the facilities and staff are not always equipped to fully support a parent and child. Additionally, the shelters and housing programs that serve youth and families are mostly located in the Eugene/Springfield region, creating a large barrier for pregnant and parenting youth living in rural areas.

### 15th Night Rapid Access Network

The 15th Night Rapid Access Network (RAN) connects unaccompanied youth attending secondary school in Eugene and Springfield with over 65 resources and services provided by 50 network partners in real time via a text message and email. Sometimes more than one provider responds to an alert, allowing for youth choice of provider. The RAN responds to meet the needs of youth, including shelter, housing, food, clothing, counseling, or other services. Most alerts are resolved within 24 hours. The RAN provides clear information and facilitates quick access to resources, reducing the shame associated with homelessness.

From January 2020 to December 2020, 239 alerts were sent by youth advocates for 292 needs/services. From January 2021 to December 2021, 286 alerts were sent by youth advocates for 384 needs/services.

15th Night’s strategy to help support students navigating homelessness to stay engaged with their education is to provide quick access to resources and services available within their school and school district. Six of seven high schools in Eugene/Springfield have their own RANs. These RANs serve all students who need resources or services for any reason. The belief is that 15th Night can create normalcy and remove the shame associated with asking for help and that this will create more opportunities for students navigating homeless to get their needs met and give school advocates an easy way to help.

15th Night is currently working with the Cottage Grove community and South Lane School District to determine how the 15th Night model including building a RAN specific to that community would work. In

addition, 15th Night is currently facilitating a work group to understand how best to serve rural communities and has launched RANs in the Mapleton School District and Junction City High School.

The three most common requests in the RAN were food, shelter and housing, and basic needs. Food requests include assistance with food stamp (SNAP) applications, gift certificates/vouchers to purchase food, and food box locations. Shelter and housing requests include connection with a housing specialist, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and host home referrals. At this time, McKinney Vento Liaisons are the only point of contact that can make Host Home referrals as the existing program is directly related to school involvement and enrollment. Basic need requests include personal care products, clothing, shoes, small household appliances, laundry, and cell phones.

Lack of identification creates significant barriers to education, employment, public assistance, etc. There are also several barriers to accessing personal identification which is why Junior League of Eugene (JLE) stepped in to help unaccompanied youth and homeless young adults obtain personal identification. JLE is a part of the 15th Night RAN and they receive alerts when there is a YYA in need of this resource. They help obtain the necessary documentation, complete the forms, pay fees and escort the YYA to the local Department of Motor Vehicles to complete the process of obtaining personal identification. In 2021, they received 21 alerts. In the first 8 weeks of 2022, they have already responded to 19 alerts.

#### Youth Accessing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Through the RAN, youth can access support with SNAP applications through being directly connected with a caseworker at the Oregon Department of Human Services Self Sufficiency District 5 via a phone call.

In 2018, District 5 staff determined that they could pull data to better understand youth homelessness by focusing on any cases with reported addresses that indicate something other than a fixed residence (such as temporary, living in a car, homeless, camping, couch-surfing). These data looked at youth listed as their head of household (unaccompanied youth) who were not coded as a child on a parent’s case. These represent youth-only households. Some of these youth cases have additional members in the household such as a partner, spouse, or their own child. Those additional people are included in the 'total people' cell. This data reflects a “Point in Time” look at SNAP participants from March 2019.

SNAP Recipients with No Fixed Residence Listed		
	Age 0-17	Age 18-23
Male HH	12	281
Female HH	20	273
<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>554</b>
Cottage Grove	0	23
Eugene	17	320
Florence	2	24
Rural Lane County	1	35
Springfield	12	152
More than 1 person in household	2	55
<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>631</b>

Limitations of the data include that the gender is only able to be pulled for head of household and the current system only allows for Male and Female options, as opposed to other identities.

SNAP Recipients through 15 <sup>th</sup> Night RAN in CY2020				
	Age 0-17	Age 18-24	Age Unknown	Total
Male HH	13	3	1	17
Female HH	20	9	2	31
Non-binary HH	1	0	0	1
<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>49</b>
Eugene	20	7	3	30
Springfield	13	4	0	17
Unknown	1	1	0	2

SNAP Recipients through 15 <sup>th</sup> Night RAN in CY2021				
	Age 0-17	Age 18-24	Age Unknown	Total
Male HH	23	15	13	51
Female HH	34	21	7	62
Non-binary HH	8	2	1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>124</b>
Cottage Grove	0	0	21	21
Eugene	40	32	0	62
Springfield	22	6	0	28
Unknown	3	0	0	3

Due to complications with pulling functional reports in a new system, District 5 staff were not able to share updated data since the original data pull in 2018. However, staff were able to report on the number of youth in Lane County who utilized support seeking SNAP benefits through the 15th Night Rapid Access Network.

Although the above data does not reflect the total number of youth receiving SNAP in Lane County during 2020 and 2021, it does provide information that youth in Lane County are seeking support for food instability. The number of youth accessing the RAN for SNAP benefits increased to 124 youth in 2021, with the number of youth under 18 almost doubling to 65.

### Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act

Lane Workforce Partnership contracts with three providers in Lane County to offer employment services through the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA).<sup>8</sup> Connected Lane County provides services to the largest geographical area, with facilitators in South Lane, Eugene/Springfield and surrounding areas, and the coastal region. Lane County Youth Services holds their own contract, focusing on connecting youth involved in the juvenile justice system to employment opportunities with local businesses. Marcola school district holds the third contract, with the goal of increasing rural youths' ability to move confidently to a community college environment and successfully overcome barriers that often prevent at-risk students from successfully engaging in post-secondary academic and vocational/technical programs.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.laneworkforce.org/investments/youth-young-adult/>

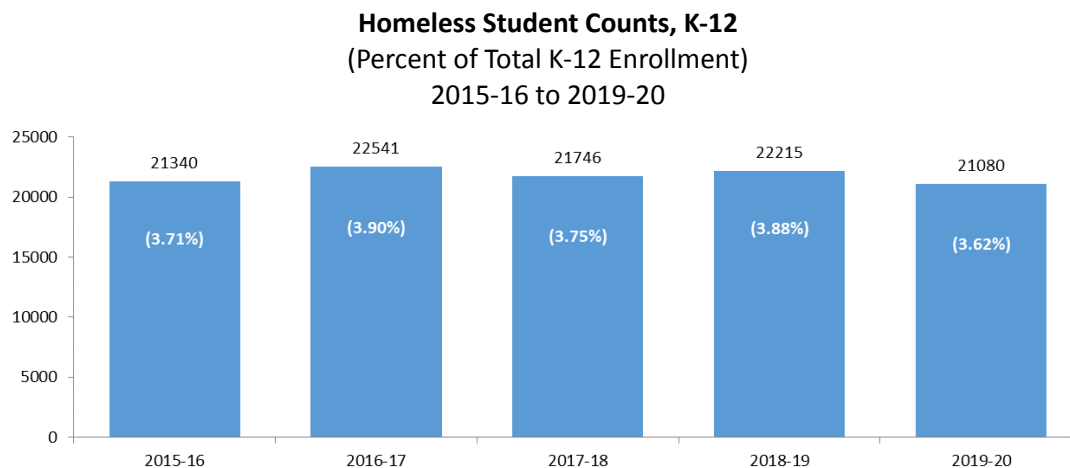
The programs help youth/young adults ages 14 to 24 to gain work readiness and occupational skills, as well as academic and life skills, and promotes connections to additional service providers and supports. The goal of this program is to increase their success as they transition to continued education and employment.

During the program year 2020/21, 275 youth were served between the three providers. A total of 53 YYA (19%) experienced homelessness while being served through WIOA. Throughout calendar year 2021, 65 new youth were enrolled into WIOA; of which 27 (41.5%) were identified as homeless and 2 (3%) identified as runaways.

These skills are essential for a youth’s success, especially employment. Assisting youth with obtaining their employment documents removes a huge barrier that youth who are unhoused face. Transportation can be a second major barrier to employment. This program can provide bus passes or long term support to gain access to a car. Many unhoused youth struggle to gain employment because they lack basic employment skills. The program has funding to set youth up on paid work experiences and internships. This allows them to work at a business in the community to gain basic employment skills like organization, communication, and reliability. It also allows them to work in businesses that align with their long term goals to gain hands-on experience for that specific industry. For example, youth have been connected to Volunteers in Medicine Clinic to learn about the medical and health industry. As youth work through the WIOA program, they gain more experience in the industry they are interested in, can get training and certifications, and are connected to higher education.

### Students Experiencing Homelessness

In 1987, the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program (HEARTH Act) codified and ensured the right of homeless children and youth to have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other children<sup>9</sup>. Students qualify for McKinney-Vento Homeless Program assistance when they reside in living situations that are not fixed, regular, and/or adequate. The Act requires that every district designate a Homeless Liaison (McKinney Vento liaison) to identify and provide services to homeless students and to contribute to the annual data collection on public school-enrolled homeless children and youth.



<sup>9</sup><https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/ESEA/McKinney-Vento/Documents/USDE-nonregulatory-guidance.pdf>



McKinney Vento liaisons collect data on youth in preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade who experience housing instability or literal homelessness. During the 2019/20 school year, the State of Oregon Department of Education reported that 21,080 students attending public schools experienced at least one episode of homelessness.

What are the Living Situations of Homeless Students in Oregon?				
School Year	In Shelters	Sharing Housing	Unsheltered	Motels
2015-16	1,926	16,163	2,377	1,210
2016-17	1,999	17,210	2,515	1,124
2017-18	1,817	16,399	2,549	1,236
2018-19	1,636	17,257	2,543	991
2019-20	1,551	16,391	2,529	1,076

The majority of homeless students in Oregon were living in “shared housing” meaning couch-surfing or staying with friends or family, where the youth or family is not on the lease and cannot stay there for longer than 30 days. There are more youth who are unsheltered than sheltered attending public schools in Oregon. There are almost as many students who are homeless staying in motels as there are staying in shelters.

#### Homeless Students in Lane County, by district, 2019-20 school year

There are a total of 16 school districts within Lane County. During the 2019/20 school year, these districts reported a total of 2,466 K-12 youth experiencing homelessness (note some reported numbers may be distinct due to suppressed totals when homeless youth in a school district was from 1-5), 515 unaccompanied homeless youth, 337 unsheltered, 200 sheltered, 1,772 doubled up. This equates to 1 in 20 students in Lane County experiencing homelessness.

#### Unaccompanied Youth in Lane County Schools

Information from McKinney Vento liaisons for the school districts in Lane County regarding unaccompanied youth (not accompanied by a parent or guardian) counted in the years 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20. Bethel, Eugene 4J, Springfield and South Lane make up the four largest school districts in Lane County.

