

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP)

Matthew Rasmussen, Program Manager



Serving youth: Our role



Oversee contracts and grants process



Deliver troubleshooting to grantees



Develop and advance policy direction



Track national best practice



Pursue funding opportunities



Engage youth and partners



Maintain connections to other ODHS programs

Who we're supporting

- **Unaccompanied youth, not in the care of a parent or guardian, residing in:**
 - Places not meant for human habitation (i.e. cars, parks, abandoned buildings, campgrounds).
 - Emergency shelters and transitional living.
 - Hotels and motels.
 - Over-crowded housing, doubling up and couch surfing.
- **Youth through the age of 24, though some programs may use more limited age criteria.**
- **Some of the most common reasons young people leave or are forced to leave home include:**
 - An unstable family life.
 - Experiences of family housing instability or homelessness as a child.
 - Severe family conflict, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or abandonment by parents and caregivers.
 - Caregiver and youth substance use and mental health disorders.

Counting youth – A challenge

- Youth don't always see themselves as “homeless” or experiencing homelessness.
- Youth can feel uncomfortable or unsafe in even coming forward for assistance.
- Youth may feel safer staying “off the radar”.
- Limiting definitions of homelessness can create confusion and undercounts are guaranteed.
- Current data sources on youth homelessness are affected by outside factors.

Oregon Youth Homelessness: By the numbers

8,300

homeless young people in need of safe housing and services every year*

4th

highest number of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY) across U.S.**

1st

highest rate of UHY without shelter across U.S.**

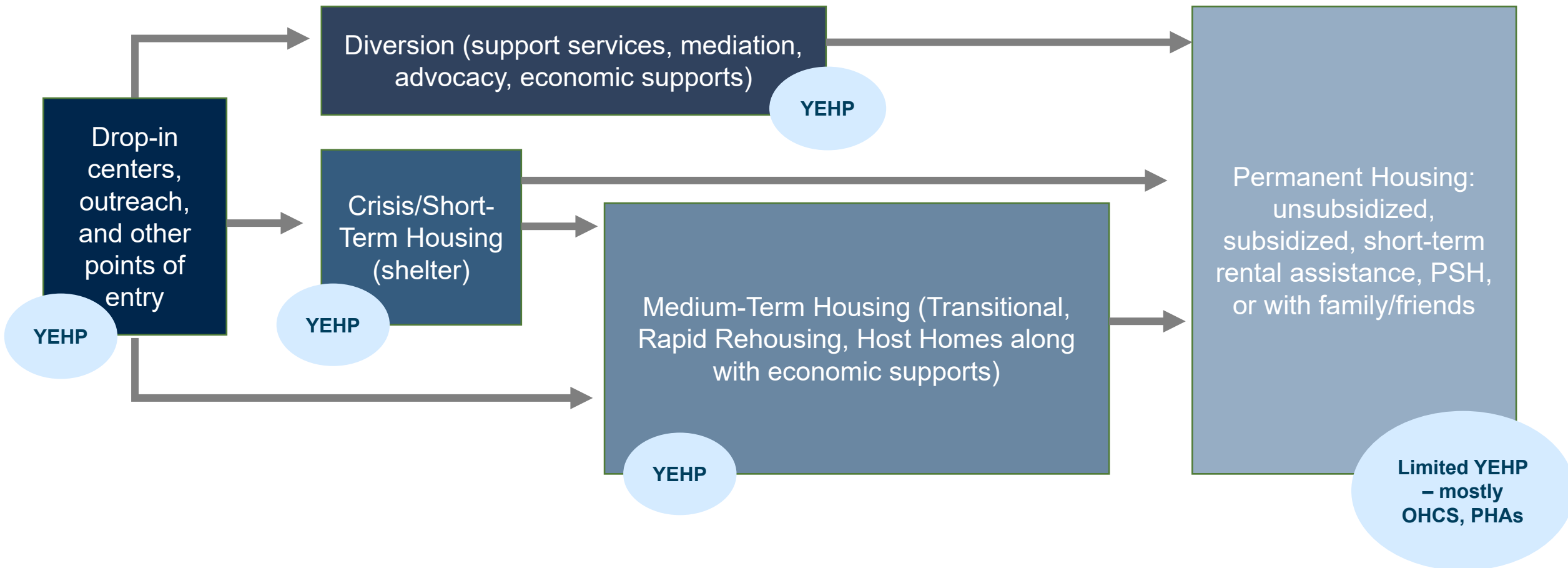
* Corporation for Supporting Housing Youth Housing Needs Assessment

** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report

Legislative funding (2023-2025)

- **Per biennium**
 - \$4.5 million - General Fund
 - \$600,000 - Federal Social Services Block Grant
- **New short-term investments**
 - \$12.5 million - House Bills 2001 / 5019 (2023)
 - \$6.25 million - House Bills 2001 / 5019 (2023)
 - \$4 million - House Bill 3395 (2023)

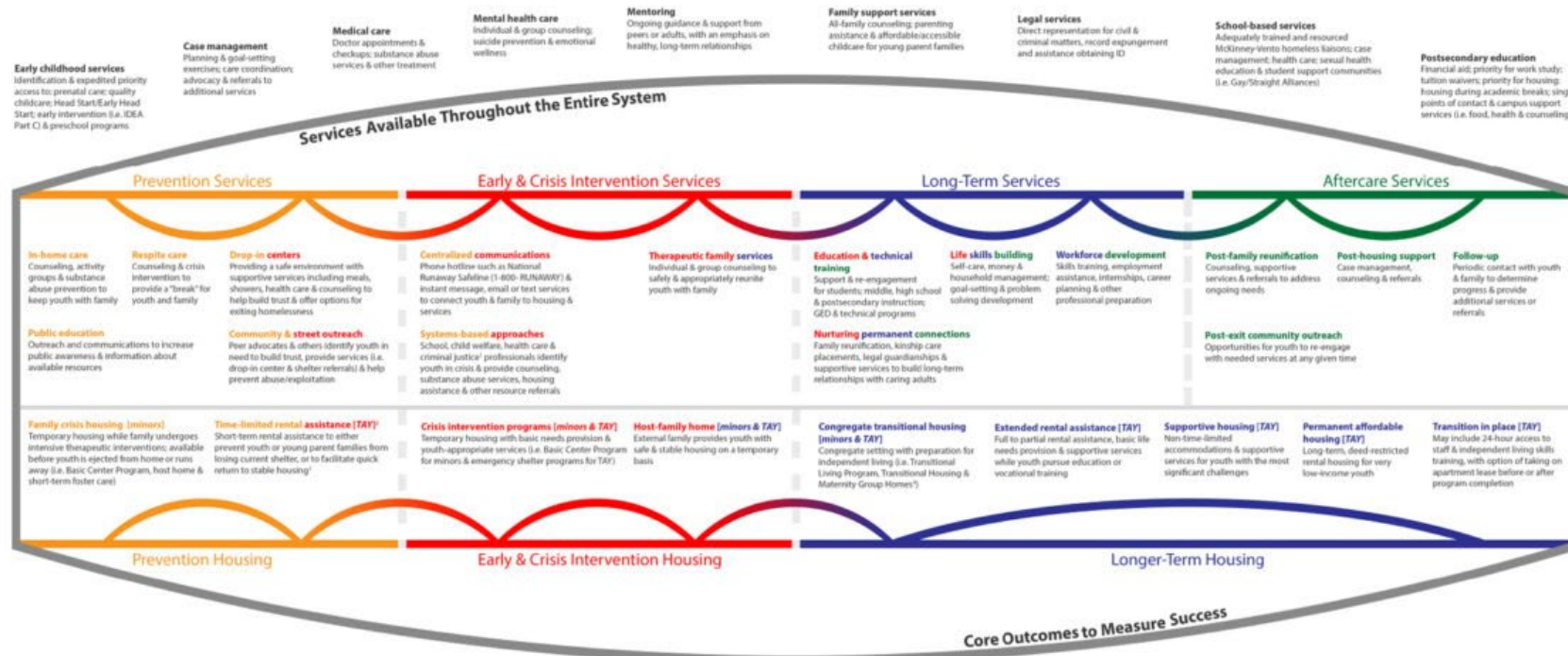
Ideal youth homelessness services continuum



Proposed System to End Youth Homelessness

Proposed System to End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

All support services & housing models should be implemented according to the following principles, defined on page 4:
Positive Youth Development, Trauma-Informed Care, Cultural Competence, Client Centered Care & Strengths-Based Family Services



Key

Support services or housing models that belong to **one stage** are identified by **one color**.

