



**Program #25130 - YFS - Family Unification Program** FY 2024 Proposed

**Department:** County Human Services      **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski  
**Program Offer Type:** Existing      **Program Offer Stage:** Proposed  
**Related Programs:** 25139  
**Program Characteristics:**

**Executive Summary**

The Family Unification Project (FUP) is a culturally specific program and it addresses the consequences of systemic racism in the Child Welfare system--especially the high rates of Black, Indigenous and Children of Color. FUP helps secure safe and stable housing which is a foundation for reunification with the children. The program is a partnership with County Human Services, Youth & Family Services (DCHS/YFS), Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Home Forward (HF), Metropolitan Public Defenders and community agencies. Direct services are contracted to non-profits. YFS staff support FUP through program development by bringing service providers together, offering guidance and support to providers and contract monitoring.

**Program Description**

**ISSUE:** The legacy of systemic racism in Child Welfare profoundly affects families. Black, Indigenous, Native and families of color are overrepresented in the DHS child welfare system. Because of the impacts of racism, FUP uses culturally specific approaches of family engagement and support in order to help keep/regain custody of their child/children, including housing, education, employment, child care and parenting support.

**PROGRAM GOAL:** The program goal is to provide culturally specific services to support and empower families so they can remain intact and/or reunite, remain stably housed, and exit from DHS child welfare system involvement.

**PROGRAM ACTIVITY:** Each organization receiving FUP funds provides a key service to help families. This ensures families have a comprehensive and coordinated range of supports. Home Forward provides HUD-funded Housing Choice vouchers for families with DHS child welfare involvement. DCHS/YFS provides funds for case management through culturally specific and responsive community agencies, and DHS supports family reunification. Case managers use the Assertive Engagement model which recognizes the individual as the expert in their own life and helps families choose their own path and goals. Metropolitan Public Defenders help remove legal barriers, such as record expungement and mitigation of fines. Flexible service options are also available and may include payments for household and life-needs, supporting involvement in groups and activities and related services.

The range of services FUP provides help families, especially those from Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color to reunite and remain stably housed.

**Performance Measures**

| Measure Type | Primary Measure                                    | FY22 Actual | FY23 Budgeted | FY23 Estimate | FY24 Offer |
|--------------|--|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Output       | Number of families who engage in services          | 88          | 135           | 135           | 135        |
| Outcome      | Percent of families that engage in case management | 68%         | 80%           | 80%           | 80%        |

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

FY22 output is lower due to partner staffing capacity challenges.

**Legal / Contractual Obligation****Revenue/Expense Detail**

|                         | <b>Adopted<br/>General Fund</b> | <b>Adopted<br/>Other Funds</b> | <b>Proposed<br/>General Fund</b> | <b>Proposed<br/>Other Funds</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Program Expenses</b> | <b>2023</b>                     | <b>2023</b>                    | <b>2024</b>                      | <b>2024</b>                     |
| Contractual Services    | \$577,352                       | \$0                            | \$610,289                        | \$0                             |
| <b>Total GF/non-GF</b>  | <b>\$577,352</b>                | <b>\$0</b>                     | <b>\$610,289</b>                 | <b>\$0</b>                      |
| <b>Program Total:</b>   | <b>\$577,352</b>                |                                | <b>\$610,289</b>                 |                                 |
| <b>Program FTE</b>      | 0.00                            | 0.00                           | 0.00                             | 0.00                            |

| <b>Program Revenues</b> |            |            |            |            |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Total Revenue</b>    | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> |

**Explanation of Revenues****Significant Program Changes**

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 25130 YFS - Family Unification Program