



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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# A Focus on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

With an Introduction to the  
Scaling Up Second Home Initiative

## Today's Presentation

- Introductions
- Definitions
- Quiz Game
- Program Updates: What's available in Oregon
- State Data
- Host Homes – Second Home Program
- What else should we/could we do?

# Introductions

Dona Bolt, State Homeless Education Coordinator

Matt Rasmussen, State Runaway & Homeless Youth Program

Jo Zimmer, SUSHI Contractor, Beyond the Box Strategies

# Definitions

## McKinney-Vento Act

- ▶ A homeless individual lacks a **fixed, regular and adequate** nighttime residence.

## Living Situations for Data

- ▶ In Shelter, Transitional Housing
- ▶ **Unsheltered:** vehicle, substandard housing, camping
- ▶ **Motel/Hotel** for lack of affordable housing
- ▶ **Doubled-Up** due to hardship

# Definitions & Data

## Children & Youth in Homeless Families

- ▶ Family is homeless together
- ▶ SY 17-18: 18,141
- ▶ SY 18-19: 19,097

## Unaccompanied Homeless Youths

- ▶ Not under supervision by a parent or guardian
- ▶ SY 17-18: 3,602
- ▶ SY 18-19: 3,768

# Quiz Game

**Answer True or False, then  
PLACE YOUR BETS!**

# Statement #1      TRUE OR FALSE?

**All unaccompanied youths  
are eligible for  
McKinney-Vento services  
from school districts.**

# Statement #2      TRUE OR FALSE?

**There are 17 state and federally-funded Runaway and Homeless Youth shelters in Oregon.**



# Statement #3      TRUE OR FALSE?

**The last time Oregon McKinney-Vento Liaisons identified a record number of homeless students was in SY 2016-17.**

# Statement #4      TRUE OR FALSE?

**Only District Homeless Liaisons can verify an unaccompanied homeless youth's independent living status for FAFSA purposes.**

# Statement #5      TRUE OR FALSE?

**LGBTQ youths are 120% more likely to report homelessness than those identifying as heterosexual.**

# Statement #6      TRUE OR FALSE?

**In 2017-18, the graduation rate for homeless students in Oregon was 64%, while nationally it was only 53%.**

# Statement #7      TRUE OR FALSE?

**Since the Great Recession beginning 2007, 80% of new jobs require workers with at least some postsecondary education (college credit).**