Homeless Students in Lane County, by District, 2019-20 School Year			
School District	Unaccompanied 2017-18	Unaccompanied 2018-19	Unaccompanied 2019-20
Bethel SD 52	88	90	69
Creswell SD 40	19	8	12
Crow-Applegate-Lorane SD 66	*	*	*
Eugene SD 4J	293	240	203
Fern Ridge SD 28J	19	19	14
Junction City SD 69	3	5	6
Lowell SD 71	3	*	*
Mapleton SD 32	*	5	5
Marcola SD 79J	*	0	0
McKenzie SD 68	6	8	3
Oakridge SD 76	3	0	0
Pleasant Hill SD 1	0	0	*
Siuslaw SD 97J	*	0	*
South Lane SD 45J3	41	14	80
Springfield SD 19	141	152	123
<b>Total</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>515</b>

## Students Experiencing Homelessness Attending Post-Secondary Education

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for Oregon shows in 2018/19 school year 1,255 students and the 2019/20 school year 1,262 unaccompanied homeless youth were deemed "independent students" on the FAFSA, enabling them to apply for federal student aid without information on or consideration of the income and assets of their parent(s)/guardian(s)<sup>10</sup>. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 41,243 students across the country were deemed independent as unaccompanied homeless youth during the 2019-2020 FAFSA application cycle. It is important to note that this data likely undercounts the number of youth experiencing homelessness in higher education given the FAFSA's use of skip logic to determine independent student status. There are 10 additional questions used to determine dependency status (e.g. age 24 or older, graduate students, married students, active military or veterans, students in foster care since age 13, etc.), with the unaccompanied homeless youth questions presented last. Once an applicant provides a positive response to a previous independent student status question, the unaccompanied homeless youth questions are not shown and, therefore, not answered.

Hope for College research conducted a survey of 2 year and 4 year college students on the topic of needs insecurity (food and housing) in 2021 in a report titled "#RealCollege 2021: Basic Needs Insecurity During the Ongoing Pandemic."<sup>11</sup> While data on the prevalence of youth homelessness among higher education students in Oregon or Lane County is not currently available, we can draw insights from data collected by the HOPE Center. Based on a national survey of nearly 195,000 college students from 130 two-year colleges and 72 four-year colleges from 24 states, including Oregon:

- 34% (66,300) of respondents reported experiencing food insecurity
- 48% (93,600) of respondents reported they were experiencing housing insecure
- 14% (27,300) of respondents reported experiencing homelessness

To significantly reduce the risk of future homelessness and attain self-sufficiency, it is critical that youth have supported access to educational and workforce development opportunities. Intentional relationship building to create effective connectedness between schools, service providers, business community and YYA is fundamental to increasing awareness of and access to educational pathways, employment opportunities and other community based resources and services.

## LGBTQIA+ Youth

Nationwide data demonstrates that LGBTQIA+ youth are more likely to experience homelessness and family conflict due to their gender identity and sexual orientation than non-LGBTQIA+ youth.<sup>12</sup> The Williams Institute report of LGBT Youth who are homeless or at risk of being homeless provides an often cited statistic that 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQIA+. Yet, nationally, 7% of youth are considered to be a sexual minority.<sup>13</sup> A study conducted by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

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<sup>10</sup> <https://nche.ed.gov/unaccompanied-youth-data/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/RCReport2021.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Durso-Gates-LGBT-Homeless-Youth-Survey-July-2012.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://truecolorsunited.org/our-issue/>

between 2016 and 2017 found that LGBTQIA+ youth had a higher risk for experiencing homelessness by 120% compared to non-LGBTQIA+ youth.<sup>14</sup>

True Colors United released their 2020 State Index on Youth Homelessness, a tool to rank and score laws and policies related to preventing and addressing youth homeless in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Oregon received a low score of 59, ranking it 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation. The index lists recommendations for improvement at the state level, noting that promoting safety and inclusion by providing protections for LGBTQIA+ youth within key state programs should be prioritized.<sup>15</sup>

Local data to calculate LGBTQIA+ youth numbers and need for this population is minimal, and thus estimates and survey results are key to determining population and need. Out of 126 YYA who completed a Coordinated Entry Assessment in 2021, 14% (18) identified their gender as something other than singularly male or female.

In the 2019 Youth Homeless Needs Assessment, Youth Action Council (YAC) members identified that local data underreports the number of youth who identify as a gender or sexual minority. The reasons for this underreporting are myriad, including fears of identifying on a government form (e.g. reporting in HMIS or other data systems); fear of repercussion or denial of service; social stigma; confusion about gender identity in general and the implications it may have on their overall identity; and fear that family or people they do not want to know their gender identity may find out if it is disclosed in any written way.

The LGBTQIA+ population benefits from the State of Oregon and Lane County's enhanced legal protections for LGBTQIA+ accessibility, including a ban on insurance exclusions for transgender healthcare and state statutes prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment, and public accommodation. Crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity are classified as hate or bias crimes. The City of Eugene Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement releases an annual report, has a Hate & Bias Incident Response Plan and prevention/response toolkit for the community. Eugene Police Department officers have been trained on classifying/identifying hate crimes.

Lane County has taken action through programmatic oversight and training to ensure equal access to services for the LGBTQIA+ population. Lane County conducts Continuum of Care (CoC) and other programmatic monitoring visits wherein subcontractors must describe and substantiate how their agencies ensure equal access for LGBTQIA+ populations. CoC provider staff have access to training on cultural awareness and specialized services for LGBTQIA+ individuals through community resources, including the local nonprofit Trans\*Ponder.

Trans\*Ponder is currently the only grassroots, transgender founded and led nonprofit in Lane County that provides support, resources, and education for the LGBTQIA+ community and allies. Trans\*Ponder focuses on support for all ages but hosts a youth specific LGBTQIA+ support group in South Lane, one of

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<sup>14</sup><https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VoYC-National-Estimates-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2017.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.youthstateindex.com/oregon>

the rural sectors of Lane County. Trans\*Ponder has Resource Navigators to support trans/gender diverse folx in accessing care. In recent years, other entities have begun building out LGBTQIA+ youth specific programs, including City of Eugene LGBTQIA+ youth support group and Center for Family Development's AFFIRM group. Affirm is for gender non-conforming/transgender youth between the ages of 13 to 16, and is based around Affirmative CBT model for therapy.<sup>16</sup>

Though agencies are creating space for LGBTQIA+ youth support, there are currently no homeless or substance use service providers that specifically cater to the unique needs and challenges that LGBTQIA+ youth face in Lane County. Some providers have "Safe Space" diversity training and have welcoming staff, but no services are specifically designed to serve LGBTQIA+ youth. This represents a significant gap and need in the youth homeless service system.

At the moment, there are only two Transitional Housing projects for youth in Lane County. One of the projects is for youth who identify as female. The other project is non-gender specific and makes space for male, female, gender non-conforming, and nonbinary youth. However, almost all service models force youth to default to the gender binary, even if the intake forms ask about a spectrum of gender identity. There is much room for improvement to enhance the availability of culturally responsive services to support LGTBQIA+ youth, especially given the high incidence of discrimination and bias directed towards gender and sexual minorities.

It is important to consider access for the entire LGBTQIA+ population as gender expectations for gender segregated services can impact youth (and adults) who challenge social norms around gender whether it be due to sexuality, gender, gender expression or presentation, gender identity, etc. It is also important to consider transgender/non-binary/gender non-conforming individuals needs specifically as exclusion of these individuals and other forms of discrimination continue. Examples of this include "girls" and "boys" housing being developed without an option for those who do not identify amongst those groups, or intentional work to make services accessible and safe for those whose presentation isn't perceived the way they identify.

### Youth of Color

National studies have repeatedly shown homelessness disproportionately affects youth of color. Black and Hispanic youth are at the greatest risk of experiencing housing instability or homelessness and often spend longer periods of time homeless than their White, non-Hispanic counterparts<sup>17</sup>. Chapin Hall found that Black or African American youth have an 83% higher risk of reporting homelessness, and Hispanic, non-White youth have a 33% higher risk than White, non-Hispanic counterparts.

In 2019, Lane County CoC conducted a Racial Disparity Review which examined data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and looked at the 44,373 clients who received services tracked in HMIS between July 2018 and June 2019.

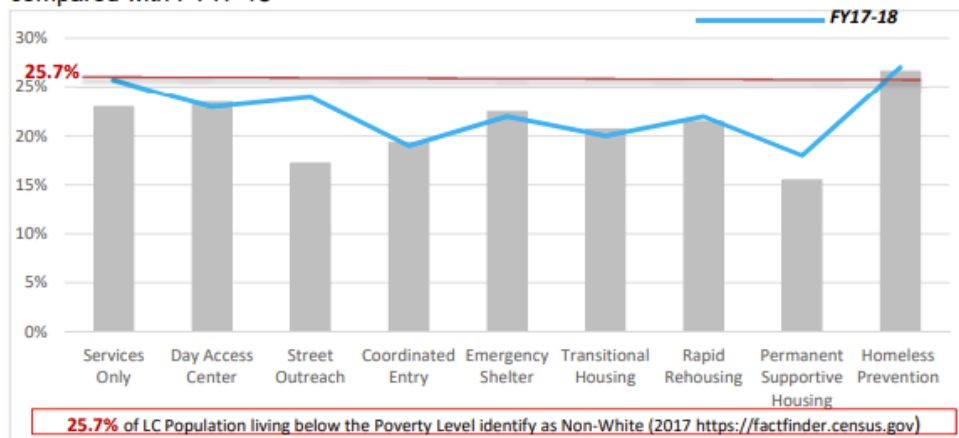
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<sup>16</sup><https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5fc87581259db238d929ca35/t/60c3d30e011e58446bb0a168/1623446286887/Affirm+Poster.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/VoYC-LGBTQ-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2018.pdf>

Countywide, people who identify as Latino and/or Non-White account for 17.2% of the total population, while people who are non-white or Latino represented 25.7% of the population living in poverty. One in five (18.9%) people in Lane County, Oregon are living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For a household of four, the annual income is at or below \$25,750 (\$2,146 per month). Of people who identify as Latino and/or Non-White, the percentage is 6.8% higher than the County average. Of people who identify as White/Non-Latino, the percentage of those in poverty is 1.4% lower than the overall County average, with 17.5% of White/Non-Latino people living below FPL.

Percent of *Non-White and/or Latino* program participants receiving services in FY18-19 compared with FY17-18



The review found that 22.8% of the clients seeking services tracked in HMIS identified as Latino and/or Non-White. However, of the clients who had a Coordinated Entry assessment (Front Door assessment) for housing placement, only 19% identified as Latino and/or Non-White and only 16% were housed with Permanent Supportive Housing. This demonstrates which projects are not serving Latinx and/or Non-White populations as would be expected based on the poverty rate- including Coordinated Entry, Transitional Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing.

