



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Press Contact:

Hannah Kurowski, Hannah.Kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

Investments to Support Homeless Youth Prove Effective

SALEM, Ore. - The Legislature's investments to support youth experiencing homelessness are proving effective. During yesterday's [Early Childhood and Human Services committee hearing](#), the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) reported on the ongoing successes with its Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP), which has supported thousands of unhoused and unaccompanied young people across the state.

The program connects Oregon's most vulnerable youth and families with services like rental assistance, shelter facilities, outreach, culturally-specific services, mental health and substance abuse services, and transitional support. Over the last two biennia, YEHP has successfully expanded capacity and in July [sent out grant funding](#) to [over 40 organizations](#) across the state.

"The work we're doing is saving lives and building futures," said **Representative Lisa Reynolds (D - Washington County)**, chair of the House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services. "I look forward to advancing this work into 2024."

Youth homelessness is the number one predictor of adult homelessness, making these investments critical to preventing chronic cycles and giving youth the chance to have a bright future.

"My district is deeply impacted by the housing crisis, so these investments are important to giving youth the support they deserve and preventing more homelessness

long-term,” **said Representative Annessa Hartman (D - Gladstone, Oregon City & N Clackamas County)**, member of the House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services.

Over the last several sessions, both Democrats and Republicans have come together to address youth homelessness. Most recently, through the bipartisan [Affordable Housing & Emergency Homelessness Response Act](#) (HB 2001/HB 5019), YEHP received \$20 million for unhoused youth services.

Yesterday’s committee hearing is part of [September Legislative Days \(9/27-9/29\)](#). A full [agenda](#) with links to committee live streams and detailed information on attendees and topics can be found on the [Oregon Legislative Information System](#).

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