# Statement #8      TRUE OR FALSE?

**In Oregon, youth ages 16-18 may rent housing, but only with parental permission.**

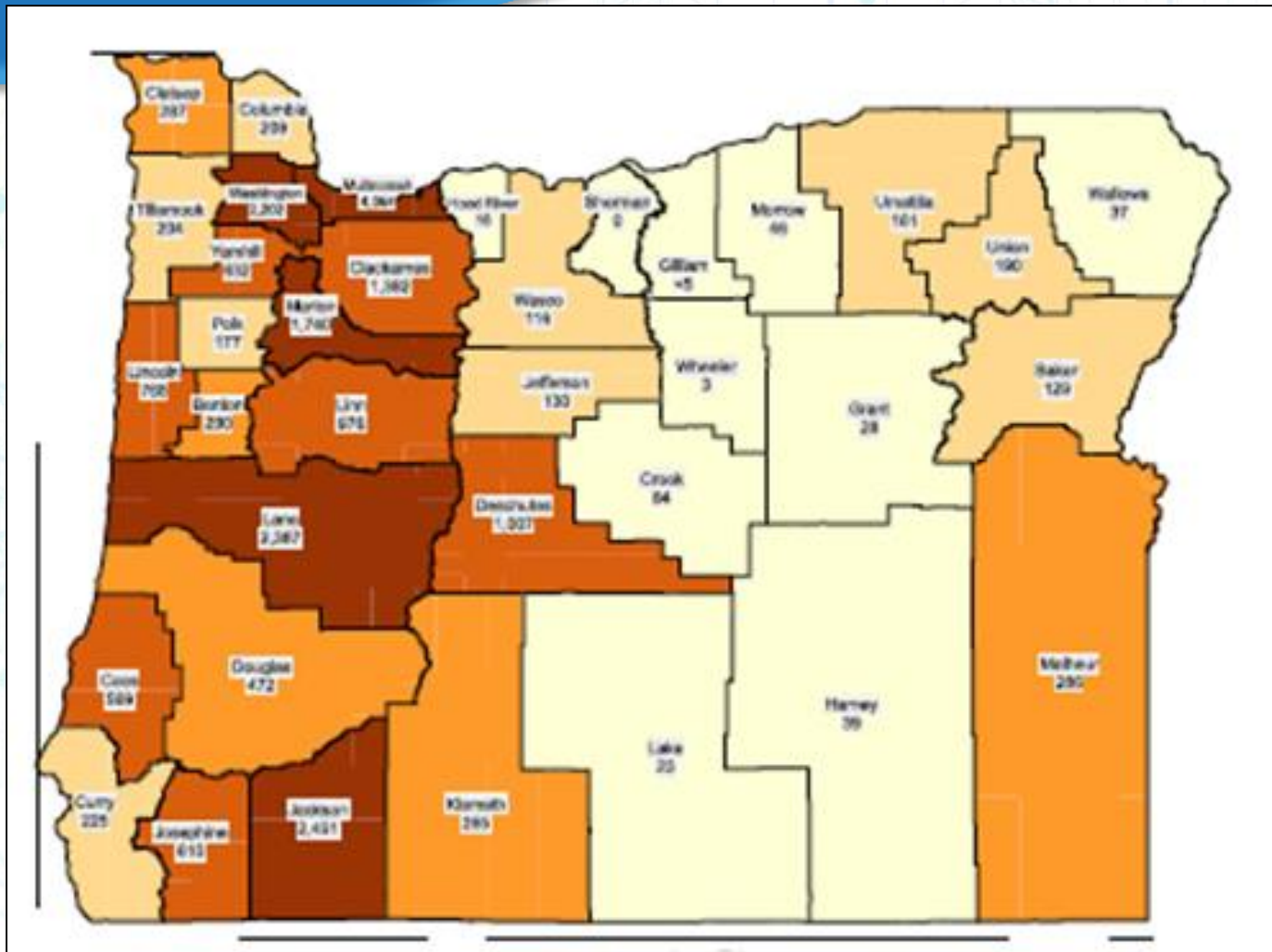
# Oregon Shelter Report

## August 2019

OR Housing & Community Services

- ▶ Homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness, is of *catastrophic proportions* in Oregon.
- ▶ Nationally, Oregon, Hawaii and California had the highest rates of individuals experiencing homelessness, with 50 or more people experiencing homelessness per 10,000 individuals.
- ▶ Oregon is one of four states in which more than half (61%) of all people experiencing homelessness were found in unsheltered living situations.