In almost every project type (Street Outreach, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Emergency Shelter), clients who identified as White were overrepresented while clients who identified as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Asian or Latinx/Hispanic were underrepresented. Only in Homeless Prevention projects were White/Non-Latino clients underrepresented.

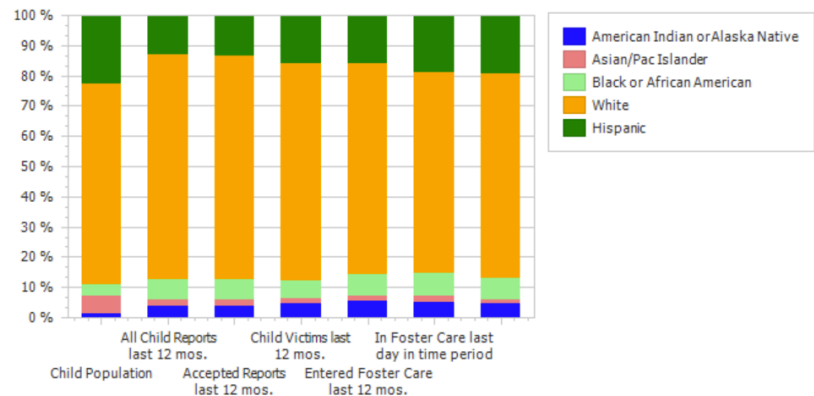
Data collected from Oregon Department of Education in Lane County for school year 2019/20 reflect that out of 2,466 students experiencing homelessness, 36 were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 3 were Asian, 45 were Black/African American, 486 were Hispanic, 0 were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 192 were multiple races.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> YHDP cohort 4 SYs 17.18 to 19.20

Child welfare data specific to Lane County demonstrates child welfare involvement in the calendar year 2021. The child population in Lane County is 66% white, and 74% of child victims in the reporting period of 12 months were white, 69% entered foster care, 67% exited foster care in the 12 month period.<sup>19</sup> Black or African-American children are approximately 3.7% of the child population in Lane County, represent

6.6% of all child abuse reports in the 12 month reporting period, and 5.6% child victims in the 12 month reporting period, 7% of the black child population entered foster care, 7% exited foster care in the 12 month reporting period. The number of Black or African-American children entering the foster care system is slightly higher (7%) than the percentage of Black or African-American children in Lane County (3.7%). The number of American Indian or Alaska Native children entering foster care in CY2021 was 5.4%, whereas AIAN children constitute just 1.5% of the child population in Lane County. This data represents a significant racial disparity in the number of youth involved in Child Welfare in Lane County.

Report Time Period: December 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021



### Child Welfare-Involved Youth

Throughout Oregon in 2020, youth ages 13 years and older comprised 28.7% of the foster care population. A total of 2,826 youth ages 13 and older spent at least one day in foster care.<sup>20</sup> At the time of exit, youth in this age bracket were reunited with their families only 40% of the time.

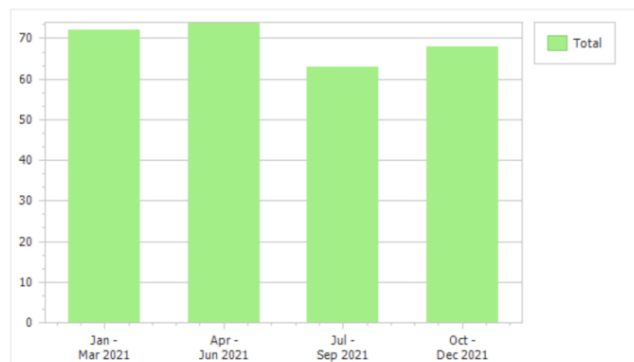
Additional data from the Oregon Child Welfare data set depicts that every quarter between 63 and 74 youth are aging out of foster care (turning 18). A total of 277 youth aged out of foster care in calendar year 2020<sup>21</sup>.

We know from national studies and reports that 20% of youth aging out of foster care will experience homelessness the day they turn 18<sup>22</sup>, and 25% of youth aged out of the foster care system experience homelessness within 4 years.<sup>23</sup> Using these statistics, we can assume that 69 of the 277 youth that

Oregon Youth Exiting Foster Care on/after turning 18

Count of youth on/over 18 discharged, over time

Report Time Period: January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021



<sup>19</sup> [https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/Oregon\\_Public/AllViews.aspx?R=230](https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/Oregon_Public/AllViews.aspx?R=230)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/CHILDREN/CHILD-ABUSE/Documents/2020-Child-Welfare-Data-Book.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> [https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/Oregon\\_Public/AllViews.aspx?R=6107](https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/Oregon_Public/AllViews.aspx?R=6107)

<sup>22</sup> <https://nfyi.org/51-useful-aging-out-of-foster-care-statistics-social-race-media/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.fosterclub.com/sites/default/files/foster-care-infographic.jpg>

aged out of foster care in Oregon in 2020 have experienced or are at risk of homeless.

Oregon DHS Child Welfare District 5 plays a significant role in serving homeless children under 18 in Lane County when homelessness is a result of abuse or neglect and children are in the legal custody of the department. For youth under the age of 18 in the care and custody of DHS, child welfare takes responsibility to provide safe housing, work towards permanency, provide educational opportunities, and provide access to the Independent Living Program (ILP).

ILP is a core service made available to youth at age 16, and provides training and classes to prepare youth to live independently. The ILP Housing Subsidy Program can provide a decreasing subsidy for housing payments for up to 30 months. For youth in care up until age 18 there is the option to open a voluntary case and eligibility for placement services resources which may include the ILP Housing Subsidy Program and Chafee Housing Programs until age 21.

Another program, Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) provides housing assistance for youth aging out of foster care within 90 days.<sup>24</sup> ODHS in partnership with Lane County's Housing Authority, Homes for Good, offer 36 month housing choice vouchers with optional support services for youth ages 18-24, who had been in foster care at age 16 or older, and were homeless or are at risk of homelessness at age 16 or older.

No additional child welfare/DHS services are available to youth ages 22-24, with the exception of educational training vouchers. This represents a gap in services, as child welfare involvement impacts life course development and research demonstrates that children, youth, and families who experience homelessness or housing instability are more likely to be involved with the Child Welfare system than families with stable housing.

### **Justice System-Involved Youth**

In 2020, 479 youth were referred to the Lane County Juvenile Justice Center. The majority (91.7%) of youth referred were ages 13 and up. Though there is no current data being collected in Lane County Youth Services, it is likely that a significant portion of these youth have experienced or are at risk of homelessness. There are many intersections between juvenile justice and youth homelessness. National studies have shown that more than half of youth experiencing homelessness have been arrested at least once.<sup>25</sup> Mentioned above, Lane County Department of Youth Services holds one of three contracts for the federal WIOA program, in addition to CLC and Marcola. During the calendar year 2021, 52 out of 275 total youth enrolled in all WIOA programs reported involvement in juvenile justice; of which 14 were also identified as homeless.

Youth who leave residential juvenile justice placements face a number of challenges upon reentering into their community, home, school, and workforce. Barriers can include unstable housing, lack of family support, lack of skills needed for employment, struggle to re-engage in school, and gaps in behavioral

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<sup>24</sup> [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/fyi](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/fyi)

<sup>25</sup> <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/runaway-and-homeless-youth/juvenile-justice-system>

health services. These barriers combined may open the doors for a youth to enter their first, or additional, episode of homelessness.

### Survivors of Trafficking, Exploitation, and/or Violence

Studies across the nation have shown that domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness among women and families. Often homelessness is a result of being forced to leave home while fleeing from domestic abuse, and having nowhere to turn to. When shelters are at capacity, and waitlists are filled, those fleeing from domestic violence are left homeless and at an increased risk for exploitation. In addition, violence at home may also increase the risk of YYA being abused or becoming abusive in adolescent and adult relationships.

Eighty-five YYA living in Lane County completed Coordinated Entry assessments in 2021 and reported that their current period of homelessness had been caused by an experience of emotional, physical, sexual, or other type of abuse, or trauma.

Homeless YYA are vulnerable to both sex and labor trafficking because they tend to experience a higher rate of risk factors for trafficking including: poverty, unemployment, a history of sexual abuse, and a history of mental health issues.<sup>26</sup> National studies have found that trafficking rates among YYA experiencing homelessness range from 19% to 40%.<sup>27</sup> The Family and Youth Services Bureau published a 2016 report that found about 36% of runaway and homeless youth (RHY) traded sex for a place to stay, or another need.<sup>28</sup>

Human trafficking is underreported and under-identified, leading to gaps in being able to fully understand the true number of YYA involved in trafficking. Still, we know that trafficking is a significant concern in Lane County. In 2018, the Child Welfare Office at ODHS developed an inter-agency task force that uncovered a child sex trafficking ring in Lane County.<sup>29</sup> In the 12-month period from October 2018 to October 2019, ODHS identified 746 victims of human trafficking, 120 of which were located in Lane County.

In Lane County, there are a handful of services and supports dedicated to supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking including a youth-specific Survivor Advocate housed at a Looking Glass youth drop-in center in Eugene. There is also an organization located in Eugene, Sexual Assault Support Services, that provides a crisis and support hotline, medical advocacy, legal advocacy, support groups, and drop-in advocacy. Though there are resources that support this specific sub-population, most services are in the Eugene/Springfield region and may not be as well known or accessible to youth living in rural areas.

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<sup>26</sup><https://www.covenanthouse.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Loyola%20Multi-City%20Executive%20Summary%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> <https://nn4youth.org/learn/human-trafficking/>

<sup>28</sup><https://www.acf.hhs.gov/archive/blog/2016/05/trafficking-and-homeless-youth>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/DHSNEWS/NewsReleases/Trafficking-Awareness-2020.pdf>



## Objectives, Goals & Action Steps

Lane County envisions a community where our response to youth and young adult (YYA) housing instability or homelessness will be swift and accessible. All youth in our community will be aware of available services before housing instability occurs. They will have the support they need to successfully complete a K-12 education and post-secondary training so they may obtain employment that, at a minimum, provides a living wage and the foundation for the advancement of their choosing.

Driven by cross-system collaboration, with our vision at the forefront, we identified goals to organize and drive our work towards preventing and ending youth homelessness in Lane County. These goals were developed using criteria and benchmarks established by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, and reflect the unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

Objectives and action steps were developed over a series of meetings with youth leaders, stakeholders, and community members. We dreamt big and after many discussions, narrowed our focus to those that we truly believe we can accomplish as a community in the next five years. To assist with keeping us on track, we prioritized action steps into 3 categories of time in which we would like to see them implemented: short term, medium term, and long term.

