

Division: Youth & Family Services

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

Multnomah County saw a dramatic decline in educational attainment and poorer youth health in 2021 with slow progress towards pre pandemic levels. Multnomah County 2024 graduation rate (78%) is below the Oregon 2024 graduation rate (82%) with widening disparities for those experiencing poverty and from marginalized communities. The Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Youth Advocacy (SYA) program helps all students who face the biggest challenges in school, like students of color, those experiencing poverty, immigrants, and refugees, by connecting them with a trustworthy adult. This support focuses on their social, emotional, and school needs. SYA works to make students feel safer, more connected, and positive about their cultural background. Studies show this helps all students attend school more often, earn credits, and graduate, especially for students of color. Youth Advocates build strong, respectful relationships with students, their families, and the school, based on the student's culture and strengths. They offer emotional help, connect families to necessary services, and provide academic support so students can reach their personal and school goals. Program activities include:

- Providing dedicated staff to support youth from middle to high school, connecting with youth regularly at school.
- Setting goals with youth to support youth interests and academic success.
- Allowing for collaboration with building administrators and staff to identify students who need support.
- Supporting connection with families to support youth academic success and future planning.

This offer supports the Youth & Family Services (YFS) Division Outcome of Educational Opportunity and Success by increasing youth safety and belonging through culturally relevant advocacy and case management services.

Equity Statement

The Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Service System is an aligned system of care that drives youth educational success, family stability, and prosperity for all, with a focus on equity. System planning and design uses the equity and empowerment lens to address systemic barriers. Strategies include culturally appropriate and culturally specific services, community engagement, fostering of safety, trust, and belonging, and disaggregation of data to produce outcomes for all.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Contractual Services	\$4,228,346	\$100,000	\$4,367,787	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$4,228,346	\$100,000	\$4,367,787	\$0
Total Expenses:	\$4,328,346		\$4,367,787	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Number of students (aged 6-18) served	936	1,000	1,210
Percent of students who make progress or achieve individualized action or success plan goals	96%	90%	90%