

Presentation to the 2023 Joint Ways and
Means Subcommittee on Human Services

Self-Sufficiency Programs

Claire Seguin, Interim Director, Self-Sufficiency Programs

Xochitl Esparza, Program Administration Manager, Self-Sufficiency Programs

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- I. Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program
- II. ODHS Refugee Program
- III. Employment Related Day Care Migration
- IV. Questions

Self-Sufficiency Programs



Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

Overview: Youth homelessness

Young people experiencing unaccompanied homelessness are **particularly vulnerable**. Returning home is **not an option** for many of the youth SSP's program serves.

Youth face **disproportionate barriers** to affordable housing access and the adult homelessness system is **not designed to serve youth**.

Nationally, the number of available youth-specific short- and long-term housing beds would **need to double** to meet current need.

Youth of Color Disproportionately Impacted by Housing Instability
Voices of Youth Count: National Estimates Report
Human Trafficking, National Network for Youth
Better Off in a Shelter? Canadian Observatory on Homelessness
LGBTQ Young Adults Experience Homelessness at More than Twice the Rate of Peers

1 in 5

Youth experiencing homelessness who have been victims of labor or sex trafficking or both

2x

Likelihood that youth identifying as LGBTQIA2S+ will experience homelessness

16%

Rate of homelessness among Black LGBTQIA2S+ youth

2.2x

Likelihood that American Indian and Alaska Native will experience homelessness

Oregon youth homelessness: By the numbers

8,300

homeless young people
in need of safe housing
and services every year*

5th

highest number of
Unaccompanied
Homeless Youth (UHY)
across U.S.**

3rd

highest number of UHY
without shelter across
U.S.**

* *Corporation for Supporting Housing Youth Housing Needs Assessment*

** *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report*

Who we're serving:

Youth experiencing homelessness

- **Unaccompanied youth, not in the care of a parent or guardian, residing in:**
 - Places not meant for human habitation (i.e. cars, parks, abandoned buildings, campgrounds).
 - Emergency shelters and transitional living.
 - Hotels and motels.
 - Over-crowded housing, doubling up and couch surfing.
- **Youth under the age of 24, though some programs may use more limited age criteria.**
- **Some of the most common reasons young people leave or are forced to leave home include:**
 - An unstable family life.
 - Experiences of family housing instability or homelessness as a child.
 - Severe family conflict, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or abandonment by parents and caregivers.
 - Caregiver and youth substance use and mental health disorders.

Statewide youth housing needs assessment

- In 2021, the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) was contracted to assess the continuum of housing and services needed for youth experiencing homelessness in Oregon.
- The CSH statewide needs assessment included:
 - Existing interventions, utilization and gaps via a proposed regional system modeling
 - Recommendations and a roadmap for building the optimal system for young people experiencing homelessness in Oregon; including financial modeling for additional housing and services interventions across the continuum



What is needed to address youth homelessness?

Based on the 2021 Corporation for Supportive Housing Assessment:

Upstream prevention

Medium-term housing

- Rapid rehousing
- Permanent support housing
- Other affordable housing/subsidy
- Home with family/reunification
- Longer-term host homes
- Longer-term transitional housing

Crisis and short-term housing & services

- Crisis beds/Emergency shelter
- Host homes
- Crisis transitional housing

To meet the need

Nearly 8,000 additional crisis and medium-term housing beds are needed statewide

Front porch

- Outreach
- In-reach
- Drop-in(s)
- Crisis hotline(s)
- Front door diversion (aka targeted prevention)

To meet the need

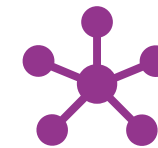
600 additional front porch caseload slots are needed statewide

ODHS Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

- Funded programs each deliver a unique array of services. Some might deliver just one while others deliver several.
- Not all services are available in every area of the state – some areas continue to lack most components of an optimal youth services continuum, though additional funding is moving the state in the right direction.