Support services or housing models that belong to **two or more stages** are identified by **two or more colors**. Each color appears in sequential order, beginning with the stage of origination.

Stable housing: safe, stable & developmentally appropriate housing with access to supportive services as necessary

Permanent connections: healthy attachments to peers, mentors, family & other caring adults

Education, training & employment: employability through supported academic success, development of workplace skills & connections to employers

Health & social/emotional well-being: physical health; ability to create & maintain positive relationships with others, solve problems, experience empathy & manage emotions

Self-sufficiency: self management with regard to finance, cooking, shopping, laundry, transportation, parenting & household management

Investment areas

Core Services are administered via grant agreements with youth-serving non-profit organizations.



Prevention Services: Street outreach and day drop-in centers



Crisis Intervention: Shelter



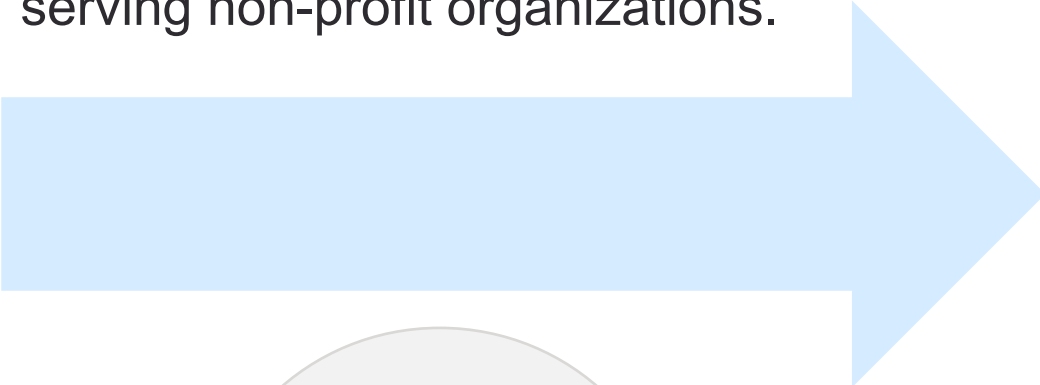
Medium-Term Housing: Transitional living programs



Host Homes



Support Services: Culturally-specific services, mental health and substance use



\$19.5M
in 2023 grants

Funding by service category

<u>Region</u>	<u>Requested (rounded)</u>	<u>Awarded</u>	<u>Share of Core Services budget</u>
Southern	\$8,975,268.00	\$4,050,000.00	20%
Mid Valley	\$15,932,820.00	\$5,825,000.00	30%
Metro – Tri County	\$26,797,516.00	\$4,925,000.00	25%
NW Oregon	\$1,933,872.00	\$500,000.00	3%
Oregon Coast	\$1,283,750.00	\$1,240,000.00	6%
Central/Gorge	\$3,987,044.00	\$2,260,000.00	12%
Eastern	\$1,964,400.00	\$700,000.00	4%

*Note: \$6.25 million was set-aside legislatively for Host Homes

Unique initiatives in supporting youth and preventing homelessness

Direct Cash Transfer Plus (DCT+) pilot

Cash transfers for YEH population to assist in exiting youth from housing instability, prioritizing youth of color and over-represented populations

DCT as Prevention (DCT-P) pilot

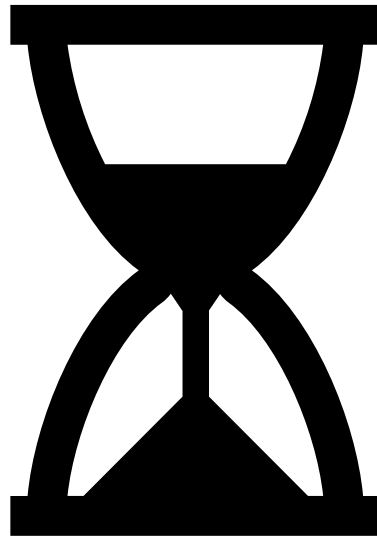
Cash transfers for youth at risk of homelessness to prevent entry into a homelessness response system



Affordable Housing for College Students

Affordable Rents for College Students (ARCS) – Free and Reduced rent for youth furthering their education and/or employability skills

Youth Homelessness: Stopping the Flow





Questions?



SAY YES
to **YEHP**