Program #25149 - YFS - SUN Youth Advocacy Program
FY 2024 Adopted

Department: County Human Services   **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski

Program Offer Type: Existing   **Program Offer Stage:** Adopted

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

SUN Youth Advocacy (SYA) is a youth development program that provides social emotional and academic supports. When youth feel safe, have a sense of belonging, and their culture and choices are honored, they achieve better outcomes. As one Youth Advocate describes, "we are working to disrupt the 'falling behind' narrative and to ensure that student needs and relationship come first". The program prioritizes students who face the most barriers in education: those living in poverty, students of color, immigrants, and refugees. Last year the youth served in SYA spoke over 33 different languages at home, and 97% identified as Black, Indigenous, and Youth of Color.

Program Description

ISSUE: For too many children, income levels and the color of their skin impact what educational opportunities they have. Multnomah County has low educational attainment rates and poorer health outcomes. At the same time, the County also has high rates of unemployment and hunger. Despite making progress, Oregon is still below the national average of graduation rates. Significant disparities exist for students of color in both Multnomah County and Oregon overall - a gap that has grown due to the pandemic. By providing services to meet basic needs, youth are more able to focus on school. SYA also supplies caregivers with the resources they need to support their child's educational success.

PROGRAM GOAL: SYA's goals are to increase student sense of safety, belonging and positive cultural identity. Each of these are known to increase school attendance, credit attainment, and graduation for all students. Research shows having a positive relationship with a supportive adult increases graduation rates. This is especially true for students of color, who may not have people who reflect their culture and identity in the school building. SYA also provides additional opportunities for students to learn outside of the classroom. This is another promising practice for reducing the achievement gap.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Youth Advocates build strong relationships with youth, their families, and schools. These relationships are culturally-grounded and use strengths-based approaches. For students, advocates focus on the key areas of social emotional support, wrap-around services, and academic help. Students receive help identifying, working toward, and accomplishing their personal and academic goals. SYA also provides culturally-specific enrichment activities, homework help, and peer support time. For families, advocates can refer them to services, assist with basic needs, and help families navigate systems of care.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Number of students (ages 6-18) served[1]	771	1,420	1,420	1,420
Outcome	Percent of students who make progress or achieve individualized action or success plan goals, by the end of	94%	65%	65%	65%

Performance Measures Descriptions

- Output is lower due to agency staff capacity issues.
- Outcome has changed for FY22 because of the delay in getting academic data from MESD for FY22.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	**2023**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024**
Contractual Services	$2,654,236	$200,000	$2,920,508	$200,000
Total GF/non-GF	**$2,654,236**	**$200,000**	**$2,920,508**	**$200,000**
Program Total:	**$2,854,236**		**$3,120,508**	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	$0	$200,000	$0	$200,000
Total Revenue	**$0**	**$200,000**	**$0**	**$200,000**

Explanation of Revenues

$200,000 - OCCF-Youth Investment (Federal)

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 25149 YFS - SUN Youth Advocacy Program