- Short term action steps will be implemented within 12 months.
- Medium term action steps will be implemented in 12 to 36 months.
- Long term action steps will be implemented within 60 months.

Our list of goals, objectives and action steps can be found on the following pages.

**Goal #1: Create a community where all unaccompanied youth experiencing housing instability or homelessness are identified and quickly connected to appropriate resources.**

**Objective 1.1. Increase outreach capacity and utilize creative strategies to reach YYA.**

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible
<b>1.1.1.</b> Develop a coordinated youth led community outreach and awareness campaign that utilizes mobile outreach, peer supports, educators and schools, social media and other tools to disperse information on where and how YYA can access services.	Short term	Education Team, YEC, YHSWG
<b>1.1.2.</b> Establish intentional collaboration between local education systems and community partners to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop resource referral protocols</li> <li>- Integrate education services and homework into access points</li> <li>- Hire peer support navigators in schools who are specialized in identifying YYA experiencing homelessness and connecting them to front porch services.</li> <li>- Formalize a information sharing agreement between McKinney-Vento liaisons and youth-serving agencies about school aged youth accessing services</li> </ul>	Short term	15th Night, Looking Glass, MV Liaisons, Education Team, YHSWG
<b>1.1.3.</b> Build outreach teams focused on identifying and connecting to YYA in geographically rural areas and historically marginalized communities. <i>*potentially SSO project</i>	Short term	Looking Glass, YHSWG, YEC, potential SSO project applicant; LC HSD

**Objective 1.2. Identify youth that are unhoused, sheltered or unsheltered, and those experiencing housing instability but do not meet the Category 1 definition of homelessness**

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible
<b>1.2.1.</b> Create a Lane County youth specific by-name list to accurately depict youth homelessness	Short term	LC HSD
<b>1.2.2.</b> Establish a youth-specific Point In Time Count at a different time than the annual count, utilizing HMIS metrics, ensuring fidelity of count in rural communities.	Short term	LC HSD
<b>1.2.3.</b> Collaborate with funding entities and leverage other available funds to increase services that identify unaccompanied youth.	Short term	LC HSD, MV Liaisons
<b>1.2.4.</b> Develop partnerships with libraries, behavioral health clinics, schools, juvenile justice, etc. to identify unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.	Medium term	MV Liaisons, LC HSD, YHSWG, 15th Night, Looking Glass, YEC
<b>1.2.5.</b> Utilize comprehensive training for educators and community members on the warning signs and unique needs of YYA experiencing homelessness or housing instability.	Medium term	YEC, MV Liaisons, YHSWG, Education Team

**Objective 1.3. Identify youth that are unhoused, sheltered or unsheltered, in the education system**

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible
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1.3.1. Utilize a readily-accessible survey in all secondary and post-secondary settings to allow youth to self-identify as unhoused, unaccompanied or lacking stable housing in a safe and protected way.	Medium term	Education Team
<b>Objective 1.4.</b> Assess the accessibility of current front porch services (outreach, drop in centers) and expand services to meet the specific needs of underserved youth		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
1.4.1. Evaluate and adapt current front porch services to ensure language accessibility, accommodations for YYA with disabilities and/or mental health challenges, and youth choice for youth clients.	Medium term	LC HSD, YEC
1.4.2. Develop and distribute a feedback tool to ensure accessibility and accommodations are being met amongst community organizations	Medium term	LC HSD, YEC
1.4.3. Create Memorandum of Agreements with mental health, behavioral health, sexual assault support, and crisis support workers to provide immediate supports to YYA when needed	Medium term	YEC, LC HSD, YHSWG, 15th Night
1.4.4. Evaluate current front porch services and expand resources to meet geographical, cultural, and community needs, and expand services based on evaluation. <i>*potentially SSO project</i>	Evaluate: Short Expand: Medium	YEC, LC HSD, YHSWG, potential SSO project applicant
<b>Objective 1.5.</b> Elevate youth with lived experience		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
1.5.1. Identify ways to connect youth with lived experience to peer certificate programs and hire youth with lived experience in peer navigator positions in schools, non-profits, and other locations that youth frequent. <i>*potentially SSO project</i>	Short term	YEC, YHSWG, Education Team, potential SSO project applicant
1.5.2. Support and leverage work done by the YEC and local Youth Action Boards dedicated to supporting youth experiencing housing instability or homelessness	Short term	YEC, YHSWG, Education Team, LC HSD, PHB

<b>Goal #2: Use prevention and diversion strategies whenever possible. When not possible, youth are provided immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services.</b>		
<b>Objective 2.1.</b> Establish shared standards for low barrier crisis services and housing, provide training, and monitor for adherence to those standards		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>2.1.1.</b> Increase the number of youth-specific, low-barrier emergency beds with longer stay options across different geographic regions.	Medium term	LC HSD, YEC, YHSWG, Looking Glass
<b>2.1.2</b> Increase the number of youth-specific, low-barrier emergency beds for pregnant and parenting youth with longer stay options	Medium-long term	LC HSD, YEC, YHSWG, Looking Glass
<b>2.1.3.</b> Partner with Lane County Renters Association to recruit and build landlord engagement strategies to assist young people in accessing units or eviction prevention	Long term	LC HSD, YEC, YHSWG, Looking Glass
<b>2.1.4.</b> Expand Host Home recruitment and retention of host households across the community.	Short-medium term	Host Home project applicant
<b>Objective 2.2.</b> Analyze current prevention strategies and identify where supports can be expanded		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>2.2.1.</b> Identify current prevention strategies and bring together YYA and providers to identify what is working and what is not	Short term	YEC, LC HSD, YHSWG
<b>2.2.2.</b> Increase funds for move in costs, deposits & needs as well as gap funding for YYA who are unstably housed. <i>*potentially SSO project</i>	Short term	LC HSD, Oregon Community Foundation, potential SSO project applicant
<b>Objective 2.3.</b> Analyze current diversion strategies and identify where supports can be expanded		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>2.3.1.</b> Identify current diversion strategies and bring together YYA and providers to identify what is working and what is not	Short term	YEC, LC HSD, current diversion programs
<b>2.3.2.</b> Increase diversion funds	Short term/ongoing	LC HSD, ODHS
<b>Objective 2.4.</b> Remove barriers to housing through building stronger connections to mental health supports and workers who can provide ESA letters and other necessary health-related documentation.		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>2.3.1.</b> Build out a youth-specific, mobile mental health crisis response team <i>*potentially SSO project</i>	Medium term	potential SSO project applicant
<b>2.3.2.</b> Collaborate with behavioral and mental health partners to utilize the Connected Oregon referral platform that will connect YYA to mental health services in real time.	Medium-long term	YHSWG, CCOs, behavioral & mental health agencies

**Goal #3: Create and utilize a youth specific coordinated entry process to effectively connect youth experiencing homelessness to housing and service solutions tailored to their needs.**

**Objective 3.1.** Establish and utilize a youth specific Coordinated Entry system that will connect youth to appropriate resources and supports.

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible
<b>3.1.1.</b> Collaborate with youth and providers to advocate for improvements and changes to Coordinated Entry, including tailoring youth specific questions that are inclusive and equitable.	Short-medium term	LC HSD, YEC, current CE providers, CE stakeholder group
<b>3.1.2.</b> Coordinate across systems to identify and build youth specific, trauma-informed strategies and tools, and establish metrics for tracking CE assessment and housing placements for youth.	Medium term	LC HSD,

**Objective 3.2.** Identify equitable tools and practices to reach historically marginalized and underserved populations

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible
<b>3.2.1.</b> Review current Coordinated Entry system with youth and providers to advocate for improvements and changes, tailored specific to historically marginalized populations	Medium term	LC HSD, YYA, Partners conducting CE; CE stakeholder group
<b>3.2.2.</b> Advocate for bilingual staff to be trained on Coordinated Entry	Short-medium term	Partners conducting CE
<b>3.2.3.</b> Advocate for program staff to be trained on racial equity, cultural competency, and implicit bias	Short term	Partners conducting CE

**Objective 3.3.** Expand youth choice through increasing the number of locations youth can access Coordinated Entry.

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible
<b>3.3.1.</b> Train a wide spread of providers across multiple organizations that can complete Coordinated Entry with YYA including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rural organizations</li> <li>- Organizations serving historically marginalized communities</li> <li>- Culturally specific organizations and programs</li> <li>- Secondary and post-secondary education settings</li> </ul>	Short - medium term	LC HSD; CE Stakeholder Group

**Objective 3.4.** Increase YYA awareness of where they can access Coordinated Entry assessments.

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible
<b>3.4.1.</b> Build on existing pathways and create new outreach efforts including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School outreach/presentations (assembly/tabling at lunch),</li> <li>- Outreach at grocery stores and libraries</li> <li>- Resource fairs outside of programs (library, schools, business cards at different locations like teen centers, schools), barcode stickers to get information</li> <li>- Advertise on local bulletin boards (take a number flyers), billboards</li> </ul>	Short term: build strategic plan  Ongoing: conduct outreach efforts	YEC, YHSWG, Education Team

<b>Goal #4: Act with urgency to assist youth to move to time-limited, permanent, or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports.</b>		
<b>Objective 4.1. Increase the supply of youth specific permanent housing options to meet needs of YYA</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>4.1.1</b> Establish clear partnership and agreed upon objectives with local housing authority and nonprofits to support youth experiencing homelessness.	Medium - long term	LC HSD, Housing Authority, DevNW
<b>4.1.2.</b> Introduce new joint TH-RRH program for youth that incorporates unique and equitable supports into programming including mental health, disability, addiction, gender identity, and pregnant or parenting services. <i>*project funded by YHDP grant</i>	Medium term	Joint TH-RRH project applicant
<b>4.1.3.</b> Leverage housing vouchers and additional funding to introduce PSH housing for youth that incorporate unique and equitable supports into programming including mental health, disability, addiction, gender identity, and pregnant or parenting services.	Long term	LC HSD, YHSWG
<b>Objective 4.2. Identify barriers to permanent housing and advocate for solutions</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
4.2.1. Identify and advocate for assistance alongside local landlords, housing authority, and nonprofits to address housing barriers including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Application fees</li> <li>- Obtaining utilities for under 18 YYA</li> <li>- Criminal background screenings</li> <li>- Past eviction history</li> <li>- Limited rental history</li> <li>- Other housing authority restrictions</li> <li>- Pregnant and parenting youth</li> </ul>	Medium - long term	LC HSD, Housing authority, YEC, YHSWG, nonprofit housing programs, landlords
<b>4.2.2.</b> Advocate to the State for an increase in rent caps.	Ongoing	LC HSD - Intergovernmental relationship Manager
<b>4.2.3.</b> Identify and address bias in the current homeless system including but not limited to: age, gender identity, sexuality, race, ethnicity, physical abilities, religion, mental health condition, national origin, and/or pregnant and parenting.	Medium term	LC HSD, YEC, YHSWG
<b>Objective 4.3. Increase the supply of time-limited services to meet YYA needs</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>4.3.1.</b> Collaborate with agencies to identify and reduce barriers to accessing time-limited housing services including, but not limited to: age, gender identity, sexuality, race, ethnicity, physical abilities, religion, mental health condition, national origin, and/or pregnant and parenting.	Short-Medium term	LC HSD, YYA, YHSWG
<b>4.3.2.</b> Utilize YHDP funds to develop a joint TH-RRH program that has flexible length of stay dependent on youth needs. <i>*reference 4.1.2.</i>	Short-Medium term	LC HSD; Joint TH-RRH project applicant