General Fund and
Federal Social
Services Block Grant



ODHS administers
funding to local
organizations



Organizations provide
services and
programming for youth

Serving youth: Our role



Oversee contracts and grants process



Deliver technical assistance to contractors



Develop and advance policy direction



Track national best practice



Pursue funding opportunities



Engage youth and partners



Maintain connections to other ODHS programs

Serving youth: The role of contracted services

Based on best practice models, such as Corporation for Supportive Housing, Point Source Youth, and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, contracted services include:

- Shelter
- Drop-in
- Outreach
- Host homes and transitional living
- Culturally-specific services
- Mental health and substance use support



How youth access services

- **Initial contact**
 - Referral sources, such as school counselors
 - Outreach workers and contacts in the community
 - Self-referral by phone or online
 - Walk-ins
- **Eligibility and assessment**
 - Verify age and housing status (self-attestation of homelessness)
 - Assessments vary by provider
- **Development of goals and individualized service plan**



Measuring outcomes for youth

J Bar J Youth Services: Central Oregon

- **45 youth** in shelter, **87 percent** exited to safe and stable locations
- **100 percent** established permanent connections with supportive adults

Hearts with a Mission: Jackson and Josephine Counties

- **63 youth** in shelter, **90 percent** exited to safe and stable locations
- **23 youth** in Transitional Living Program:
 - All pursuing educational goals, six employed part time; 17 employed full time

Expected outcomes

Stable housing

Permanent connections

Education and/or
employment

Health and social/emotional
well-being

Future state: Measuring outcomes for youth

Education Outcomes

Program Type: Crisis/Emergency Housing

Outcome	Indicator	Time of measurement	Definition and notes
Makes academic progress	Percent of participants who advance academically	Intake, In Program, Exit	<p>Academic progress is defined as achievement of at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of one GED test component • Continued enrollment in GED program • Enrolled in high school and earning high school credits • Postsecondary persistence demonstrated by credit attainment or advancement in matriculation status

Employment Outcomes

Program Type: Time Limited/Non-Time Limited Housing

Outcome	Indicator	Time of measurement	Definition and notes
Maintains sustainable employment	Percent of participants who maintain employment at living wage or those previously employed (without living wage) who secure employment at living wage	Post-Program Exit	Participant has maintained or newly obtained employment at a salary that meets the living wage requirement

Investments in youth homelessness

Prior biennial budget: Less than \$4 million

2021-2023 biennium short-term investments: \$14.1 million

- Increased number of grants and contracts from 24 to 55
- Expanded into 14 new counties
- Contracted with 21 new providers
- Added new service types including mental health and substance use services
- Added new housing types like host homes and youth-specific affordable housing, including the new Affordable Rents for College Students partnership with College Housing Northwest

2023-2025 biennium – House Bills 2001 and 5019: \$18.75 million

- Maintains the current geographic reach of the program
- Sustains existing service array
- Funds proposals at higher levels
- Adds five new limited duration employees

Implementation: House Bills 2001 and 5019

Procurement is already underway for the next biennium...



ODHS Refugee Program

Overview: Refugee supports

As of May 2022, **more than 100 million people worldwide** have had to flee their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations. This includes at least **27 million refugees**.

Everyone deserves to live in safety and with dignity. Our state has a long tradition of welcoming refugees – children, adults and families forced to flee their home countries due to war, violence or persecution.

