

Support for the 2019-2021 – Youth Development Department

I currently serve as the Chair of the Youth Development Coalition (YDC) in Lincoln County. The YDC began in 2004 for the purpose of connecting young people to the community and resources available. Over time, the organization's membership has grown with 11 active afterschool/out-of-school time programs. Members include Lincoln County School District's homeless program and 21st Century Programs, but also include the Housing Authority of Lincoln County, B'nai B'rith Camp, Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians Education Department, Salvation Army, Newport Parks & Recreation and others. I would like to encourage you to continue the funding for the Youth Development Department (YDD).

We have been fortunate enough to receive funding from the YDD. The funding has provided an opportunity for our rural Oregon programs to serve youth that have fallen through the cracks of traditional education. The benefits of this funding have included:

- Grassroots creative program development driven by research and data.
- Ability to leverage services through collaboration and local connectivity
- Transition of our after school programs from babysitting to supporting students academic success by providing research based academic intervention for student success in readying by 3rd grade
- Enhanced services to minority and disenfranchised youth
- Systemic changes to service delivery

The funding we received through the YDD has meant academic and personal success for young people in Lincoln County. It has supported grass roots organizations that already exist instead of creating a new infrastructure that consumes time and money in creating new systems. The financial and technical support we received pushed us to rethink program delivery and challenged us to use collective impact as a strategy to make system changes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of continued funding for the Youth Development Department.

Marie Jones, Chair
Lincoln County Youth Development Coalition