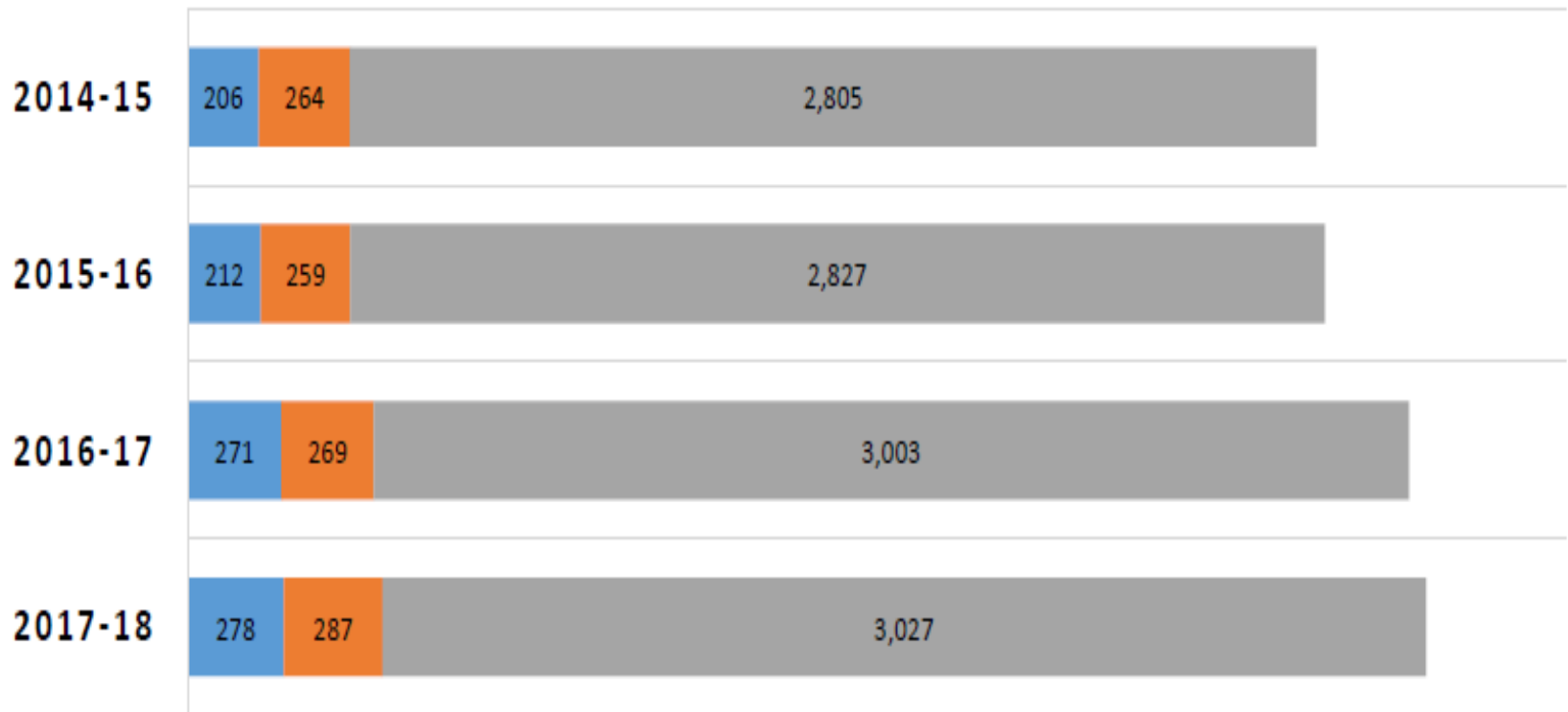
# K-12 Homeless Students





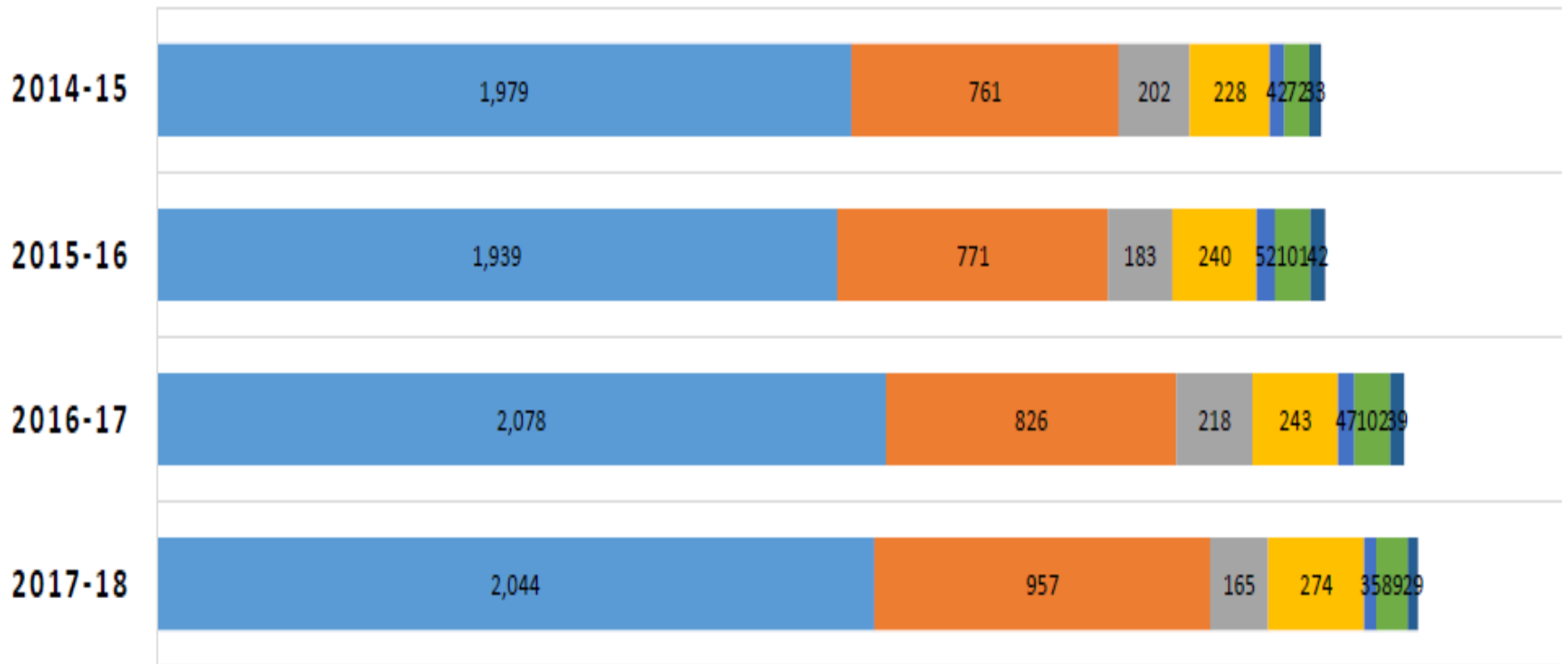
## UNACCOMPANIED STATUS BY GRADE LEVEL

■ Elementary ■ Middle School ■ High School



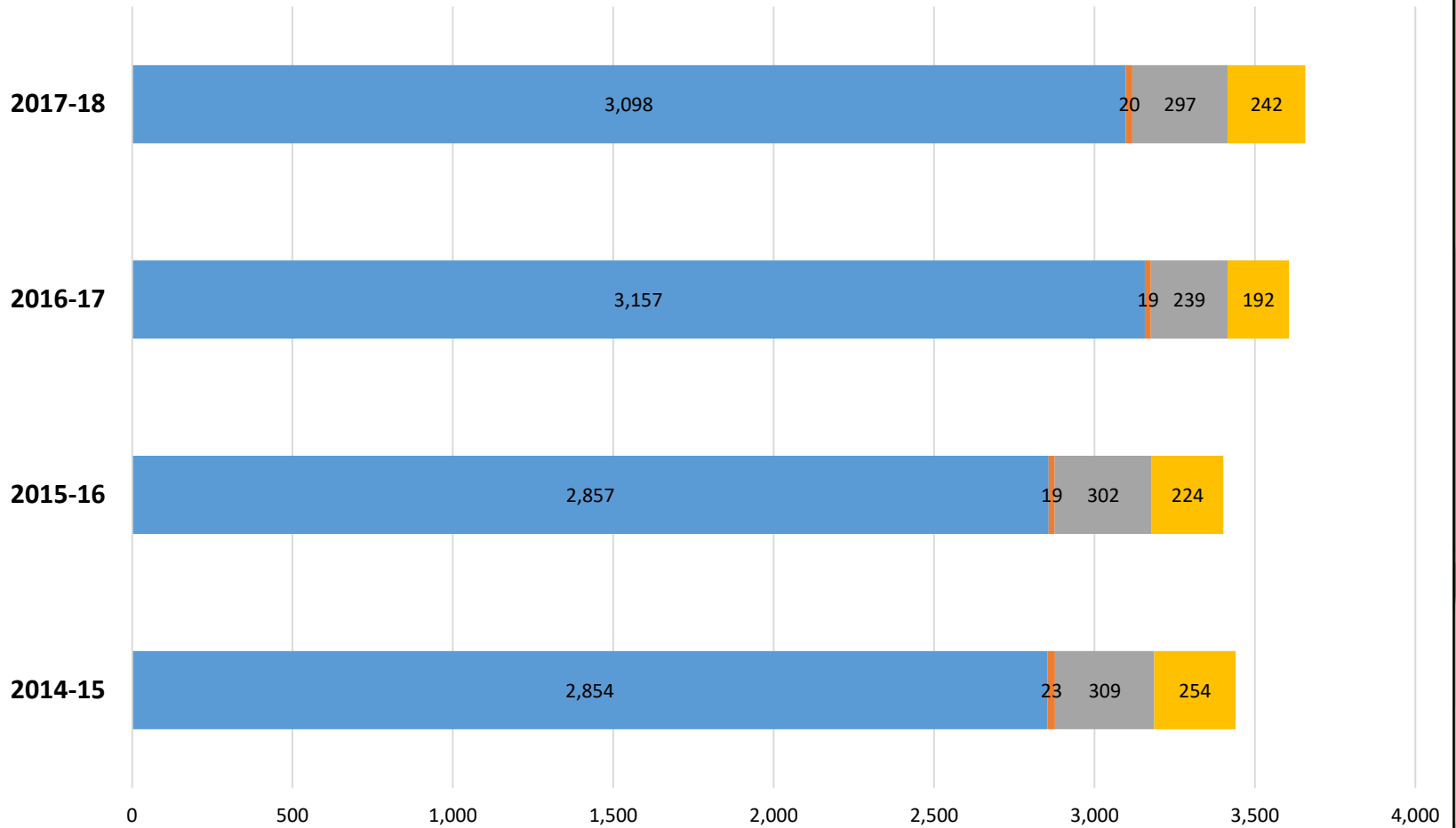
## UNACCOMPANIED STATUS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