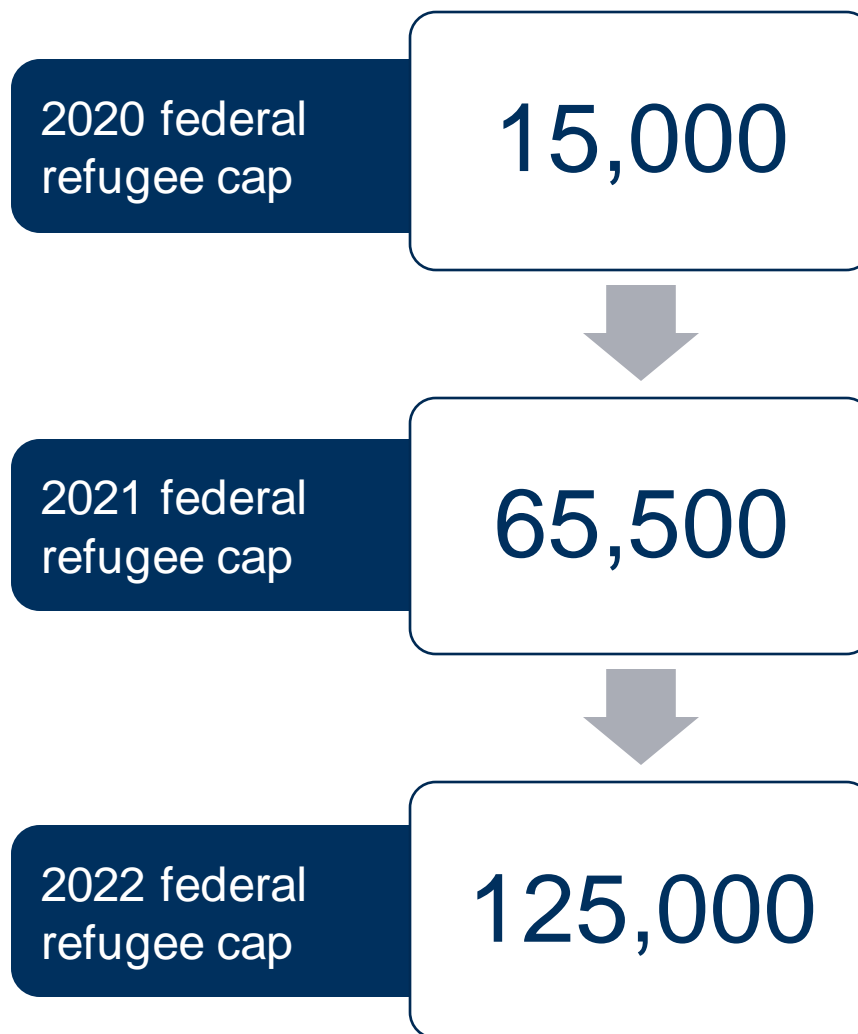
Oregon has welcomed approximately 70,000 refugees since 1975.



UNHCR Figures at a Glance: <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html>
New American Economy: <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/issues/entrepreneurship/>
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services: <https://www.lirs.org/economic-benefits-refugees/>

Overview: Federal landscape

- The federal refugee cap has increased drastically under the current federal administration. Although Oregon hasn't fulfilled its new quota, ODHS expects refugee resettlement to continue to increase.
- Services and funding available to refugees in Oregon are driven and regulated by federal policy.
- Most of the refugees resettled in the U.S. come from the African continent, with Democratic Republic of Congo admitting the most refugees to the U.S. for the past 6 years.



