

HB 3079 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to update its estimate of the additional funding needed to implement or extend youth experiencing homelessness programs. The measure directs DHS and the Housing and Community Services Department to study options for allocating 30 percent of the portion of their budgets related to housing and homelessness services for the 2027-2029 biennium toward reducing the number of youth aging into adult homelessness, and to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026.

Detailed Summary:

Sections 1, 2, and 4 (Study and Report)

- Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to update estimates from its report on recommendations for legislation to reduce the numbers of youth experiencing homelessness by at least 25 percent over a five-year period to reflect the increase in costs since 2022 due to inflation and increased salary expenses.
- Directs DHS and the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) to study options for allocating 30 percent of their budgets related to funding for housing and homelessness services in the 2027-29 biennium toward reducing the number of youth aging into homelessness.
- Requires DHS, in collaboration with OHCS, to submit a report on the study that may include recommendations for legislation to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026.
- Sunsets on January 2, 2027.

Section 3 (Emergency Housing and Housing Services)

- Expands eligibility for emergency housing and other housing services currently provided to school-aged children to include individuals who are homeless or at the risk of becoming homeless and are pregnant or between the ages of birth and kindergarten.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish an Emergency Certified Provider Capacity Grant Program to award grants to providers of homeless youth services that are at risk of closing programs. The amendment appropriates funds to DHS and the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) for distribution to providers of programs for youth experiencing homelessness. The amendment requires service providers who receive these funds to submit reports to DHS on improvements to staff turnover rates and rates of completion of training programs.

Detailed Summary:

Section 4 (Grant Program):

- Directs DHS to establish an Emergency Certified Provider Capacity Grant Program to award grants to providers of homeless youth services who are at risk of closing their programs or reducing capacity due to workforce challenges, inflationary costs, or higher than expected acuity.
- Requires DHS to evaluate provider grant requests and distribute awarded fund to providers within 60 days of approval.
- Sunsets on January 2, 2027.

Section 5 (Reporting Requirements):

- Requires service providers that receive grant funds from DHS or OYA to submit two reports to DHS on improvements to staff turnover rates and rates of completion of training programs by December 31, 2026, and December 31, 2027, respectively.
- Requires DHS to submit a preliminary report to the Legislative Assembly summarizing grant recipient reports by February 1, 2027, and to submit a final report by February 1, 2028.
- Sunsets on January 2, 2029.

Sections 6-9 (Appropriations)

- Appropriates \$54 million General Fund to DHS for programs for youth experiencing homelessness and specifies division of the funds between grant programs.
- Appropriates \$2.1 million General Fund to DHS for distributions to providers of in-house training for youth experiencing homelessness, half of which may be expended for self-sufficiency programs and half of which may be expended for child welfare programs.
- Appropriates \$950,000 General Fund to OYA for distribution to residential program providers for in-house training for youth experiencing homelessness.
- Appropriates \$750,000 General Fund to DHS for distribution to local workforce boards or a statewide nonprofit representing the workforce boards to address provider and community workforce shortages.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Human Services' (DHS) [Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program](#) (YEHP) provides services and resources aimed to reduce youth homelessness. In 2021, YEHP partnered with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to complete a [Statewide Needs Assessment for Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#), which included a statewide financial model outlining the costs of identified housing and services needs.

In 2022, the Legislature passed [House Bill 4013](#) which directed DHS to include recommendations for legislation to reduce the numbers of youth experiencing homelessness by at least 25 percent over a five-year period, as part of an existing report on the system of services and support for runaway and homeless youth required under [ORS 417.799](#). HB 4013 also required DHS to include estimates of additional funding necessary to implement or extend proposed programs to address youth homelessness as a part of the report, and a projected 20-year estimate of cost savings to the state if the state achieved the 25 percent reduction in youth homelessness.

DHS released a [report](#) addressing requirements of HB 4013 (2022) in November 2022 as an addendum to the ORS 417.799 Youth Experiencing Homelessness [report](#) submitted in September 2022. Appendix A of the [report](#) contains information on the average cost of services for youth experiencing homelessness and the potential cost avoidance based on the 25-percent reduction in youth homelessness.