■ White   
 ■ Hispanic   
 ■ African-American   
 ■ Multi-Racial   
 ■ Asian   
 ■ American Indian   
 ■ Pacific Islander

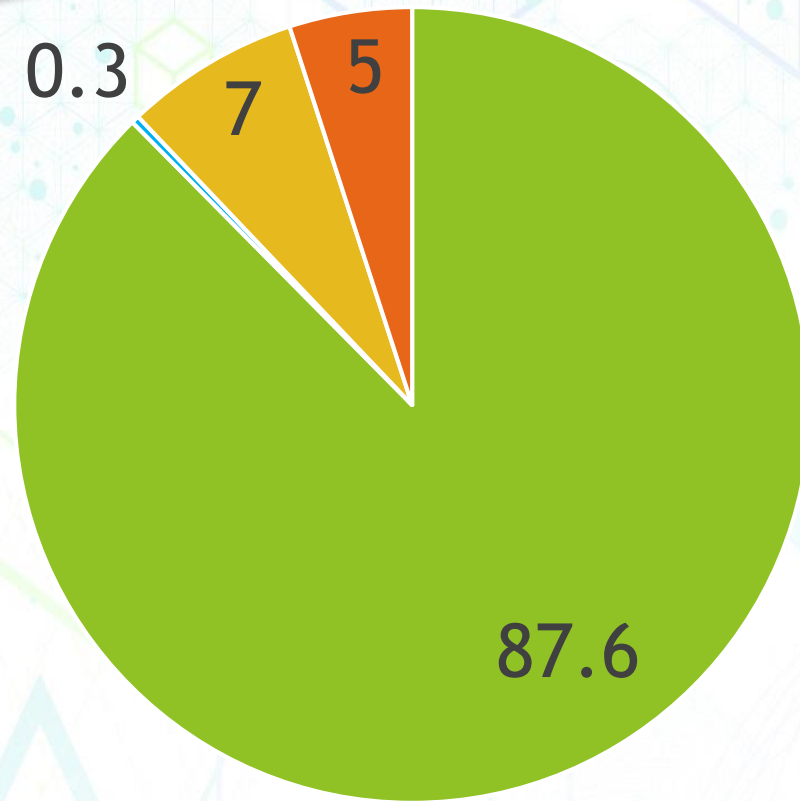


## HOMELESSNESS BY LIVING SITUATION, UNACCOMPANIED STUDENTS

■ Doubled Up ■ Hotel/Motel ■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered



# UHY by Living Situation SY 18-19

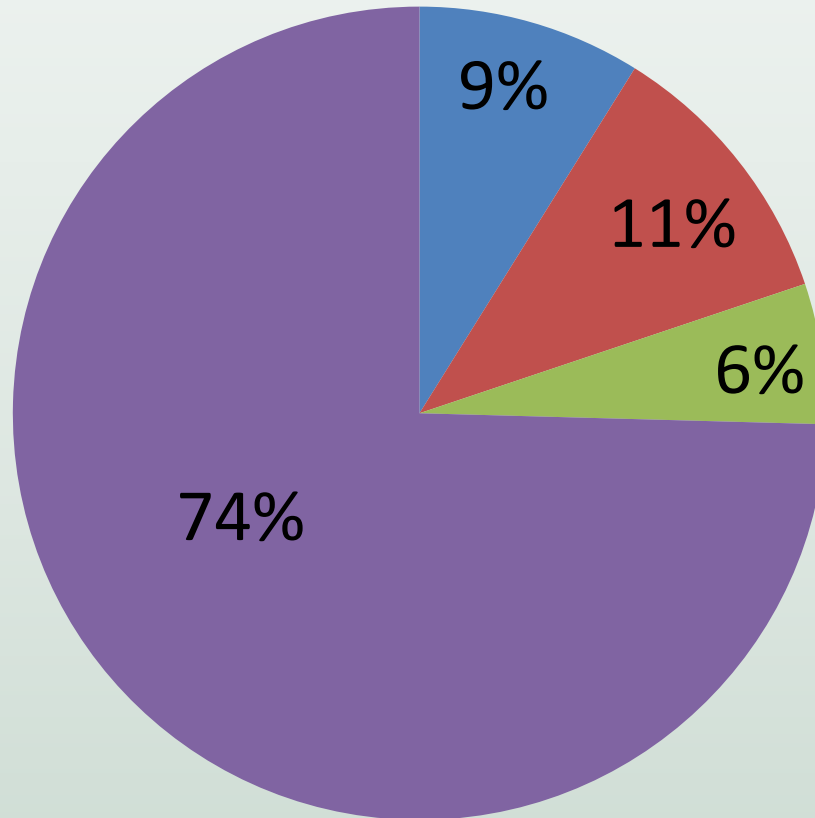


■ Doubled-Up  
■ Shelter

■ Hotel/Motel  
■ Unsheltered

# Homeless Living Situations

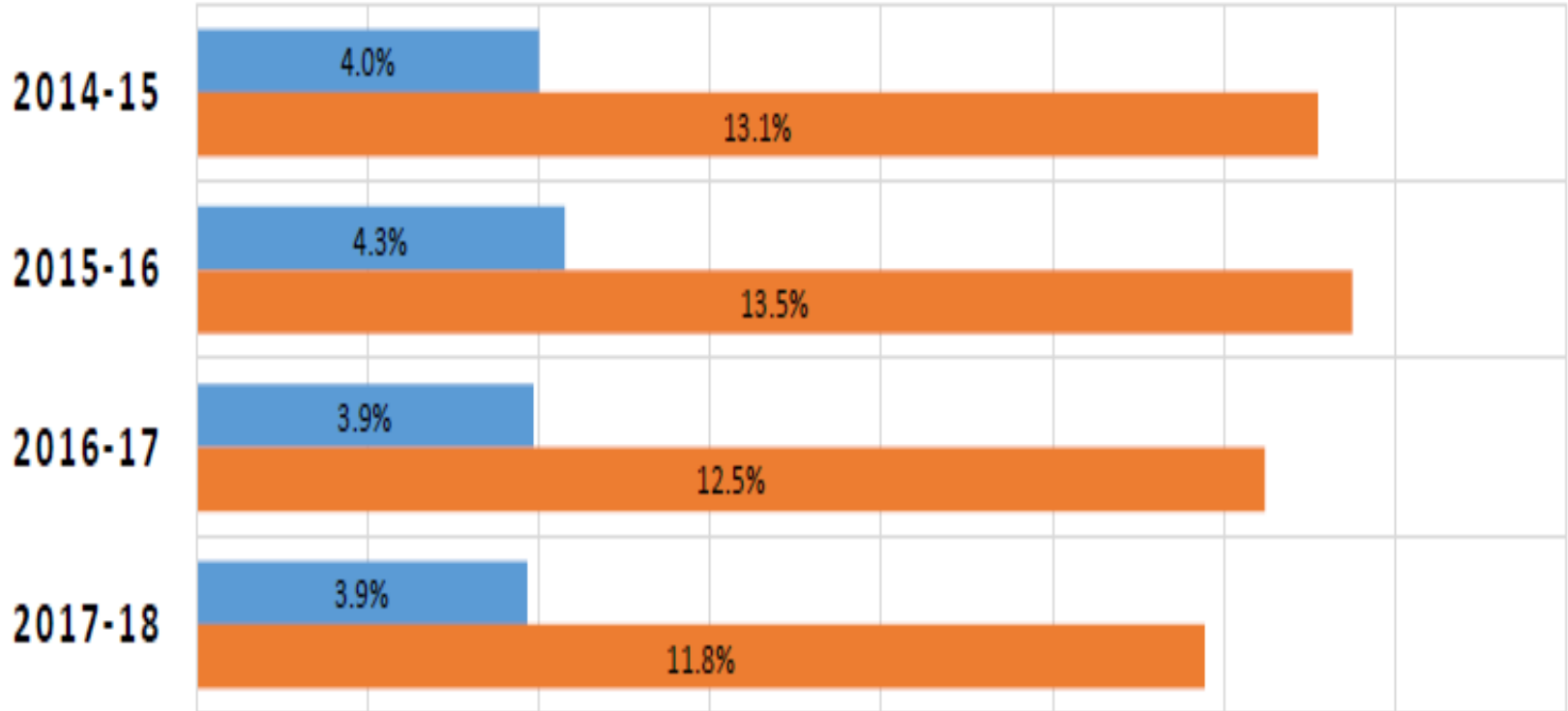
■ Shelter ■ Unsheltered ■ Motel/Hotel ■ Doubled-Up