**Goal #5: Develop resources and plans to increase system capacity and ensure that episodes of youth homelessness are short and non-recurring. Sustainably increasing system capacity will ensure that supports and services will remain in place and continue to prevent and end future experiences of homelessness for youth.**

**Objective 5.1. Identify and increase flexible funding to match streams and expand programming**

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible
5.1.1. Develop strong partnership with private funders to obtain funding.	Short-medium term /ongoing	LC HSD, YHSWG
5.1.2. Identify and obtain grants and grassroots community funding as match for YHPD funding.	Short-medium term /ongoing	LC HSD, YHSWG

**Objective 5.2. Increase provider capacity**

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible
5.2.1. Conduct outreach and elevate relationships with new or smaller organizations and community partners that are serving historically marginalized populations, and incorporate them into program and service expansion.	Short-medium term	LC HSD, YHSWG
5.2.2. Identify provider capacity needs through increased partnerships.	Short term	LC HSD, YHSWG, YEC
5.2.3. Identify and expand regularly-scheduled stakeholder meetings focused on collaboration, resource sharing, education pathways and capacity building through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identifying gaps in inclusion and conducting outreach to increase the diversity of stakeholders at the table.</li> <li>- Increase attendance at meetings.</li> <li>- Update appropriate charters of bodies to reflect goals.</li> </ul>	Short term	YHSWG, YEC, LC HSD, Agencies conducting stakeholder meetings

**Objective 5.3. Recruit and retain a diverse workforce that includes individuals with lived experience in program roles, including peer-supports.**

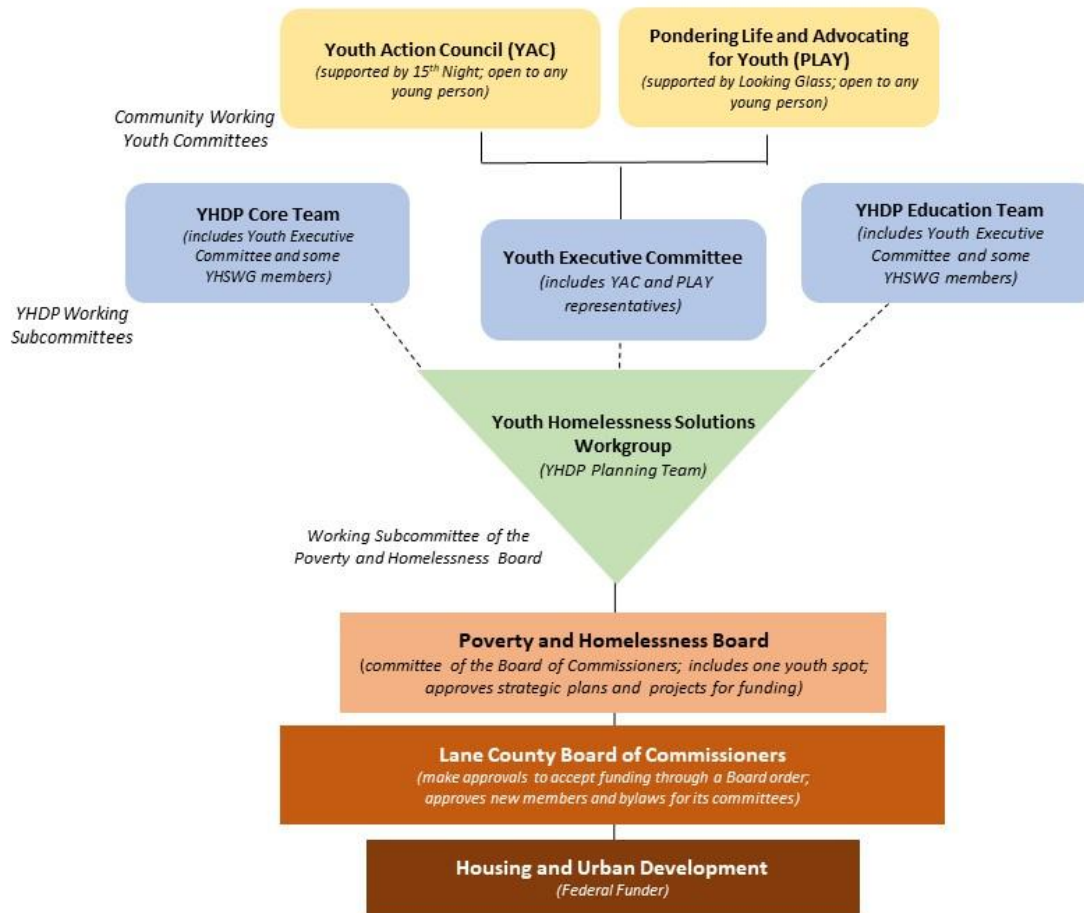
Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible
5.3.1. Assess current staff compensation, identify wage disparities and inequities, and develop a compensation plan that provides thriving wages.	Short term	LC HSD, Community Partners
5.3.2. Advocate with the Human Services Commission to include yearly staff increases in county contracts to ensure equitable pay similar to COLA standards or existing rates of inflation.	Short term	LC HSD, YHSWG, YEC
5.3.3. Increase the number of positions within all levels of organizations for youth with lived experience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify and address barriers for YYA with experience to gain employment</li> </ul>	Medium term	LC HSD, YHSWG, YEC, Community partners
5.3.4. Provide training for agencies to adopt hiring practices using an equity lens.	Short term	LC HSD, YHSWG, YEC, Community partners

<b>Goal #6: Lane County will increase educational engagement and income generation among youth experiencing homelessness.</b>		
<b>Objective 6.1. Expand employment opportunities that provide a living wage and support sustainable exits from homelessness.</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>6.1.1.</b> Support current programs that train YYA in high wage, high demand pathways; including increasing STEP program providers.	Short term	Education Team; YHSWG
<b>6.1.2.</b> Build partnership with Chamber of Commerce and local workforce partners to elevate flexible, paid employment for students while maintaining school enrollment.	Short-medium term	Education Team; Chamber of Commerce; Connected Lane County; 15th Night; YEC
<b>6.1.3.</b> Elevate partnerships with local agencies that provide youth financial foundations courses to offer free financial education to youth in all programs.	Short term	Education Team, DevNW; YHSWG; YEC
<b>6.1.4.</b> Elevate partnerships with local workforce agencies to expand program referrals.	Short term	Education Team; WIOA; YHSWG; YEC; SVdP; ODHS E&T navigators
<b>Objective 6.2. Connect YYA in secondary and postsecondary institutions with housing services to increase their ability to focus on educational goals.</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>6.2.1.</b> Advocate to hire peer support navigators in secondary and postsecondary schools who are specialized in identifying YYA experiencing homelessness and connecting them to front porch services.	Medium term	Education Team, YEC, CCOs
<b>6.2.2.</b> Partner with Lane Community College and University of Oregon to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formalize warm handoffs between youth serving organizations and on campus resources</li> <li>- Increase awareness of on campus supports among youth and service providers</li> <li>- Ensure unhoused students have access to front door services</li> </ul>	Short - medium term	Education Team, YEC
<b>Objective 6.3. Connect pregnant and parenting YYA in Lane County with childcare options to increase their ability to focus on education and employment goals.</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>6.3.1.</b> Convene stakeholders Lane Early Learning Alliance, Relief Nursery, Head Start, and other affordable childcare providers to advocate for resources to pregnant and parenting YYA.	Short term	Education Team, YHSWG, CCOs, YEC
<b>6.3.2.</b> Convene stakeholders Lane Early Learning Alliance to expand childcare resources and increase accessibility for YYA living in rural and historically marginalized communities.	Short term	Education Team; YHSWG, CCOs, YEC, United Way



## Governance

Guided by the voices of youth leaders and community stakeholders, Lane County Human Services Division serves as the lead agency for the CoC program and YHDP initiative. To advance the efforts of ending youth homelessness in Lane County, the continuum has utilized a multi-tiered, shared decision making governance structure that relies on strong collaboration between youth leaders, stakeholders, educators, and local government.



During the YHPD planning process, partners have and continue to utilize the Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup (YHSWG), an already established subcommittee of the Poverty and Homelessness (PHB) CoC Board to collaborate, plan, build and implement YHDP efforts. The YHSWG identified three workgroups - Youth Executive Committee (YEC), Core Team, and Education team - that includes members from the planning team, youth leaders, and additional partners. These workgroups have met regularly during the planning process to identify priorities and guide the direction, and will continue to meet during the implementation process.

## Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup: YHDP Planning Team

The Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup (YHSWG) serves as the YHDP Planning Team. YHSWG has representation that includes youth with lived experience, Child Welfare, Runaway and Homeless Youth Providers, secondary education professionals, non-profit youth organizations, and other community stakeholders. The YHSWG will strive to include representation from relevant sectors and maintain a racial, ethnic, sexual orientation and gender identity balance that reflects the community. We recognize the lack of diversity in these conversations and make a commitment of deeper engagement to include representation from historically marginalized communities in all aspects of our work.

The YHSWG meets monthly and increases the frequency of meetings based on workload. YHSWG works in partnership with the YEC, and is supported by the YHDP Core Team and YHDP Education Team. The YHSWG is not able to make decisions without representation from the YEC.

## Youth Executive Committee

Lane County recognizes that YYA are experts of their own experiences. Through the establishment of authentic youth collaboration, young leaders can guide our community to innovative solutions to end youth homelessness. The YEC is a collaboration between two local youth action councils (YAC) through 15<sup>th</sup> Night and Looking Glass, based in Eugene. Each YAC designated select members to sit on the YEC and represent youth voices at all YHDP meetings. Membership in both YACs is open to all youth. Throughout the CCP planning process, an average of seven YYA have served on the YEC.

