

**Department:** County Human Services

**Program Contact:** Lori Stegmann

**Program Offer Type:** Operating

**Program Offer Stage:** Proposed

**Related Programs:**
**Program Characteristics:** One-Time-Only Request

### Program Description

**ISSUE:** Due to the limited availability of emergency rent assistance and rising housing costs, more children and their families are at risk of homelessness. In the 2023-24 school year, 3,407 K-12 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County. Before learning can take place, a student's basic needs must be met. Inequities in housing, food, employment, and health impact a student's ability to learn and thrive, particularly for students of color who experience structural racism. Housing instability and homelessness have a particularly harmful effect on student attendance, achievement, and wellbeing. School-Based Housing Navigators are a proven model to support youth.

**PROGRAM GOAL:** The goal of the Family Resource Navigator program is to support families in achieving economic security, with a focus on improving housing stability by reducing barriers in navigating systems. By focusing efforts and resources at regional SUN Community School hubs, this program will create a "front door" to reach the most impacted families (those who are unstably housed and students with chronic absenteeism). The program aims to build skills and connections so that families know how to access the resources they need in the future, while providing a more direct link to immediate needs like rental assistance to support families at risk of homelessness.

**PROGRAM ACTIVITY:** SUN Family Resource Navigators (FRNs) work alongside families to build skills and confidence while navigating systems to get their needs met. This helps students learn and families thrive. Full-time Family Resource Navigators will be embedded at strategically located SUN Community School sites, which will act as family resource hubs within six local school districts. FRNs are trauma-informed and culturally responsive to support families of color, including refugees and immigrants. FRNs collaborate with school staff to take referrals and engage families, build trusting relationships to identify needs and goals using Assertive Engagement practices, and coordinate among the SUN Service System to connect families with resources. FRNs will be liaisons to the new Medicaid 1115 Waiver program providing up to six months of rent and Health Related Social Needs benefits. FRN services provided include, but are not limited to: case management, group skill building, reducing language barriers, and outreach. This Program Offer also includes rent assistance funds for families with children.

#### PROGRAM OUTPUTS:

- Support families to get their basic needs met, connect to resources, and gain skills to increase financial and housing stability.
- Directly connect families with children to rent assistance.
- Provide staffing capacity for family homeless prevention at County funded SUN Community Schools.

### Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of individuals who receive support from Family Resource Navigators <sup>1</sup>	14,488	6,500	8,500	900
Output	Number of households accessing rent assistance	N/A	N/A	N/A	220

### Performance Measures Descriptions

<sup>1</sup>The FY 2026 target number of individuals served represents an unduplicated count, which is a change from previous years, which included repeated support and outreach contacts. The lower target number also reflects a reduction in funding from FY 2025.

## Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Contractual Services	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$375,063	\$1,624,937
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$375,063</b>	<b>\$1,624,937</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>		<b>\$2,000,000</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 2025: 25146 YFS - SUN Community Schools: Family Resource Navigators

In FY 2025, this program was funded with one-time-only General Fund.

In FY 2026 this program is funded with one-time-only resources. The \$1.6 million in Other Funds is American Rescue Plan (ARP) Interest which is unrestricted funding and included in the General Fund forecast.

Reduced number of Family Resource Navigator and has rent assistance dollars embedded in the program offer.