# DROPOUT RATE

■ All % ■ Homeless %

0.0% 2.0% 4.0% 6.0% 8.0% 10.0% 12.0% 14.0% 16.0%



# Youths most at risk of adult homelessness

- ▶ Aging out of foster care when they turn 18
- ▶ Ages 18-25 with less than a high school diploma or GED
- ▶ Hispanic or African American
- ▶ Parenting and unmarried
- ▶ LGBTQ

# Oregon Shelter Report

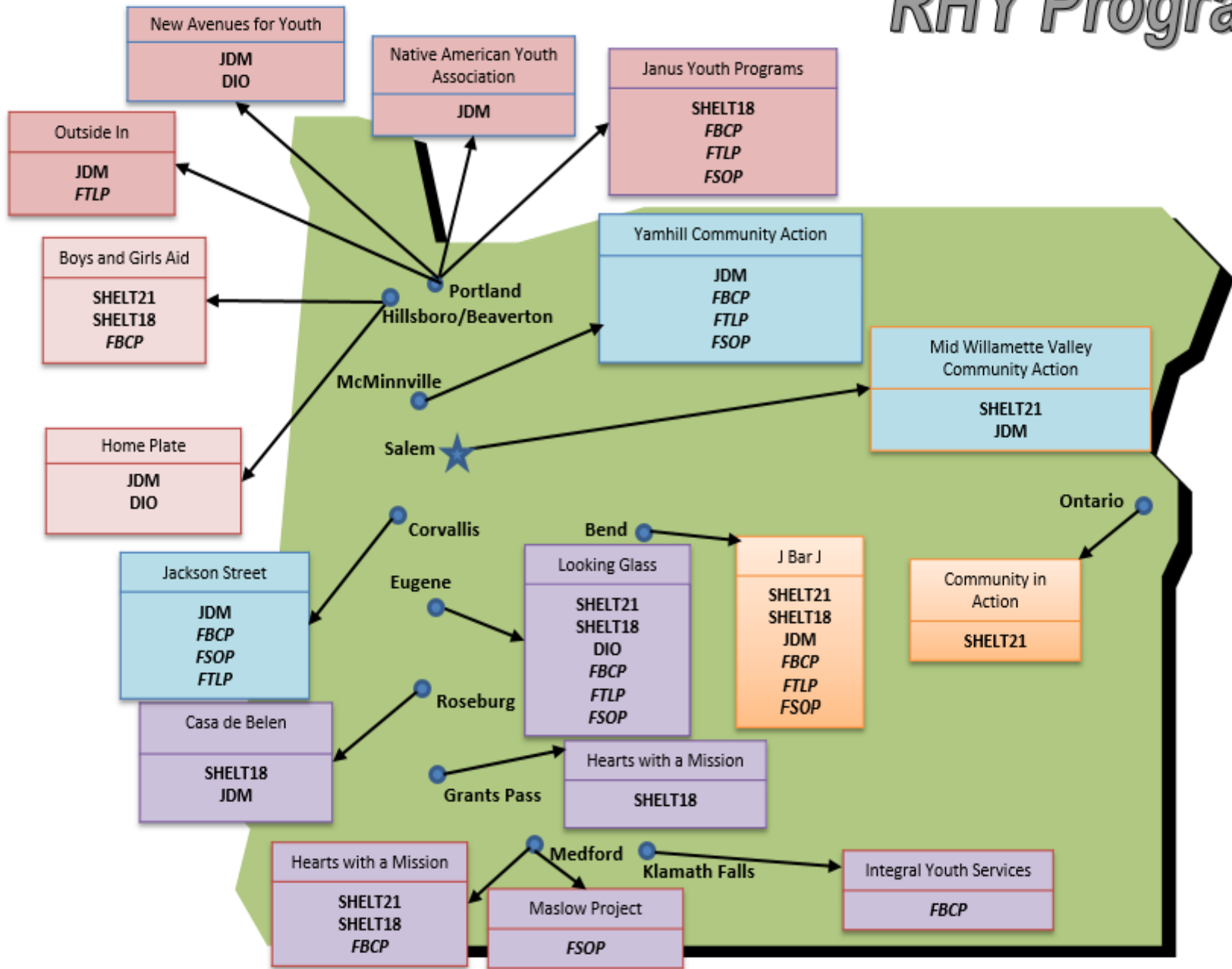
## August 2019

### OR Housing & Community Services

- ▶ Statewide, there are 436 shelter beds dedicated to youth.
- ▶ The 2018 Point-in-Time Count found 317 youth under age 18 experiencing homelessness, of which **70% were unsheltered.**
- ▶ The PIT Count found 992 youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness, of which **60% were unsheltered.**
- ▶ In 2018, HUD found Oregon to be **one of the five top states** in the rate of unsheltered, unaccompanied youth homelessness.