Note: Refugee caps displayed are per year nationwide

Who we're serving: "Qualified" immigrants

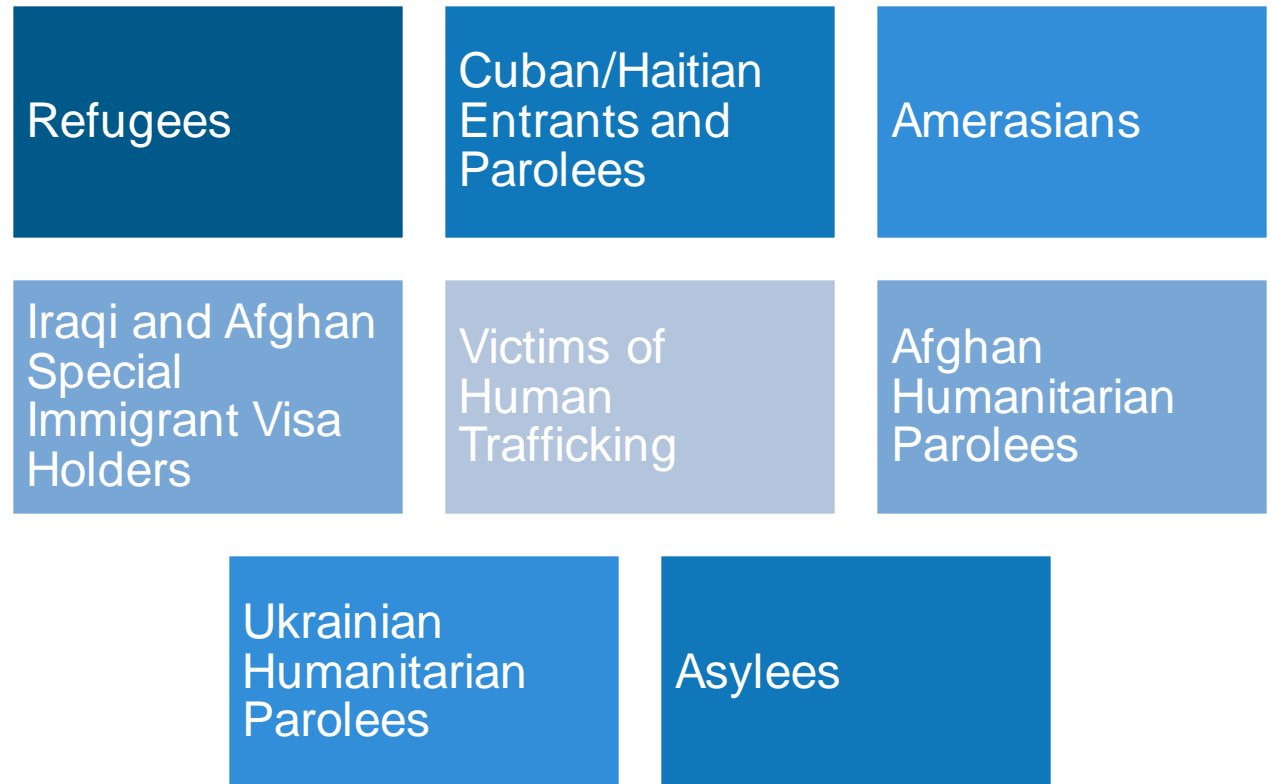
The ODHS Refugee Program serves those:

- Fleeing persecution from their country of origin
- Who have been admitted for resettlement by the U.S. government **and**
- Who have been granted an immigration status approved by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act

