

**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. Ninety-seven percent of youth served last year identified as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. SYA 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. Despite making progress, Oregon is still below the national average of graduation rates, and significant disparities exist for students of color in both Multnomah County and Oregon overall - a gap that is only growing due to COVID-19.

**PROGRAM GOAL:** SYA goals include increasing student sense of safety, belonging and positive cultural identity, all of which are known to increase school attendance, credit attainment, and graduation for all students. 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:** Youth Advocates support and mentor youth by building a strong supportive relationship with them through culturally-grounded and strengths-based approaches. Despite the school closures brought on by COVID-19, Youth Advocates are able to continue to support students and families without interruption, focusing on the key areas of social emotional support, wrap-around services, and virtual academic supports. At a time when all sense of normalcy and the expected has been lost, SYA has been able to support the most marginalized students in goal planning, identity development, advocating for themselves, and navigating this new landscape.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of students (ages 6-18) served	1,156	1,420	1,420	1,420
Outcome	Percent of students who consistently attend school (90% or more) <sup>1</sup>	NA	77%	77%	77%
Outcome	Percent of 9th graders who earn 6 credits and are on target to graduate <sup>1</sup>	NA	65%	65%	65%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

<sup>1</sup>Outcomes not available due to school districts not reporting this information during the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect this data will be available again in FY2022.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Contractual Services	\$2,507,262	\$200,000	\$2,554,900	\$200,000
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$2,507,262</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$2,554,900</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$2,707,262</b>		<b>\$2,754,900</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 2021: 25149 YFS - SUN Youth Advocacy Program