

**Department:** County Human Services      **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski  
**Program Offer Type:** Existing Operating Program      **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:**

**Executive Summary**

SUN Youth Advocacy (SYA) Program increases opportunity through youth development and academic achievement supports so that all youth succeed in education. Better outcomes are achieved when youth feel safe, have a sense of belonging and their culture and choices are honored. SYA provides year-round, school-linked, and culturally-specific supports to youth and their families, with a focus on students experiencing the greatest educational barriers – those living in poverty and students of color.

**Program Summary**

**ISSUE:** For too many children and their families, income levels and the color of their skin impact the educational opportunities they have. Low educational attainment rates, high unemployment, hunger and poor health outcomes continue in Multnomah County and threaten our future as a thriving community. Oregon has the fourth lowest graduation rate in the country, with significant disparities for students of color. Countywide, Whites have the highest rate of high school completion (70%) compared to communities of color (30%).

**PROGRAM GOAL:** SYA goals include increasing sense of safety, belonging and positive cultural identity, which contribute to the key results of consistent school attendance, credit attainment and graduation for all students, and closing achievement gaps. Research on drop out prevention and improving educational outcomes for students of color shows that presence of a positive relationship with a supportive adult (mentoring) and out of school opportunities are effective strategies for promoting graduation. Youth Advocacy services that meet basic needs allow youth to focus on school and provide their caregivers with the resources to support educational success. Increased access to social services and additional learning opportunities outside of, but connected to the classroom, are promising practices for reducing the achievement gap. The Youth Advocacy Program provides this link - in schools and in the community.

**PROGRAM ACTIVITY:** Advocates support and mentor youth, building a strong supportive relationship with them through intensive individual support. Key services include: case management with a focus on academic and life goals; advocacy in disciplinary and educational meetings; skill-building groups; academic support activities such as tutoring, mentoring, reading club, gender-specific groups, and conflict resolution classes; and parent outreach/engagement. Youth advocates work in collaboration with SUN Community Schools and other school personnel towards youth and family success. Participants in the Youth Advocacy Program are at risk for academic failure due to poor attendance, failing grades, language barriers, family instability and school disproportionate discipline. Ninety-five percent of youth served are youth of color or from a culturally specific community. Youth Advocacy targets six specific populations of youth and families of color: African American, African Immigrant, Asian Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American and Slavic.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY16 Actual	FY17 Purchased	FY17 Estimate	FY18 Offer
Output	# of students (ages 6-18) served*	1,727	1,780	1,780	1,780
Outcome	% who consistently attend school (90% or more)**	85%	77%	80%	80%
Outcome	% of 9th graders who earn 6 credits and are on target to graduate**	66%	65%	65%	65%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

\* The lower than target actual is likely due to spring contract transition in several SYA contracts as part of the SUN RFP results.

\*\*Outcomes are analyzed for students who participate at a level at which outcomes can be correlated to participation (case management for 45 days or more with at least 15 hours of service). 1,127 youth participated at this level last year.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2017	2017	2018	2018
Personnel	\$110,266	\$0	\$113,516	\$0
Contractual Services	\$1,954,256	\$350,000	\$2,023,201	\$350,000
Materials & Supplies	\$857	\$0	\$969	\$0
Internal Services	\$11,255	\$0	\$13,335	\$0
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$2,076,634</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>\$2,151,021</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$2,426,634</b>		<b>\$2,501,021</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>

Explanation of Revenues

\$350,000 - OCCF-Youth Investment - based on award

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2017: 25149A SUN Youth Advocacy Program