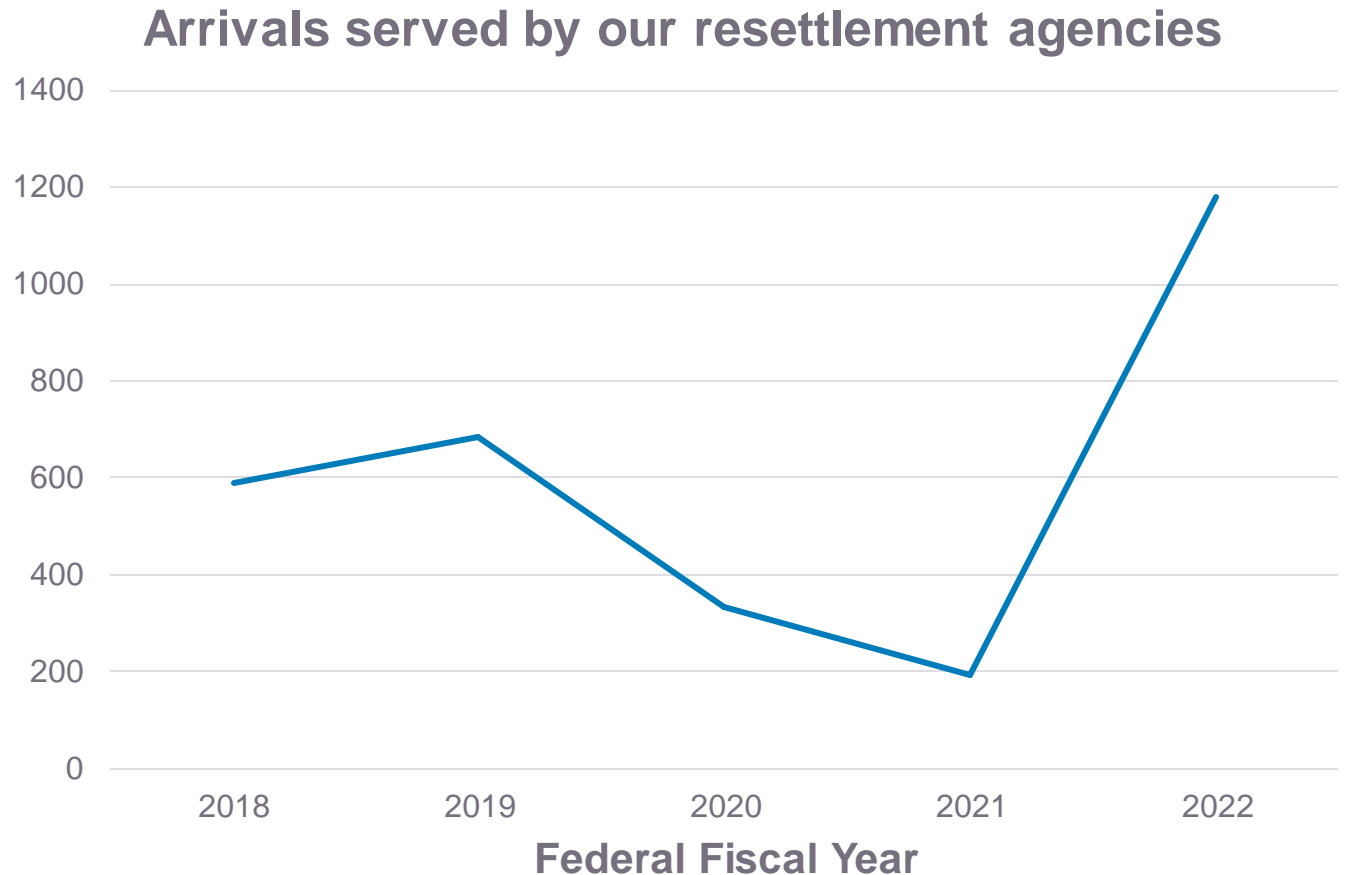
- "Qualified" and "not qualified" immigrants