# RHY Programs



# McKinney-Vento Liaison Duties

and **School District Responsibilities** toward  
keeping homeless students enrolled so they  
graduate with a solid plan for their future

# TEN MAJOR LIAISON DUTIES

1. Identify eligible students
2. Ensure homeless students are enrolled
3. Ensure preschool and younger are served
4. Make referrals for health and social services
5. Inform parents of options and rights
6. Post notices and posters about rights
7. Mediate enrollment disputes
8. Arrange school of origin transportation
9. Provide awareness training to school and district staff
10. Ensure unaccompanied homeless youths are enrolled, can receive partial credits and are informed of FAFSA eligibility

# Out-of-School Youths

- ▶ The Oregon Youth Development Council estimates 60,000 school-age children and youth are not attending public, private or home schools. We do not have data on how many of these youths are homeless (do you?)

# Shelter Challenges in Rural Areas

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- Fewer year round emergency shelters.
- More reliant on winter and warming shelters.
- More reliant on volunteers to staff shelter.
- Transportation issues to get people to and from shelters.
- Few options exist for day shelter.
- Limited opportunities to exit homelessness due to few affordable housing options and limited services.
- All subpopulations are underserved.
- Challenges in expanding shelter due to local opposition (NIMBY).

# **Host Homes are an alternative to shelters, camping and couches for Unaccompanied Homeless Youths**

# What is a Host Home?

.... a private home that volunteers to host youth ages 16-24 in need of housing while they attend school or work. Generally, hosts provide lodging and board in a family-like environment, coordinating with the host home program to provide additional services the youth might need. With a “rental” contract, the youth may exchange light chores or house-sitting, as well as maintaining attendance at school or work.

# Host Home Programs

....nonprofit, tax-exempt entities that recruit and train host homes/families to provide homes to youth. Host home programs recruit hosts, arrange background checks, match youths with hosts, offer case management and conflict mediation, and provide liability insurance.



# Host Home Advantages

- ▶ Community-driven
- ▶ Youth-centered, non-institutional
- ▶ Cost-effective
- ▶ Hosts are culturally-matched to students
- ▶ LGBTQ students are matched where safe and accepted
- ▶ Ideal for rural and remote areas
- ▶ Neighbors helping neighbors find solutions to youth homelessness
- ▶ Youth benefit from living with adult allies
- ▶ Youth experiencing homelessness are best supported when they are able to remain in the community where they are comfortable, have friends and attend school

# Host Home Challenges

- ▶ Requires local or regional coordinator
- ▶ Recruitment of hosts can be difficult
- ▶ Trainings for hosts, ongoing support groups and mediation may require fulltime support
- ▶ Not all youth are ready to live in a host home
- ▶ Hosts may have rules and expectations beyond what a youth is comfortable with
- ▶ Background checks, liability waiver or insurance, agreements and contracts can be daunting

# Second Home Program

- Second Home host home providers offer room and board to a student while they attend high school.
- Rental agreements and house rules are negotiated with Second Home staff and a volunteer mediator in the community.
- Students and home providers are matched and provided ongoing support such as conflict resolution.

# Second Home Program

- Now in Washington, Clackamas and Lincoln Counties, and Gresham-Barlow School District. Looking to serve more communities.
- Liaisons make referrals to a Regional Coordinator (where they exist).
- Existing “informal” host homes can benefit from the contracts and mediation services.
- Youths gain a rental history through the contract. In Oregon, youths 16-18 are able to rent without parental permission.

# Second Home Program

- Sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, which provides liability insurance and oversight
- [emoregon.org/second-home/](http://emoregon.org/second-home/)
- Please complete interest survey and return - Thanks!

# More Host Home Programs

Point Source Youth - Host Homes Handbook

<https://www.pointsourceyouth.org/host-homes>

Mason County HOST Program

<https://www.mason-co-host.org/what-we-do>

Homeless Youth Connection

<http://hycaz.org/>

# *Discussion Time*

# THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST!!

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