



Youth  
Development  
Oregon

# Youth Development Oregon Overview

*Presentation to*

*The Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response*

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# Background



**Youth  
Development  
Council**

The **Youth Development Council (YDC)** is a state advisory board with rulemaking and grantmaking authority and responsibility for strategic direction and coordination of youth development programs. The YDC is also the designated State Advisory Group (SAG) responsible for oversight of federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) compliance monitoring and Title II funding.



**Youth  
Development  
Division**

The **Youth Development Division (YDD)** is Oregon's youth development agency, housed within the Oregon Department of Education. YDD administers grant programs and collaborates with state agencies and communities to support youth educational and career success and prevent youth crime and violence.



**Youth  
Development  
Oregon**

**Youth Development Oregon (YDO)** refers to the collective work of the Division and Council. Doing business as YDO, the agency advances its mission through community engagement, grantmaking and policy implementation.

# Vision & Mission



## VISION

All of Oregon's youth have the opportunity to thrive and achieve their full potential.

## MISSION

Youth Development Oregon aligns systems and invests in communities to ensure equitable and effective services for youth ages 6 through 24. Throughout Oregon and Tribal Nations, we support educational and career success, disrupt youth crime and violence, and affirm youth strengths and safety.



# YDO Program Priorities



## RECONNECTING YOUTH TO TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITIES

Youth 16 to 24 year-olds who are not in school or working are a focus of YDO.

## REENGAGING HIGH SCHOOL NON-COMPLETERS

Every year thousands of youth leave school without earning a high school credential – YDO programs reconnect them and help them complete their secondary education.

## ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO YOUTH SUCCESS

Investing in asset-based solutions for youth 6 to 24 to the challenges identified by Oregon communities, including youth homelessness, mental health, substance use, violence and delinquency prevention.

## SUPPORTING QUALITY COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

YDO grants meet operational needs, convene cross-sector collaboration, and build capacity and quality of organizations that serve youth.

Our direct customers are the organizations and communities we fund, and through providing grantees with responsive customer service, we enable them to better serve youth and families across Oregon.

- **Community-based organizations**
- **Counties and cities**
- **Federally-recognized Tribes**
- **K-12 public and alternative schools**
- **Post-secondary educational institutions**
- **Schools, Districts and Education Service Districts**
- **Local Workforce Boards**
- **Community and regional partnerships**



**YDO works closely with a number of other state agencies to coordinate our services for young people:**

- **Oregon Department of Education**
- **The Higher Education Coordinating Commission and its Office of Workforce Investments**
- **Oregon Department of Human Services (Title 20/Social Service Block Grant)**
- **Oregon Youth Authority**
- **Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission**
- **System of Care Advisory Council**
- **Criminal Justice Commission (Juvenile Justice Policy Committee)**

# Grant Program Overview



In 2023-25 YDO administered a variety of grant programs, providing a variety of services and supports to youth ages 6-24.

## HIGHLIGHTED YDO GRANT PROGRAMS

### **Community Investment Grants** - \$14.4 Million

Support for existing and emerging youth development programs that increase connection with and success in education and employment, build skills, remove barriers to success, and address systems change to improve services for youth.

### **Reengagement System Grants** - \$8.7 Million

Reengagement services to youth, including outreach, education, work readiness, coaching, barrier removal, and post-completion transition

### **Juvenile Crime Prevention Formula Grants** - \$6.6 Million

Grants to all County Juvenile Departments and Tribal Nations for supportive and culturally-specific services to reduce justice system involvement.

### **Federal Title II [US DOJ OJJDP] Grants** - \$1.3 Million

Support for prevention, intervention and diversion programs for youth at risk of entering, already involved in, and exiting the justice system.

### **Future Ready Youth Programs Grants** - \$6.7 Million

Providing youth ages 14-24 with essential employability skills, training paid work experience and job coaching, and opportunities for industry recognized credentials.

# YDO Program Impacts

## *Juvenile Crime Prevention*



All **36 Counties and 9 Tribal Nations** in Oregon create Juvenile Crime Prevention Plans and receive funding by a formula to support programming/services.

JCP programs serve **youth ages 8-17**. Participants come via referrals and are assessed for risk and protective factors and are successfully prevented from returning to the system.

**JCP Programs served 1,621 youth in 2021-2023**

1,530 Youth served by Counties | 91 Youth Served by Tribes

# YDO Program Impacts

*Engage, Reengage and Advance Learners*



## Reengagement

7,500 Youth Contacted by Outreach

3,300 Youth (Ages 14-24)  
Enrolled in  
Reengagement Programs

41 Grants Reporting  
(36 Unique Organizations)

2021-2023 Biennium: **740 Credentials Earned**  
493 HS Diplomas / 247 GEDs

### Additional Goals and Services:

- ☐ Educational progress
- ☐ GED Preparation and Testing
- ☐ Connected training opportunities (employment and life skills)
- ☐ Personalized resources to remove barriers
- ☐ Return to resident high school

DATA FROM 2021-23 BIENNIUM

# YDO Program Impacts

*Support Job Readiness and Paid Work*



## **Future Ready Youth Programs** **2,534 Youth (Ages 14-24) Served**

**26 grants in 22-23**

**29 grants in 23-25**

- 17 grantees returned from Year 1

Applications and awards in 10/11 regions of Oregon, using the Regional Solutions Map (Greater Eastern Oregon was the only region from which there were no applications and thus no awards.)

All Participants received Essential Employability Skills Training, and grantees offered at least one of:

- ☐ Paid Work Experience
- ☐ Job Placement & Coaching
- ☐ Industry Recognized Credentials

### **YOUTH DATA HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ☐ All participants were out of school, not working, or in a reengagement program
- ☐ 52% are youth from communities of color
- ☐ 47% male, 47% female and 6% reporting other gender or not reporting
- ☐ 16% are youth with disabilities
- ☐ 62% are urban and 38% are rural (statewide only 29% of the labor force is rural)

Data since program launch in Fall 2022, through Summer 2024

# YDO Program Impacts

*Engage, Reengage and Advance Learners*



## Community Investments

**10,255 Youth (Ages 6-24)  
Served**

**88 Grants Reporting  
(69 Unique Organizations)\***

- ☐ Youth Development: Mentoring, life skills, academic support, sports, arts, enrichment, career exploration, homelessness services
- ☐ Workforce: Job readiness skills, work experience and coaching
- ☐ Violence prevention and intervention
- ☐ Foster care transitional programs
- ☐ Capacity building and coordination to improve schools, districts, community organizations, and youth-serving systems

\*Additional grantees provided broader community or school-wide services, but did not collect data on individual participants, and are not included in the counts above

DATA FROM 2021-23 BIENNIUM

# Program Highlight

## **Working Theory Farm** *Hillsboro*

Paid work experience and mentoring for justice-impacted youth

A youth living in detention at Harkins House connected with the farm through a Latino Network event. The youth joined the Saturday Crew, then worked on the Spring Crew and eventually acted as a farm field trip facilitator. They stayed focused on their goals with the support of the farm, and, at the end of Spring Crew successfully transitioned out of Harkins, graduated high school, and was on track to get off probation in July.

The youth moved on to a Portland OIC pre-apprenticeship trade program in hopes of becoming an electrician. "You can really learn everything about farming," the youth said. "[Working Theory Farm] helped me stay out of trouble." This youth's story highlights the way in which **Working Theory Farm's Transitional Employment Program** can serve as the first rung of the ladder for disengaged youth to join the workforce and reengage with community.





# Thank You

## QUESTIONS?

**For more information please contact:**

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