The "qualified" immigrant category includes



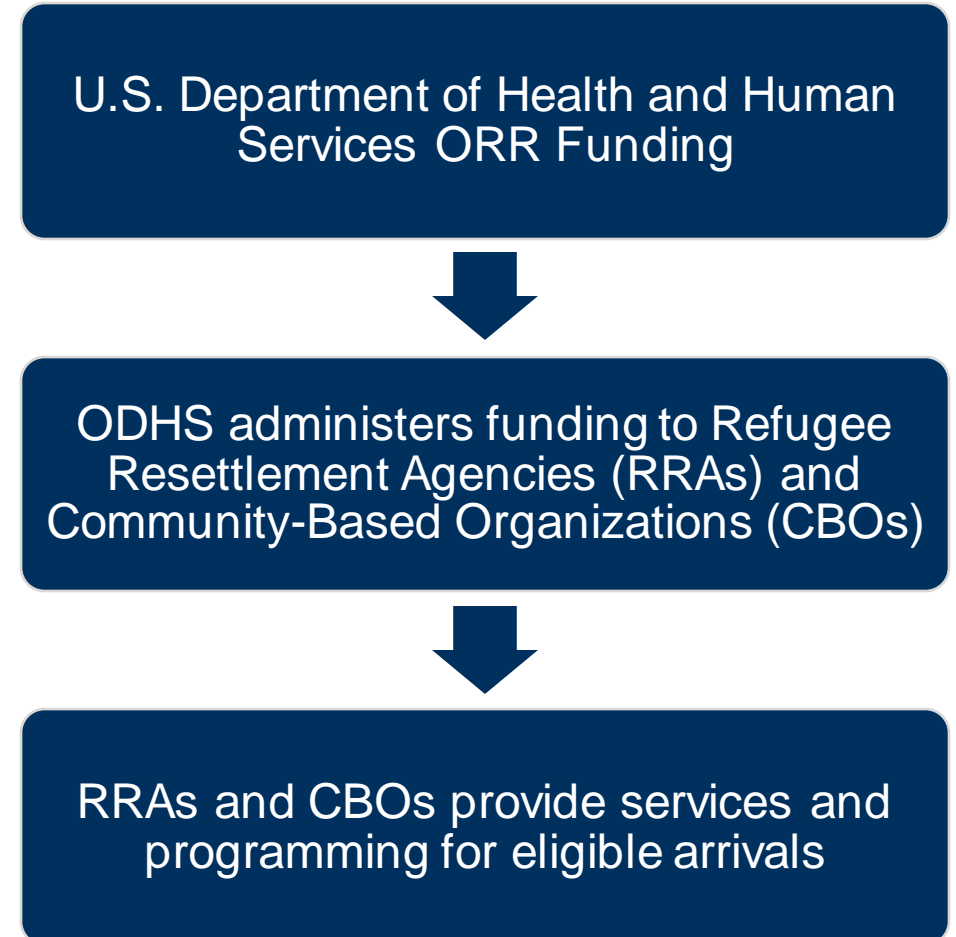
Who we're serving: New arrivals in Oregon

- The ODHS Refugee Program serves individuals from many different countries.
- Over the last five years, the top communities to be resettled in our state are:
 - Afghanistan
 - Ukraine
 - Syria
 - Myanmar
 - Democratic Republic of Congo
 - Cuba



Funding for refugee resettlement

- **The ODHS Refugee Program is primarily federally funded through Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).**
 - Oregon has seen a significant increase in Afghan and Ukrainian individuals and families in need of services.
 - Funding for refugee resettlement has increased from \$2.8 million in 2021 to \$14.5 million in 2022.
 - The majority of this funding has restrictions to serve specific populations.



ODHS Refugee Program

With funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Refugee Program provides benefits and services to people with eligible immigration statuses arriving in Oregon.

ODHS Refugee Program

- Cash
- Medical benefits
- Connection to SNAP benefits
- Refugee Family Support and Connections

Refugee Resettlement Agencies (contracted)

- Case management
- Employment services
- Pre-employment training
- Rental assistance (limited)
- Refugee school impact
- Senior services
- Youth mentoring projects
- Extended case management

Refugee Resettlement Agencies

Oregon's Refugee Resettlement Agencies (RRAs)

- Catholic Charities of Oregon (CCO)
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW)
- Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)
- Salem for Refugees (SFR)
- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) / Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR)

RRAs provide services refugees for their first 90 days, which includes:

Locating
permanent
housing

Applying for
public benefits

Acquiring
furniture

Arranging
utilities

Health and
employment
referral/coordination

Oregon landscape and state investments

- **Two new RRAs have brought Oregon's total to five agencies, increasing capacity at the state level.**
- **Extended Case Management (House Bill 2508)**
 - In 2020, RRAs brought forth this bill due to the decrease in Federal Funding as well as the need for case management longer than for 90 days.
 - \$2 million one-time funding (2021 Oregon Legislative Special Session)
 - \$4 million extended for the 2021-2023 biennium
- **\$18 million for Afghan Resettlement for nearly 1,000 Afghan Parolees during 2021 Oregon Legislative Special Session**
 - ODHS Office of Resilience and Emergency Management provided shelter
 - Contracted with six community-based organizations (CBOs) to coordinate:
 - Housing assistance
 - Case management
 - Legal assistance
 - Other culturally specific supports