Members of the YEC are striving to build a diverse range of youth around the table with representation from communities including, but not limited to: LatinX YYA, Hispanic YYA, Black and Indigenous Youth of Color, LGBTQIA+ YYA, pregnant and parenting YYA, youth living in rural communities, and youth experiencing physical and mental health challenges. Each member of the YEC is under the age of 24 and has lived experience.

The YEC is dedicated to providing insight based on their lived experiences to advise on policies related to their background. Decisions made through the PHB and YHSWG associated with youth specific funding, projects, proposals, etc. must be reviewed and approved through the YEC. This process is continued through youth representation on the PHB and YHSWG.

Members of the YEC meet regularly in accordance with YHSWG needs. Youth leaders receive stipends through the County at a rate of \$25 per hour.

### **The Youth Executive Committee is responsible for:**

- Acting as liaisons between the YHSWG and respective YACs to gather more youth input
- Attending YHSWG meetings and providing feedback and insight
- Attending Core Team meetings to assist in guiding the direction of the planning and implementation of YHDP projects
- Reviewing meeting materials prior to meetings and provide feedback
- Approving the CCP and YHDP Projects
- Supporting and tracking the implementation of projects and assess the impact/outcomes of projects
- Providing technical assistance and identify areas for improvement

- Reviewing and scoring project RFPs alongside county administrators

### Core Team

The YHDP Core Team includes representatives from the YEC, YHSWG, and the Education Team. This is a smaller group of individuals that has been meeting weekly with TA supports to discuss progress, plan for future meetings, and coordinate team involvement.

### Education Team

The YHDP Education Team includes representatives from the YEC and YHSWG, as well as partners from the education sphere including McKinney-Vento Liaisons, secondary education staff, and agencies providing student-specific support. The Education Team is supported by a TA from NCHE. The group meets regularly to discuss inequities in education and how YHDP projects can support students experiencing homelessness. They are responsible for building out proposals to incorporate education into the CCP, and bringing those proposals to the larger planning group for discussion and approval.

### Poverty and Homelessness Board (CoC Board)

The purpose of Lane County’s CoC is to promote community-wide commitment to ending homelessness through funding nonprofit providers to quickly rehouse individuals and families experiencing homelessness.<sup>30</sup> The CoC Board, known as the Poverty and Homelessness Board (PHB), has 24 members representing elected officials, low-income individuals, people with lived experience, business, service providers, faith-based groups, law enforcement, education, and other major stakeholder groups. The PHB serves as the administrative board for the Lane County Community Action Agency and as the oversight board for the Lane County CoC. It provides advice to the regional Human Services Commission and the Lane County Board of Commissioners with the goal of reducing and preventing poverty and homelessness in Lane County.

The PHB meets monthly and consists of 16 voting positions, including one voting seat for a youth with lived experience. Non-voting members bring expertise with homeless subpopulations and systems, and serve as resources to inform and/or participate in PHB activities and committees.

There are 9 working subcommittees of the PHB:

- Coordinated Entry Committee
- Employment Workgroup
- Executive Committee/Strategic Planning Committee
- Health Care Workgroup
- Lived Experience Advisory Group for Unhoused Engagement (LEAGUE)
- Membership Committee
- RFP Evaluation HMIS Committee
- Shelter Stakeholder Committee
- Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup

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<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/for-providers/Pages/continuum-of-care.aspx#:~:text=The%20CoC%20program%20promotes%20a%20community%2Dwide%20commitment%20to%20end%20homelessness.&text=Promote%20access%20to%20and%20use,individuals%20and%20families%20experiencing%20homelessness.>

At the moment, the YHSWG is the only subcommittee with active youth representation. The YEC recommends that more subcommittees create space for youth representation.

## Decision Making Process

The primary decision-making bodies are the YEC and YHSWG. The YEC and YHSWG review and approve the CCP and then present it to the CoC Board for final approval and signature.

### Youth Executive Committee

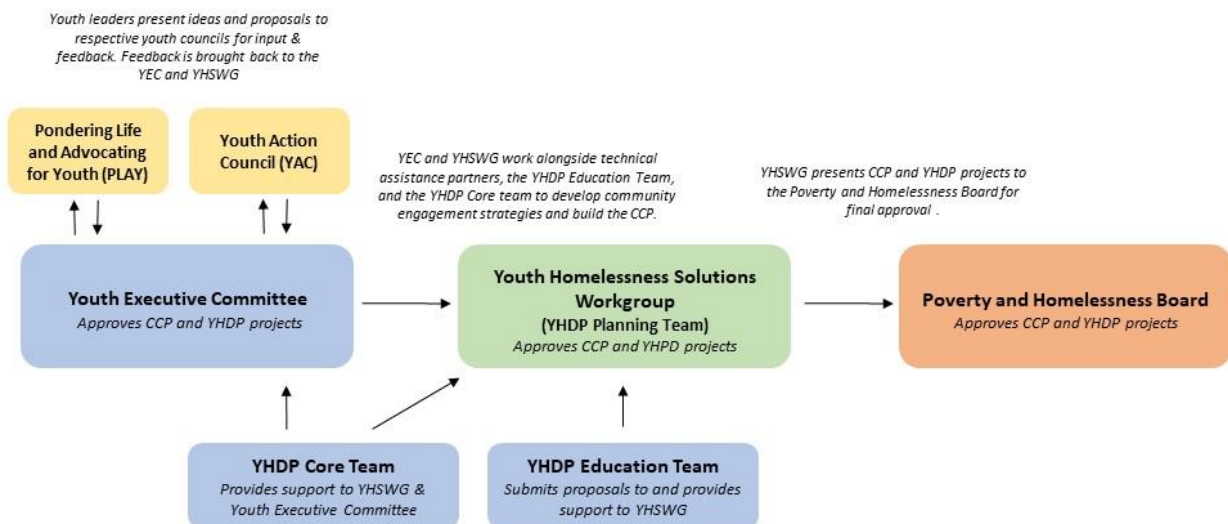
Youth Executive Committee members, with support from facilitators, present content and proposed projects in an accessible way to each respective Youth Action Council (YAC). Individual support is provided as needed to ensure all YAC members have the opportunity to understand and discuss fully. Feedback is brought to the YEC meeting where space is held for members to provide additional input and, if applicable, make edits.

Once a census is attained or YEC members feel comfortable, a decision is brought to a vote. In order to make a vote of approval, one YEC member must put in a motion to approve. Another YEC member will follow up with a second to the motion. The rest of the group must then take a vote. In order for a decision to be made, a 3/4 majority vote of those present must be met. All YEC members not present will be notified via text or email and given the opportunity to share thoughts or position.

### Youth Homeless Solutions Workgroup

Once the YEC has made their decision, their recommendation is elevated to the YHSWG for a vote. Youth leaders and YHSWG members work together to review these additions or changes. Workgroup decisions are reached via consensus. If a consensus is not met, the decision will be made by a majority vote of the workgroup membership as defined in the charter. In order for a vote to be made, a quorum of 1/3 of members must be present.

The final CCP is reviewed and approved by the Poverty and Homelessness Board before being submitted to HUD.



## Community Partners

Partners	Organization	Involvement
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board	Lane County Poverty and Homelessness Board (PHB)	The PHB is the appointed CoC board for Lane County. They approve and oversee all CoC activities and will provide final endorsement of the CCP submission and approval of all YHDP projects.
Youth Advisory Board (Youth Executive Committee)	15th Night Youth Action Council	Members of the YAC served on the Youth Executive Committee and represented youth voices at all community workshops, Planning Team, Education Team, and Core Team meetings. Youth leaders have been present in every conversation and decision making process, providing ideas and feedback throughout the process of building the CCP. YEC members will provide final endorsement of CCP submission and approval of all YHDP projects.
	Looking Glass Pondering Life and Advocating for Youth (PLAY)	Members of PLAY served on the Youth Executive Committee and represented youth voices at all community workshops, Planning Team, Education Team, and Core Team meetings. Youth leaders have been present in every conversation and decision making process, providing ideas and feedback throughout the process of building the CCP. YEC members will provide final endorsement of CCP submission and approval of all YHDP projects.
Local and State Government	Lane County Board of Commissioners	Overseer of the PHB. Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
	Lane County Human Services Division	Continuum of Care Lead; Community Action Agency; Provision of data; Facilitator of meetings and community convenings, Author of CCP; Facilitates YEC, Participation in

		community workshop completing system modeling and planning, Member of stakeholder planning team, Member of YHDP core team, Member of Education Team
	City of Eugene	Liaison between County and City of Eugene
	City of Eugene Public Library	Provision of data
	City of Springfield Public Library	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
Public Child Welfare Agencies	Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare	Provision of data; Member of stakeholder planning team; Member of YHDP core team; Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
Public Self Sufficiency Agencies	Oregon Department of Human Services Self Sufficiency	Provision of data; Member of stakeholder planning team; Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
Affordable Housing Developers	St. Vincent de Paul	Member of stakeholder planning team; Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning; Youth Transitional Housing Provider
Community Development Corporations	DevNW	Member of stakeholder planning team; Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
ESG Program Recipient	Oregon Housing and Community Services	Provision of Data; Liaison between County and State of Oregon
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	South Lane Mental Health	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning; Participation in stakeholder planning meetings
	PeaceHealth	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and

		planning; Participation in stakeholder planning meetings
	PacificSource Health Plans	Participation in stakeholder planning meetings
Institutes of Higher Education	Lane Community College	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning; Worked alongside Education Team
	University of Oregon	Worked alongside Education Team
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Lane County Youth Services	Provision of data; Member of stakeholder planning team
Landlords	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Southtowne Rotary Club of Eugene	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning; Participation in stakeholder planning meetings
	Junior League of Eugene	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
	First United Methodist Church	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
Local and State Law Enforcement	Eugene Police Department	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning; Participation in stakeholder planning meetings
Non-Profit Youth Organizations	CORE	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning; Participation in stakeholder planning meetings
	Safe Shelter for Siuslaw Students	Member of stakeholder planning team; Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
	A Family for Every Child	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning; Participation in stakeholder

		planning meetings
	Youth Era	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
	15th Night	Provision of data; Member of YHDP core team; Member of stakeholder planning team; Member of Education Team; Facilitates Youth Action Council
	Direction Service	Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning; Participation in stakeholder planning meeting
	Ophelia's Place	Participation in stakeholder planning meeting; Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
Non-Profit Organizations	Pearl Buck Center	Participation in stakeholder planning meeting
Privately Funded Homeless Organizations	Hosea Youth Services	Member of stakeholder planning team; Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
Public Housing Authority	Homes for Good	<i>pending</i>
Racially and Culturally Responsive Organizations	Trans*Ponder	Participation in stakeholder planning meetings
	<i>Pending - LC to conduct intentional, ongoing outreach to bring additional representation</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Looking Glass	Provision of data; Member of YHDP core team; Member of stakeholder planning team; Facilitates PLAY; Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
Local and State Educational Agencies	Bethel Public School District	Provision of data; Member of stakeholder planning team; Participation in community workshop



		completing system modeling and planning; Member of Education Team
	4J Public School District	Provision of data; Member of Education Team; Participation in stakeholder planning meetings
	South Lane Public School District	Provision of data; Member of Education Team; Participation in stakeholder planning meetings
	Springfield Public School District	Provision of data; Member of Education Team; Participation in stakeholder planning meetings
WIOA Boards and Employment Agency	Connected Lane County	Provision of data; Member of stakeholder planning team; Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning; Member of Education Team;
Employment Agency	City of Eugene Chamber of Commerce	Participation in System Modeling and Planning; Participation in community workshop completing system modeling and planning
Technical Assistance Organizations	True Colors United	Provider of Technical Assistance for Planning Team, Core Team, and Youth Executive Committee; Provider of Adulthood and Racial Equity Training;
	CSH	Provider of Technical Assistance to Lane County Human Services Division staff, Planning Team, and Core Team; assist with planning meetings and building agendas;
	National Center for Homeless Education	Provider of Technical Assistance to Planning Team, Core Team, and Education Team; Provision of data;

