

Submitter: Craig Schuhmann
On Behalf Of: Integral Youth Services
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3079

Dear Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill (HB) 3079, which funds the Youth and Emerging Homelessness Assistance (YEHA) and Youth and Emerging Homelessness Prevention (YEHP) grants. As the Executive Director of Integral Youth Services in Klamath Falls, Oregon, I have witnessed firsthand how these grants have been instrumental in addressing homelessness and providing vital transitional housing and shelter services for youth and young adults in our community.

Integral Youth Services is the sole provider of transitional housing programs and shelter services for Klamath County youth and young adults. Over the years, the YEHA and YEHP grants have allowed us to significantly expand our programs to meet better the needs of the young people we serve. Specifically, the YEHP grant has enabled us to increase the capacity of our Transitional Living Program (TLP) from 4 to 14 beds, and the YEHA grant has facilitated a new county-wide initiative to collaborate with community partners to prevent and eliminate homelessness for McKinney-Vento families.

Without continued support for these critical funding streams, we would face the risk of severely reducing or even eliminating these essential services for our youth and young adults, many of whom are already experiencing unstable living situations or homelessness. These programs are not just a temporary fix—they are life-changing opportunities that empower youth to gain the skills and support they need to build self-sufficiency, find stable housing, and transition to adulthood successfully.

In addition to the direct impact on youth and young adults, these grants help foster collaboration across our community, involving local nonprofits, schools, and service providers. We are working toward a shared vision of preventing homelessness and offering hope to those who need it most. The loss of this funding would not only diminish our ability to provide safe housing but also put significant pressure on other, less effective funding streams that do not address the unique needs of these young individuals.

I urge you to support HB 3079 and ensure continued funding for the YEHA and YEHP grants. This funding's impact is immeasurable on the lives of vulnerable youth and young adults throughout Oregon, and I believe it is critical that we continue to invest in their future.

Thank you for your consideration and support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,
Craig Schuhmann
Executive Director
Integral Youth Services