Snapshot: Measuring outcomes for new arrivals

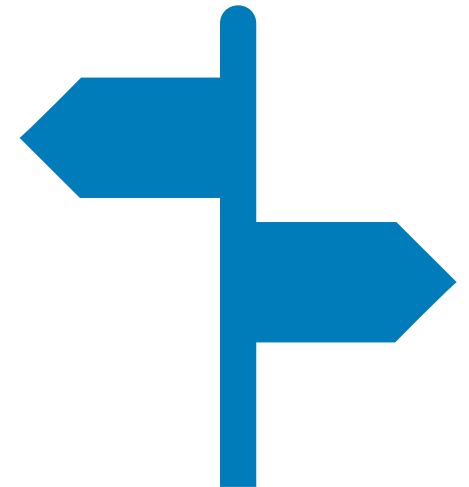
Increase in monthly cash grant spending

Month	Year	Amount
July	2020	\$22,423
December	2022	\$538,848

Outcomes	RRAs		
	LCSNW	Catholic Charities	SOAR
Afghan Rental Assistance			
Individuals served	259	223	91
Families served	90	77	28
Average number of months rental assistance provided	7.2	6.2	3.9
Average monthly assistance per household	\$951.00	\$1,168.00	\$1,025.00
Percentage of APA households receiving assistance	98%	100%	100%

The work ahead

- **2021 and 2022 have marked an historic increase in arrivals to Oregon.**
 - Historically, the ODHS Refugee Program has served mainly refugees being resettled through ORR.
 - A recent expansion of the Refugee Program team reflects current need and allows for a broader focus on services to address changing circumstances and migration patterns in Oregon.
- **Focus for the next year includes:**
 - Community assessments to determine most needed services and gaps not covered by federal funding
 - Improving service delivery models.
 - Coordinating individual sponsorships through Welcome Corps
 - Program contract monitoring.
 - Expanding partnerships with culturally specific CBOs statewide.
 - Active community engagement with community leaders, public agencies and other relevant stakeholders.



Employment Related Day Care Migration

Overview: House Bill 3073

The Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3073 in 2021, which included the establishment of a new early learning agency named the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). The bill directs movement of the Employment Related Day Care program (ERDC) to DELIC by July 1, 2023.

DELIC will consolidate all child care and early learning programs under one state agency.



Early Learning Division (ELD)



- **ERDC Program**
 - Direct Pay Unit
 - Subsidy Suspensions
 - Child Care Policy Analysts
- **Inclusive Partners** (migrated July 1, 2022)

Inclusive Partners is a CCDF funded team with responsibilities including assessing eligibility for the ERDC High Need Rate



New Back Office and Shared Service Teams
(IT, Accounting, Procurement, HR, PMO, Data Analytics, etc.)



Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC)

Launches July 1, 2023

Overview: Employment Related Day Care

The Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program provides subsidies to child care providers, **reducing the cost of child care for eligible families.**

As part of their eligibility, parents or caretakers must be working at least part-time or be in school.

Families must use an approved child care provider, and most pay a portion of the cost.



Child care program migration

For the last two years, cross-agency teams have collaborated to expand eligibility for Employment Related Day Care (ERDC), migrate ERDC to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), and prevent any disruption of services to families.

June 2021

House Bill 3073 passes, granting authority to implement DELC and migrate the ERDC program with supporting staff to the new agency in 2023.

The bill also authorizes ERDC eligibility expansions and policy changes.

January 2023

Several ERDC policy changes go into effect, expanding access to affordable child care for students and families across Oregon.

