

Department: County Human Services

Program Contact: Lori Stegmann

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Program Description

ISSUE: For too many children, race, ethnicity and poverty impact what educational opportunities they have access to. Multnomah County has declining educational attainment rates and poorer health outcomes for youth. Despite making progress, Oregon's graduation rate of 81% in 2023 is still below the national average of graduation rates of 87% and not yet at pre-pandemic levels of 82.6%. Significant disparities exist for students of color in both Multnomah County and Oregon overall. When youth feel safe, have a sense of belonging, and receive culturally relevant services, they achieve better outcomes.

PROGRAM GOAL: SUN Youth Advocacy (SYA) is a youth development program that provides social emotional and academic support to youth in their schools by having a trusted adult connect with youth. This connection enables youth to set goals and achieve academic success. The program prioritizes students who face the most barriers in education: those living in poverty, students of color, immigrants, and refugees. SYA's goals are to increase students' sense of safety, belonging and positive cultural identity. Each of these goals are known to increase school attendance, credit attainment, and graduation for all students. Research shows that 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 within their school building. SYA also provides connections to families to increase understanding of the school system and connect families to resources. They also provide additional opportunities for students to learn outside of the classroom. This is an important program to help alleviate 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. As one Youth Advocate describes, "we are working to disrupt the 'falling behind' narrative and to ensure that student needs and relationships come first."

PROGRAM OUTPUTS:

- Provides dedicated staff to support youth from middle to high school.
- Sets goals with youth to support youth interests and academic success.
- Allows for collaboration with building administrators and staff to identify students who need support.
- Promotes student graduation.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of students (ages 6-18) served	822	1,420	1,000	1,000
Output	Percent of students who make progress or achieve individualized action or success plan goals	99.4%	90%	90%	90%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Contractual Services	\$3,016,884	\$100,000	\$3,089,214	\$100,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$3,016,884	\$100,000	\$3,089,214	\$100,000
Program Total:	\$3,116,884		\$3,189,214	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000

Explanation of Revenues

\$100,000 - OCCF-Youth Investment (Federal)

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 25149 YFS - SUN Youth Advocacy Program