## Proposed YHDP Projects to be Funded

Lane County CoC was awarded an initial \$3,540,476.23 million total through HUD's YHDP funding. Initial grants will last two years. Thereafter, YHDP funding is renewable annually and may be used for eligible activities under the CoC. Lane County applied for and was awarded a non-renewable Planning Grant awarded at \$154,620 to cover costs of staffing and youth leader stipends. The following pages outline proposed projects that Lane County would like to fund using the YHDP grant.

The decision to fund these projects were a product of multiple meetings that involved youth leaders, stakeholders and community members. Through system modeling, we were able to build our ideal system and paths youth could take to reach housing stability. This ideal system fueled conversations around system gaps in Lane County, and the projects that could be used to begin to bridge those gaps. Final decisions for projects and funding allocations were formally voted on and by the YEC and YHSWG.

Support Services Only	
<b>Program Summary</b>	Support Service Only projects will be refined during the competition process, based on applicant responses. Projects of interest may include drop-in services, outreach services, youth navigators, and youth coordinated entry. Projects will include innovative strategies around finding unaccompanied YYA experiencing homelessness and providing services to successfully move them to housing.
<b>Target Population</b>	Minors ages 11-17 who are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness; and youth ages 18-24, including all special populations.
<b>HUD Homeless Definition</b>	Category 1, 2, & 4
<b>Projected Number of Youth to be Served (Annually)</b>	50-125
<b>Support Services Description</b>	<p><b>SSO projects will include immediate access to or referrals for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Peer support services</li> <li>● Mental health services</li> <li>● Skill building groups and classes</li> <li>● Job Training</li> <li>● Financial education</li> <li>● Addiction services and recovery supports</li> <li>● Access to survivor advocates and supports</li> <li>● Parenting Classes</li> <li>● Technology access</li> <li>● Transportation access</li> <li>● Culturally appropriate mentorship</li> <li>● Positive social outings and building healthy connections within community</li> </ul> <p><b>SSO projects may also include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Educate first responders on youth homelessness</li> <li>● Support for parents filing runaway reports</li> <li>● Family Mediation</li> </ul>
<b>Desired Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased outreach to youth in rural communities.</li> <li>● Youth at imminent risk of homelessness are diverted prior to an episode.</li> <li>● Decrease in the number of youth experiencing homelessness.</li> <li>● Youth experiencing homelessness are quickly identified and connected to appropriate supports.</li> <li>● Increased collaboration between Youth Services and Child Welfare to bridge gaps and divert youth from future episodes of homelessness.</li> </ul>
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	<p><b>Special Populations</b> All youth in special populations will be served in SSO projects.</p> <p><b>Equity</b> All SSO projects will provide culturally accessible services, with staff trained on cultural competency, trauma informed care, and racial equity. Front line staff</p>

	<p>will meet core competencies necessary to work with YYA experiencing housing instability or homelessness.</p> <p><b>Individualized &amp; Client-Driven Supports, Positive Youth Development, Trauma-Informed Care, Youth Choice</b></p> <p>All SSO project staff will be fully trained in trauma-informed care and cultural competency prior to hiring; staff will be provided ongoing, yearly training. Staff will also receive sexual assault support and human trafficking training. Programming developed will be trauma-informed and culturally competent, utilizing outside connections to ensure youth have opportunity to choose services that best fit their needs. All support services provided will be optional. Support services offered will be individualized, client-driven, and centered on positive youth development to build independent living skills, gain stability, and focus on goal attainment.</p> <p><b>Family Engagement</b></p> <p>When applicable and safe to do so, family mediation and reunification support or referrals will be provided.</p> <p><b>Unsheltered Homelessness</b></p> <p>SSO projects will serve YYA experiencing literal homelessness, efficiently connecting them to appropriate services to ensure quick stability.</p> <p><b>Social &amp; Community Integration</b></p> <p>SSO projects may provide a number of opportunities for youth to engage in social and community integration. Opportunities can look like community activities, volunteerism, support groups, and/or other formal/informal peer groups.</p> <p><b>Coordinated Entry</b></p> <p>Staff will be trained to connect individuals to Coordinated Entry.</p>
<p><b>USICH Outcomes Addressed</b></p>	<p><b>Stable Housing</b></p> <p>SSO projects will work to identify youth experiencing homelessness and ensure that episodes are brief, rare, and one-time. Projects will aim to refer youth experiencing homelessness to housing programs that will lead to housing stability.</p> <p><b>Permanent Connections</b></p> <p>Projects will utilize connections to make appropriate referrals to ensure youth receive supports necessary to gain or remain stably housed.</p> <p><b>Education/Employment</b></p> <p>When applicable, youth will be immediately connected to McKinney-Vento supports if interested in pursuing secondary education. Youth interested in pursuing post-secondary education will be connected with post-secondary support. The program will develop a robust connection with job training programs to prioritize referrals.</p> <p><b>Social-Emotional Well-Being</b></p> <p>Youth will have access to education and programs that support social-emotional well-being, including financial and renters education. Youth will also have prioritized access to mental health supports when needed.</p>
<p><b>Is the project anticipated</b></p>	<p>Yes - SSO</p>

<b>to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	
<b>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</b>	The need for additional flexibilities will be outlined as the project designs under the SSO component are defined through the RFP process.
<b>Is the project still feasible, if waivers are applied for but not granted?</b>	Yes
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	\$200,000-\$500,000

<b>Joint Transitional Housing - Rapid Rehousing Program</b>	
<b>Program Summary</b>	<p>A joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing Program will be low barrier and youth-centered, while addressing the immediate housing needs of YYA with an option to transfer from TH to RRH. Program participants in TH have access to the RRH component or other permanent housing assistance to assist with the transition to permanent housing as soon as possible.</p> <p>Youth in the TH program will be provided a low-barrier, safe and warm place to stay with wrap-around case management, as needed by program participants. Case management will be individualized and client-driven, giving power to youth clients to decide the goals and priorities they want to focus on achieving.</p> <p>The RRH component of the program will provide housing identification and placement assistance, access to financial assistance for move-in costs and time-limited rent assistance, and RRH case management and services, as needed by program participants.</p>
<b>Target Population</b>	Minors ages 16-17 who are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness; and youth ages 18-24, including all special populations.
<b>HUD Homeless Definition</b>	Category 1, 2, & 4
<b>Projected Number of Youth to be Served (Annually)</b>	27-45
<b>Support Services Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Resource referrals to meet immediate, basic needs</li> <li>● Wraparound case management that is individualized, client-driven and focused on youth choice</li> <li>● Onsite or direct referrals to counseling and mental health supports</li> <li>● Connection to education and employment supports, such as McKinney-Vento Liaisons and W.I.O.A.</li> <li>● Housing navigators that will build relationships with landlords, assist youth with identifying and obtaining housing, and provide education on renter and housing rights.</li> <li>● Financial education and assistance to cover move-in costs, deposits, and time-limited rental or utility assistance. Continued assistance is flexible and tailored to meet specific needs of individuals.</li> <li>● On-site or prioritized referrals to child care pregnant and parenting YYA</li> <li>● Peer support services and social and community integration</li> <li>● Transportation access to education, employment, treatment, and other supports</li> <li>● Connection to mentorship</li> </ul>
<b>Desired Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase the number of youth housed independently.</li> <li>● Decrease the number of and length of time youth experience homelessness.</li> <li>● Decrease recidivism rates of youth homelessness.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support youth in developing skills to maintain housing.</li> <li>● Support youth in achieving key education, employment, health and well-being goals.</li> <li>● Connect youth with existing community supports and equip them with tools to achieve self sufficiency and remain housed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b></p>	<p><b>Special Populations</b> Programs will serve all special populations; designating a select number of units for pregnant and parenting YYA.</p> <p><b>Equity</b> All program spaces utilized by youth will be safe, inclusive, and affirming. Program staff and volunteers will receive racial equity training prior to starting and ongoing on a yearly basis. Staff and volunteers will also receive training on topics related to youth who have experienced trafficking or exploitation and be provided a robust understanding of survivor advocates and support available. The TH and RRH program will each develop a tool to receive feedback from youth within and exiting the program to guarantee quality assurance. Tools will be created in collaboration with youth with lived experience to ensure inclusion of youth voice in program design and implementation.</p> <p><b>Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care &amp; Client-Centered</b> All TH and RRH staff will be fully trained in trauma-informed care and cultural competency prior to hiring; staff will be provided ongoing, yearly training. Programming developed will be trauma-informed and culturally competent and utilize outside connections to offer holistic, wraparound services and supports. Support services offered will be individualized, client-driven, and centered on positive youth development to build independent living skills, gain stability, and focus on goal attainment.</p> <p><b>Housing First</b> The transitional housing project will be low-barrier, with the understanding that youth need to be stably housed before being able to address other needs.</p> <p><b>Youth Choice</b> Wraparound case management will be centered around youth choice, with the option of concurrent planning in the focus on goal attainment. Youth will have choice in the geographic region they would like to reside in, the house setting, and whom they live with. Employment and education services will be tailored to individual participants' interests and motivation.</p> <p><b>Social &amp; Community Integration</b> This joint program will provide a number of opportunities for youth to engage in social and community integration. Opportunities can look like community activities, volunteerism, support groups, and/or other formal/informal peer groups.</p> <p><b>Coordinated Entry</b> Youth will access this program through the Lane County Coordinated Entry system.</p>
<p><b>USICH Outcomes</b></p>	<p><b>Stable Housing</b></p>

