

SUPPORT OREGON'S RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH



LEGISLATIVE ASK:

•\$6M investment towards expanding the RHY system statewide including outreach, shelter, transitional housing (as determined by the local community).

Accomplished through:

- **Earmarking \$6M in funding from the Governor's budget for homelessness of \$20.5**
- **Amending SB458 (Sponsor: Senator Haas) to include an investment for community based services & resources; investment needs to be sufficient to ensure the ability to attract, hire, train & retain high level staff.**

OREGON TRENDS / DATA:

- 2017-2018 school year there were a total of 21,756 homeless students, of those 2,549 were unsheltered.
- Since 2012-13 and 2017-18 there has been an increase of 20% of kids who are homeless including increases in runaway & homeless youth in rural areas, as families move seeking more affordable housing.
- In 2016-2017 Oregon was tied for the highest rate of child & youth homelessness, other states were Nevada, California and District of Columbia.
- Each biennium, Oregon spends \$3.1M on Runaway & Homeless Youth, ages 13 to 21.

According to the Alliance's runaway & homeless providers they receive their funding for services and supports from the following sources: 27% County , 25% Federal, 18% Charitable, 15% Other, 13% State, 2% City (please note, these numbers are rounded).

NATIONAL TRENDS / DATA:

- It is estimated that there are 4.2 million youth and young adults in America experienced some form of homelessness during a 12-month period.
- Youth homelessness is as common in rural counties as it is in nonrural counties.
- Youth age 12 to 17 are more at risk of homelessness than adults.
- American Indian and Alaska Native youth have more than double the risk of homeless as other youth.
- 75% of runaways are female, estimates of the number of pregnant homeless girls are between 6% and 22%.
- Overrepresentation of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning (GLBTQ) 20% to 40% percent identify as GLBTQ.
- 46% reported being physically abused, 38 % reported being emotionally abused, and 17% reported being forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or house member.
- 75% of homeless or runaway youth have dropped out or will drop out of school.

COMMON REASONS WHY YOUTH BECOME HOMELESS OR RUNAWAY:

- Many youths run away, and in turn become homeless, due to problems in the home (abuse, asked to leave or pushed out).
- Transitions from foster care and other public systems (youth who have been involved in the Foster Care system are more likely to become homeless at an earlier age and remain homeless for a longer period of time).
- Economic problems (when families fall into difficult financial situations, lack of affordable housing, job instability, etc.).

For more information or questions, contact:

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