Child care background checks migrate from the Background Check Unit at ODHS to the Central Background Registry at ELD.

Spring 2024

ERDC eligibility for children with any citizenship or legal status anticipated to go into effect.

ODHS and ELD leaders work through transition considerations for moving ERDC to DELC, including scoping Interagency Agreements, aligning on TANF categorical eligibility approach, and migrating rules.

Inclusive Partners program migrates to ELD.

Summer 2022

DELIC is established. Child Care Policy, Subsidy Suspensions and Direct Pay Unit teams migrate to DELIC and the ERDC program moves to the new agency.

12-month protected eligibility for ERDC and categorical ERDC for TANF families are implemented.

July 2023

The work ahead:

Implementation April through June, 2023

Focus	Status and Path to Implementation
Provider Payment	The ERDC program will continue to use ODHS systems to issue provider payments. Office of Financial Services is working with ELD to finalize invoicing and reporting procedures for this payment and the OIS mainframe team is preparing for the continuity of access for Direct Pay Unit workers to payment and authorization systems.
Eligibility	Eligibility processes will be unaffected for the public. ERDC will continue to use Oregon Eligibility (ONE) for eligibility determinations; Self-Sufficiency Program, Aging and People with Disabilities, Virtual Eligibility Centers and Area Agencies on Aging Type B offices will continue to process eligibility. Oregon Eligibility Partnership and ELD are finalizing DELC participation in ONE governance.
Inter-agency Agreement (IAA)	ELD and ODHS will implement a system access agreement for continued use of ODHS' IT infrastructure; ELD and ODHS are drafting an IAA detailing continued ODHS support for ERDC (including both eligibility and shared and central services) and to transfer funds for provider payments.
Procurement and Contracting	ELD and ODHS are working to transfer the procurement of a series of Child Care and Development Fund-funded child care contracts to the new DELC agency. ELD and ODHS have reviewed existing IAAs between ODHS and ODE related to ERDC for required amendments.
Rules	ELD and ODHS are revising their rulesets to migrate the ERDC program. To date, ODHS and ELD have held three Rules Advisory Council meetings, with hundreds of rules; on target for publication by July 1, 2023.
Budget and Positions	Prior legislative action has transferred the budget for ERDC and position authority for supporting staff to the new DELC agency.

Closing remarks

- Investments in the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program will **reach more young people** in need than ever before.
- Oregon's growing **refugee community will flourish** with the appropriate services and connections.
- Families will have **greater access to quality child care** through upcoming changes to ERDC and the program's migration to the new Department of Early Learning and Care.





Questions?

Addendum

1. Refugee—people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country.
2. Asylee – granted asylum; if an individual is applying for asylum, they are not eligible for ORR benefits (Refugee cash and medical)
3. Cuban/Haitian Entrants and Parolees (some people from Cuba and Haiti that have a parole status from Department of Homeland Security or that have a pending application for asylum)
4. Amerasians – people from Vietnam who are admitted to the U.S. as immigrants under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Program Appropriation Act, 1988
5. Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders
6. Victims of Human Trafficking – people who were trafficked into the U.S. and got a certification from the ORR under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)
7. Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (paroles between July 31 2021 – September 30 2023)
8. Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (paroled between February 24 2022 – September 30 2023)

Addendum

- **Refugees** are individuals who are forced to flee their countries of origin because of a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social or political group. Refugee Status is granted prior to arrival in the U.S
- **Asylees** are people already in the United States who receive protected status and are unable to return home for the same reasons that refugees are unable to return home. Asylee status is asked for at the port of entry. If granted, they become a refugee.
- **Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holders** are those individuals who have been granted special immigrant status on account of their service to US military and/or contractors abroad. Individuals are granted SIV status for their support of the United States government and its affiliates.
- **Humanitarian Parole** allows an individual, who may be inadmissible or otherwise ineligible for admission into the United States, to be paroled into the United States for a temporary period for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.