<p><b>Addressed</b></p>	<p>Youth will be successfully housed independently and be equipped with skills and supports necessary to maintain housing.</p> <p><b>Permanent Connections</b> Upon point of entry youth will establish connections to outside agencies and supports, developing a full understanding of resources available to them.</p> <p><b>Education/Employment</b> When applicable, youth will be immediately connected to McKinney-Vento supports if interested in pursuing secondary education. Youth interested in pursuing post-secondary education will be connected with post-secondary support. The program will develop a robust connection with job training programs to prioritize referrals.</p> <p><b>Social-Emotional Well-Being</b> Youth will have access to education and programs that support social-emotional well-being, including financial and renters' rights. Youth will also have prioritized access to mental health support when needed.</p>
<p><b>Innovative Strategies to be built into implementation</b></p>	<p>This is a new type of project to Lane County, and will require intensive collaboration between the project applicant, youth leaders, and Lane County. There will be lots of room for innovative and creative solutions to be implemented.</p>
<p><b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b></p>	<p>Yes - Joint TH-RRH</p>
<p><b>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</b></p>	<p>Projects may seek flexibilities including, but not limited to, allowability for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. one month lease, rather than one year leases;</li> <li>b. up to 36 months of assistance rather than current limit of 24 months;</li> <li>c. up to 24 months of supportive services after rental assistance ends, rather than current limit of 6 months</li> </ul> <p>Additional waivers may be requested as needed.</p>
<p><b>Is the project still feasible, if waivers are applied for but not granted?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b></p>	<p>\$600,000-\$1,000,000</p>



SSO - Host Homes	
Program Summary	<p>Host Homes are a network of private homes that volunteer to host YYA in need of temporary placement. They may serve as a safe, affirming, and stable short term placement for youth under the age of 18 who need a “cooling off” period to repair their relationship with self-identified and chosen family before returning home. When family reunification is not possible, Host Homes provide wraparound case management to assist youth with identifying other housing options and building life skills that will lead to long-term, stable housing.</p> <p>Host Homes are unique in their replication of a healthy, family environment. Host Homes will identify specific placement options for pregnant and parenting YYA.</p>
Target Population	Minors ages 11-17 who are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness; and youth ages 18-24, including all special populations.
HUD Homeless Definition	Categories 1, 2 & 4
Projected Number of Youth to be Served (Annually)	28
Support Services Description	<p>Youth will receive support to remain stabilized in housing through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Short-term placements for that provide time and space apart from families</li> <li>● Family mediation (referrals)</li> <li>● Family or individualized counseling</li> <li>● Access to Family Findings Program when reunification is not possible</li> </ul> <p>In long-term placements, youth will receive supports to stabilize and build skills to smoothly transition into other long-term housing options, when ready, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access to resource referrals to meet immediate, basic needs</li> <li>● Individualized counseling</li> <li>● Strong connection to education and employment supports, such as McKinney-Vento Liaisons and W.I.O.A.</li> <li>● Prioritized referrals to child care pregnant and parenting YYA</li> <li>● Peer support services</li> <li>● Social engagement opportunities with peers in other Host Homes</li> </ul>
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Host Homes will be available in all geographical regions of Lane County</li> <li>● There will be a decrease in the number of youth experiencing homelessness</li> <li>● There will be shorter lengths of time that youth spend literally homeless</li> <li>● Youth will be successfully housed with a client-informed move-on strategy to transitional or permanent housing, if needed</li> </ul>
YHDP Principles to be Addressed	<p><b>Special Populations</b></p> <p>Host Homes will work diligently to build a network of diverse and affirming homes that YYA of Color and LGBTQIA+ youth feel safe and comfortable in. Host</p>

<p>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</p>	<p>Homes will identify dedicated placements trained and equipped to support pregnant and parenting youth. Youth will not be declined placement options due to involvement in juvenile justice. The Host Home provider will work to identify a home that best meets the youths’ needs and experiences. Minors in Child Welfare custody will continue to work with CW, but youth aging out of foster care will be eligible to be placed in a host home immediately upon exit.</p> <p><b>Equity</b> Host Homes will intentionally recruit hosts that build a diverse network of homes for a youth to choose from and to create space for youth to authentically be themselves. Host Homes will train staff and hosts on racial equity prior to any placements. Host Homes will also develop a tool to receive feedback from youth within and exiting the program to ensure quality assurance and inclusion of youth voice in program design and implementation.</p> <p><b>Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care &amp; Client-Centered</b> Host Home staff and hosts will be fully trained in trauma-informed care and cultural competency prior to youth placement; staff will provide ongoing support and training to hosts when youth arrive in crisis. Host Homes will develop trauma-informed and culturally competent programming that utilizes outside connections to offer holistic, wraparound services and supports. Support services offered will be individualized, client-driven, and centered on positive youth development to build independent living skills, gain stability, and focus on goal attainment.</p> <p><b>Family Engagement</b> When applicable, youth and families will be offered mediation and counseling services to support safe and stable reunification.</p> <p><b>Unsheltered Homelessness</b> Host Homes are a low-barrier housing opportunity aimed at ensuring stability for YYA. This program identifies the need for housing to be met in order for a YYA to successfully reach stability. The unique replication of a family setting allows youth to achieve stable housing prior to being ‘ready’ for independent living.</p> <p><b>Youth Choice</b> Youth choice is the forefront of a successful Host Home program. At point of entry, youth can choose to pursue Host Homes or the Family Finding Program to identify kith and kin to live with. Youth can also choose the Host Home they would like to live in, after being fully informed on the available options that best meet their needs. Additionally, youth can choose to engage in support services, and identify those they would like to pursue.</p> <p><b>Social &amp; Community integration</b> Host Homes will provide a number of opportunities for youth to engage in social and community integration. Opportunities can look like community activities, volunteerism, support groups, and/or other formal/informal peer groups.</p>
<p>USICH Outcomes Addressed</p>	<p><b>Stable Housing</b> Through either reunification with family or identifying other long-term housing options, the goal of Host Homes is for youth to exit stably housed. See above sections for how Host Homes plans to address these options.</p>

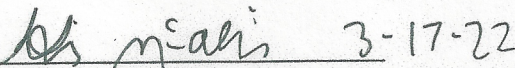
	<p><b>Permanent Connections</b> Youth will establish connections to outside agencies and supports to ensure a full understanding of resources available.</p> <p><b>Education/Employment</b> Youth immediately connected to McKinney-Vento supports if pursuing secondary education, post-secondary supports if applicable. Host Home program will develop a robust connection with job training programs to direct referrals.</p> <p><b>Social-Emotional Well-Being</b> Youth will have access to education and programs that support social-emotional well-being, including financial and renters rights. Youth will also have prioritized access to mental health support when needed.</p>
Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?	Yes - SSO
Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?	<p>Projects may seek flexibilities including, but not limited to, allowability for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. provision of payments of up to \$500 per month for families that provide housing under a host home and kinship care model in order to offset the increased costs associated with having youth housed in the unit</li> </ul> <p>Additional waivers may be requested as needed.</p>
Is the project still feasible, if waivers are applied for but not granted?	Yes
Projected Cost (1 year)	\$250,000

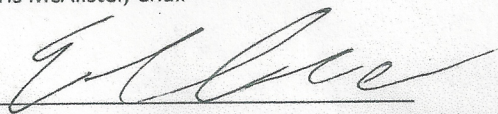
HMIS - Enhance Data System	
Program Summary	Expand HMIS Capacity to include YHDP projects.
Target Population	Not applicable.
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Incorporate new YHDP programs into HMIS</li> <li>● Provide data-related training &amp; technical assistance to YHDP providers</li> <li>● Continuous quality improvement activities including ongoing HMIS data quality engagement with YHDP providers, ensuring complete and correct data entry</li> <li>● Completion of HUD and other funder required reports (i.e. APR, Quarterly Reports, community dashboards)</li> <li>● Ongoing tracking of project outcomes identified in the CCP</li> </ul>
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased capacity on data management team to meet the data tracking needs of new YHDP projects</li> <li>● Improvements in data completeness</li> <li>● Improvements in data quality</li> <li>● Increased and improved participation in HMIS</li> </ul>
Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?	Yes
Projected Cost ( <b>2 years</b> )	\$187,957

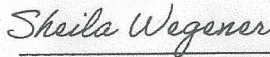
## HUD Required Signatures

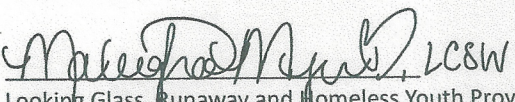
In Section III.F.b of the FY 2021 YHDP NOFO, HUD requires that representatives of the Continuum of Care, Public Child Welfare Agency, a Local Government Agency, and the Youth Action Board, participate in the planning process, approve of the coordinated community plan, and provide a signature verifying their approval. The purpose is to ensure broad partnership and shared ownership in a program that crosses multiple sectors and jurisdictions.

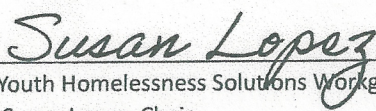
We, the representatives of these entities, attest to the approval and support of Lane County's Coordinated Community Plan to end Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

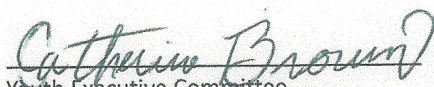
 3-17-22  
Continuum of Care, Poverty and Homelessness Board  
Kris McAlister, Chair

 3/10/2022  
Lane County Health and Human Services Division  
Eve Gray, Director of Health and Human Services

 District Manager Self-Sufficiency and Child Welfare Programs  
Department of Human Services Public Child Welfare, District 5 3/10/2022  
Sheila Wegener, Manager

 LCSW 3/15/2022  
Looking Glass, Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider  
Maleigha Meyers, Homeless & Adjudicated Youth Services Youth Services Director

 3/9/2022  
Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup  
Susan Lopez, Chair

 3/18/2022  
Youth Executive Committee  
Cat Brown

*Mi* Mar 17, 2022  
Miya Longsworth (Mar 17, 2022 16:49 PDT)  
Youth Executive Committee  
Miya Longsworth

*mattias smith* 03/17/2022  
Youth Executive Committee  
Mattias Smith

*Dace Squires* Mar 17, 2022  
Dace Squires (Mar 17, 2022 12:19 PDT)  
Youth Executive Committee  
Dace Squires

*Emmett Stapleton* Mar 17, 2022  
Emmett Stapleton (Mar 17, 2022 12:48 CDT)  
Youth Executive Committee  
Emmett Stapleton

*Daisy Wolfe* Mar 17, 2022  
Daisy Wolfe (Mar 17, 2022 11:26 PDT)  
Youth Executive Committee  
Daisy Wolfe

*Raven Young* Mar 17, 2022  
Raven Young (Mar 17, 2022 12:15 PDT)  
Youth Executive Committee  
Raven Young