

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

**Executive Summary**

The SUN Youth Advocacy (SYA) Program increases opportunity and educational success through youth development, socio-emotional and academic supports. When youth feel safe, have a sense of belonging and their culture and choices are honored, they achieve better outcomes. 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, students of color, immigrants, and refugees. These services are contracted to non-profits. YFS staff support program development through convening providers, providing technical assistance and contract monitoring.

**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 third-lowest graduation rate in the country, with significant disparities for students of color. In Multnomah County, whites have the highest rate of high school completion (70%) compared to communities of color (30%).

**PROGRAM GOAL:** SYA goals include increasing the sense of safety, belonging and positive cultural identity, which contributes to the key results of consistent school attendance, credit attainment and graduation for all students, and closing achievement gaps. Research on dropout prevention and improving educational outcomes for students of color shows that the 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.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Number of students (ages 6-18) served.	1,458	1,420	1,420	1,420
Outcome	Percent of students who consistently attend school (90% or more) <sup>1</sup>	60%	77%	77%	77%
Outcome	Percent of 9th graders who earn 6 credits and are on target to graduate <sup>1</sup>	82%	65%	65%	65%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

<sup>1</sup>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). 666 youth participated at this level last year.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Contractual Services	\$2,431,874	\$200,000	\$2,507,262	\$200,000
Materials & Supplies	\$6,172	\$0	\$0	\$0
Internal Services	\$13,680	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$2,451,726</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$2,507,262</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$2,651,726</b>		<b>\$2,707,262</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

Explanation of Revenues

\$200,000 - OCCF-Youth Investment

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 25149-20 YFS - SUN Youth Advocacy Program