



PRESS RELEASE

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House Votes to Invest \$4.5 Million in Long-Term Rental Assistance Program for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

House Bill 2163 A would establish a long-term rental assistance program within Oregon Housing and Community Services for individuals younger than 25-years of age who are transitioning out of foster care, experiencing or have experienced homelessness

SALEM, OR—Today the House voted to pass [House Bill 2163 A](#), which would invest \$4.5 million in a long-term rental assistance program to support individuals younger than 25-years-old who are transitioning out of foster care, homelessness, residential mental health or dependency treatment facilities, or corrections or detention facility. This program would support youth experiencing homelessness and help prevent youth homelessness among vulnerable populations.

“Our youth need to have a roof over their heads if they’re going to overcome the trauma of homelessness and begin to work towards greater financial stability,” said [Rep. Wlmsvey Campos](#) (D-Aloha), who is also a caseworker and vice-chair on the Committee on Housing. “This is going to give folks the support they need to feel safe and supported, as they pursue career and educational opportunities.”

Currently, [Oregon has one of the highest rates of youth homelessness](#) in the country, and [one-third](#) of the unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in Oregon were formerly in the foster care system. On a national level, youth of color are overrepresented among youth experiencing homelessness, [with Black students over two times more likely to experience homelessness](#) than white youth.

“[Half of adults who are chronically homeless experienced homelessness as a youth or young adult](#)—so it is especially important that we address the challenges these young people face,” said [Rep. Julie Fahey](#) (D-West Eugene & Junction City), chair of the Committee on Housing.

“By providing long-term rental assistance through this legislation, we will be investing in the long-term well-being of youth who are at the beginning of their journey to stability.”

The rental assistance program would be housed within Oregon Housing and Community Services and developed in consultation with the Housing Stability Council, DHS, and community-based organizations focused on serving youth, including culturally-specific service providers. The legislation will also direct the department to collect rental assistance program data, and allows department to contract with housing and social service providers to deliver rental assistance and collect and report data on program utilization.

The bill passed 57-1 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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