

**Program #10097 - Youth Connect** FY 2024 Department Requested

**Department:** Nondepartmental      **Program Contact:** Raffaele Timarchi  
**Program Offer Type:** Existing      **Program Offer Stage:** Department Requested  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:** One-Time-Only Request, In Target

**Executive Summary**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated economic and social inequities, creating prolonged emotional and financial stress that has fueled a significant uptick in community violence particularly in low income communities of color. Adolescents especially in these communities have experienced psychological distress from increased isolation, disconnection from schools, and disruption of healthy routines and social supports leading to an escalation of risky behaviors and mental health challenges. Youth Connect will identify and engage youth from these communities to provide essential skills training, service learning opportunities, caring adult mentors and stipends to help them successfully transition into adulthood and toward economic self-sufficiency.

**Program Description**

Youth Connect will provide incentivized positive youth development through early career and job skill exposure as a form of violence prevention to build resilience in underserved youth ages 14 to 21 experiencing barriers to employment and in need of interpersonal and community connection. This program offer represents the second phase of a two-year project that includes place-based service learning projects in low-income neighborhoods to create social connections and engage youth as community change agents.

**CORE PROGRAM FUNCTIONS:**

- 1) Identify, recruit and enroll youth ages 14 to 21 facing barriers to employment such as houselessness, juvenile justice involvement, immigrant/refugee status, and engagement with the foster care system.
- 2) Provide up to 200 hours of paid job skill training, work experience, community-based activities, service learning, and support services for each participating youth.
- 3) Coordinate with community partners to develop place-based service learning projects in low income neighborhoods to create social connections and engage youth as change agents and valuable contributors.
- 4) Build organizational capacity at the community level and expand mentor networks and additional supports for youth.

**Performance Measures**

| Measure Type | Primary Measure   | FY22 Actual | FY23 Budgeted | FY23 Estimate | FY24 Offer |
|--------------|---|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Output       | Youth served in professional/educational settings*                                      | N/A         | 80            | 118           | 200        |
| Outcome      | % of youth who complete training and internship hours**                                 | N/A         | 80%           | 84%           | 80%        |
| Outcome      | % of participating youth experiencing barriers to employment***                         | N/A         | 90%           | 95%           | 90%        |
| Output       | Number of community-based organizations activated to serve as mentors and life coaches. | N/A         | 2             | 2             | 5          |

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

\*Defined as jobs, internships and paid learning opportunities. \*\*Defined as youth completing 80% of planned hours of work, training or learning opportunity with a positive evaluation and/or passing standardized assessments. \*\*\*Barriers to employment are self-reported and could include disability, homelessness, criminal justice involvement, immigrant/refugee status, and engagement with the foster care system. This program is the first phase and will significantly scale up in year two. By year two, 200 youth will be served, and 5 community-based organizations will be activated as mentors/life coaches.

Revenue/Expense Detail

|                        | Adopted<br>General Fund | Adopted<br>Other Funds | Department<br>Requested<br>General Fund | Department<br>Requested<br>Other Funds |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| Program Expenses       | 2023                    | 2023                   | 2024                                    | 2024                                   |
| Contractual Services   | \$0                     | \$1,000,000            | \$0                                     | \$600,000                              |
| <b>Total GF/non-GF</b> | <b>\$0</b>              | <b>\$1,000,000</b>     | <b>\$0</b>                              | <b>\$600,000</b>                       |
| <b>Program Total:</b>  | <b>\$1,000,000</b>      |                        | <b>\$600,000</b>                        |  |
| <b>Program FTE</b>     | 0.00                    | 0.00                   | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                   |

| Program Revenues     |            |                    |            |                  |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental    | \$0        | \$1,000,000        | \$0        | \$600,000        |
| <b>Total Revenue</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$1,000,000</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$600,000</b> |

Explanation of Revenues

Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) through State of Oregon Funding (year two of two years) - \$600,000

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 10097 Youth Connect

This program offer falls under the County's Crisis Response & Community Recovery ARP Priority Area.